

## Annual Report Recycling & Solid Waste Committee

Transfer Station Hours of Operation:  
Wednesday Evening – 6 PM to 8 PM  
Saturdays – 7 AM to 2 PM  
Tel. Contact: Lloyd Healey: (603) 365-8245

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*As always, we dedicate this report to the residents of Chester committed to protecting our environment and reducing property taxes by recycling.*

### 2017 Recycling Center & Solid Waste Transfer Station Summary

In 2017, the facility's waste stream totaled 929.9 tons, of which 294.1 tons were recycled. Of these 294.1 tons, 220.2 tons were kitchen\* (household) recyclables (see list). This year, the average net profit made on recycling these kitchen recyclables was \$9.88 per ton, versus a net cost of \$108.78 per ton for disposal via the solid waste compactor. As a result, **the 2017 recycling program resulted in a net savings of at least \$26,133**. This is a significant cost savings, considering the total disposal cost of the 635.8 tons of compacted solid waste was \$69,162.

Overall, **31.6% percent of the Transfer Station's waste stream was recycled**. Unfortunately, this percentage is the lowest rate of recycling we have ever seen, and it falls well short of the 40% minimum standard recommended by the US EPA.

From observing the general waste disposed of in the trash compactor, there are still two obvious areas for improvement. The first is more diligent sorting out of mixed paper, cardboard and other recyclables. The second is encouraging home (backyard) composting of specific kitchen and other organic wastes. Conscientious attention to these items could reduce the waste stream by another 10% to 20%.

#### Summary of Recycling Tonnages:

Newspaper & Mag.*	25.0 tons
Mixed Paper*	62.0 tons
Cardboard*	44.7 tons
Scrap Metal	63.8 tons
Co-mingled Cans*	6.3 tons
Aluminum Cans*	3.8 tons
#1 - #7 Plastics*	21.7 tons
Glass*	56.8 tons
Tires	2.5 tons
Car Batteries	0.6 tons
TVs & Computers	2.6 tons
Used Motor Oil	4.2 tons
<b>Total:</b>	<b>294.1 tons</b>

(\*kitchen / household recyclables)

## **Important Requests and / or New Information**

We reiterate our appeal to residents to please be more diligent about crushing your plastics and cans. Please do this prior to arriving at the Transfer Station (as well as the sorting). It only takes a minute or two each day to do this as you accumulate your recyclables. Our load hauling is scheduled on a volume basis, and it costs a great deal of money to haul loads that are mostly air!

Also, we request that more folks try backyard composting of some of their food waste. It is amazing how much this can reduce the weight and volume of waste hauled to the landfill. There are many resources available online for advice and ideas on how to do this.

## **Some Interesting Factoids from the Northeast Resource Recovery Association**

- The aluminum cans we recycled conserved enough energy to run a TV for 92+ years!
- The steel cans we recycled conserved enough energy to run a 60-watt light bulb for 40+ years!
- The plastics we recycled conserved 32,910 gallons of gasoline!
- The scrap metal we recycled conserved ~151,921 pounds of iron ore!

## **Our usual ending ☺...**

Many residents still do not utilize the Transfer Station and the convenience it provides. We encourage those of you who are not using the Transfer Station to come and visit the facility and try it out. The facility is open on Wednesday evenings from 6:00 to 8:00 pm, and on Saturdays from 7:00 am to 2:00 pm. We look forward to seeing you there.

Our staff, Lloyd, Bonnie, Rich, Roger and Gary, would also like to express their appreciation for the enthusiasm our residents have for the recycling program and the facility in general.

In closing, we would like to encourage any citizens with constructive ideas for improvements or who have an interest in serving on the Committee to please talk to one of our Transfer Station attendants or contact the Board of Selectmen's Office at 887-4979 for information about joining our Committee.

Respectfully submitted,

Andrew Hadik

Bonnie Healey

Lloyd Healey

Cass Buckley, Selectman Liaison