



# RECYCLING NEWS



## Long Range Waste Disposal and Recycling Committee of Hingham

### From the Transfer Station

#### Check your permit:

Green stickers expired in October!  
Black stickers are current.

#### Recycling updates:

The transfer station will now be accepting **Ink Cartridges** and **Cellphones** in the Electronics Collection container, next to the book container.

**Plastic grocery bags:** Six to eight 55 gallon bags are collected each week for recycling. See pg. 3 on how to recycle more plastic films.

**Mattress & Box Spring** collection will continue for another year, paid for by a DEP grant extension

The **Latex Paint** recycling shed collected 4 palettes of usable paint that were sent to the Paint Exchange for remix and reuse.

#### Closings:

Veterans Day closings:

**Transfer Station** closed Sat. 11/11.

**DPW Office** closed Fri. 11/10.

The **Latex Paint Shed** will be closed 11/1 until 4/1. Once latex paint freezes it is not re-usable. Keep latex paint that might be re-usable at home (avoid freezing) until spring or dry it out with kitty litter or paint hardener and dispose of in the trash compactors at any time. Remember: all oil based paints need to be held until the HHW collection next May.

## Composting is Easy

Making compost in your backyard is easy! Fall is a perfect season to start a compost pile if you don't already have one.

Composting is the process of decomposition of "organic" materials like grass clippings, leaves and other yard waste, and food scraps into a rich brown material known as compost or humus. Microscopic bacteria and fungi as well as other decomposers like pill bugs, millipedes, worms and more make this process happen and it's easy as long as you follow a few simple rules: create a compost pile in layers of 3 parts (by volume) of dry "brown" or carbon-rich ingredients (like leaves, straw, and shredded newspapers) to 1 part "green" or nitrogen-rich ingredients (like fruit and vegetable waste from your kitchen, coffee grounds, and grass clippings). Don't be fooled by the fact that coffee grounds are considered to be a "green" ingredient – whether an item is considered "green" or "brown" has to do with the carbon and nitrogen content of the material, not the color! Do not add meat, fish, dairy, bones, pet waste or oily materials to a backyard compost pile – it can smell bad and attract unwanted pests. Make sure your compost pile stays moist, like the feel of wrung out sponge and make sure to turn it frequently with a pitchfork. Turning the pile frequently – once every few weeks or more often if possible – will add air and the material will break down faster.

A compost pile is a diverse ecosystem: in order to keep the decomposers happy, you need to feed them properly, provide adequate moisture and air. You can make your own DIY compost bin or purchase one at your hardware store.

Finished compost is dark brown, crumbly and smells great. It can be used to mulch plants and trees, spread on your lawn or vegetable garden. Compost adds important microbes and organic matter to soil that improves plant health and increases the soil's water-holding capacity. Not bad for recycled material that most of us consider to be a waste product!

For more information, visit <http://www.mass.gov/eea/agencies/massdep/recycle/reduce/composting-yard-and-food-waste.html>

## Composting saves Green

Did you know that separating food waste from the trash stream saves money too? The EPA estimates that over 20% of the trash sent to be burned in waste-to-energy facilities is food waste that could be composted. This means that over 1,175 tons of the 5886 tons of trash that Hingham transported to SEMASS in 2016 could have been composted for a savings of over \$74,000!

## Recycling Clean - Earns Green

It is ever more important for us to separate and recycle our waste materials correctly.

If you have heard the news about China's new National Sword program (restricting the kinds of recyclables they will now accept), you will know that recycling is going to become more expensive here in the US. Hingham, by separating recyclables into each component material (paper, plastics, cans etc), is in a good position to continue to recycle many of our materials at no cost to the town and even receive some revenue for "clean" materials – ie with no mixing in of non-accepted materials. Hingham was paid almost \$60,000 for our separated recyclables in 2016, clearly a plus for the Town in addition to avoiding the cost of disposing of these 2,575 tons of materials as trash (at \$60/ton) or processing of mixed recyclables (at approx.\$40 per ton).

More information will be forthcoming about the impact of National Sword in the months to come, but we ask you to **please take care in sorting and dropping off your recyclables** to make sure that only the accepted materials are put into each collection area. ASK the TRANSFER STATION STAFF about where to put anything that you are not sure about. [Help us Recycle Clean and Earn Green!](#)

## 7 Ways to Go Green For The Holidays

### Use LED Holiday Lights

Holiday lights in US use more than 2.2 million mega-watt hours (MWh) of electricity every holiday season, enough electricity to run more than 173,000 homes for a year. LED lights last up to 10 times longer, use 80% less energy than traditional incandescent holiday lights and are ENERGY STAR qualified. They are also more durable and shock resistant because they do not have moving parts, filaments or glass. Don't forget to recycle your old lights!

### Re-charge it!

Every year over 15 billion batteries are produced worldwide. About 40% of all battery sales in the US occur during the holiday season, many are alkaline batteries that are thrown out after just one use. Replace your alkaline batteries with rechargeable ones. Newer models can charge in as little as 15 minutes! Save money and help the environment at the same time.

### Stop Junk Mail

The holidays can bring catalogs and other mail asking you to buy, buy, buy. But you can stop them! As soon as you receive an unwanted publication, call their 1-800 number and ask to be removed from their list.

### Wrap it & Pack it Eco-Style

Wrapping paper has a high-clay and low-paper content making it difficult to recycle. Instead, get creative and choose reused/reusable alternatives like comics, posters, maps, blueprints, or calendars (all recyclable), fabric, reusable paper or cloth gift bags, etc. For shipping, replace foam or bubble wrap with balled up newspaper or magazine pages.

### Choose Recyclable & Recycled Holiday Cards

Approximately 1.5 billion cards are sent over the holiday season in the US, which requires 300,000 new trees to be harvested per year. To make sure your holiday cards can easily be recycled, look for cards without any non-paper embellishments like foil or ribbon. Also, look for cards that contain post-consumer recycled content. Locally, they can be found at natural food stores. Or, give the trees a break this holiday season by using e-cards

### BYOB(ag) & Skip the Fluff

Bringing your own bags when you go shopping can make a big impact. The key is to not forget them! Also, say “no thanks” to the tissue paper, ribbons and stickers that so often accompany even the smallest holiday purchases.

### Compost Christmas Trees and other Organic Holiday Decorations

Bring your Christmas tree and other plant materials to the yard waste area for composting. Please be sure to carefully inspect the tree to ensure that all ornaments, tinsel and other man-made decorations have been removed. These can tangle the grinders used to prepare these materials for composting and also contaminate the finished compost. You may compost wreaths, but only if the metal ring on the back is removed along with all the wire used to form the wreath.

## Plastic Films of all sorts can be recycled in Hingham



If you would like to recycle more than your plastic grocery bags, you can take plastic films of all sorts to the collection bins at each of Hingham’s grocery stores. The Trex company picks these up and uses them to make plastic lumber. You can recycle any of these forms of plastic film packaging as long as they are clean, dry and free of receipts: grocery and bread bags, dry cleaning bags, wrappers from such products as napkins, paper plates, diapers, paper towels many bulk purchases, and air pillow packaging (deflate for recycling).