



RECYCLING NEWS

Cleaner Greener Hingham

Long Range Waste Disposal and Recycling Committee of Hingham



From the Transfer Station

Steve Messinger, Hingham Transfer Station Supervisor, reports that residents have been doing a better job of separating recyclables and getting them to the correct areas for recycling. We've had zero loads rejected due to contamination (materials that do not belong) this quarter. **Way to go, Hingham! Keep up the good work!**

Why separate your redeemable plastic bottles and cans?

The Transfer Station provides a way for residents to easily drop off their redeemable (deposit) beverage cans and plastic bottles for recycling and thereby provide funds for local youth groups. This program keeps recyclables out of the waste stream and recycling is paid for by the bottlers instead of the taxpayers.

Read more on page 2 about how local youth groups are cashing in.

Remember: Ask a Transfer Station staff person if you are not sure where something goes for recycling at the Transfer Station. Clean collections (free of materials that do not belong) allow us to find vendors to take our materials for recycling, even in these difficult times for recycling.

Coffee Corner – Composting coffee grounds since 2011

Green Spotlight



The Coffee Corner, located at 55 Water Street, has been composting coffee grounds, paper filters and egg shells since 2011. Owner Alicia Harkness has been diligently collecting about 150 pounds of compostable material per week, enough to fill 5 to 6 five-gallon buckets. The heavy buckets are picked up by staff from nearby Holly Hill Farm in Cohasset who add the coffee grounds and food waste to their compost piles.

“ We’ve been making fantastic compost from Coffee Corner’s grounds, eggshells and more for many years now and using it as an example in our teaching about sustainable practices to area school children who visit the farm for field trips. ”

- Jon Belber, Education Director, Holly Hill Farm

Alicia is a dedicated recycler and was happy to keep food waste separate from her trash and recycling.

She pays Holly Hill Farm a small fee to cart her compostable waste away. This has no doubt saved her money on trash disposal costs as her trash bin does not have any food waste. But mostly, she feels good knowing that the coffee grounds are being recycled to make compost for the farm.

Alicia also offers customers a discount for bringing in a reusable coffee cup (see related article elsewhere in this newsletter). She will fill a large reusable mug for the cost of a small coffee.



Way to go, Alicia!

Look who's recycling

Hingham Farmers Market recycles

Hingham Farmers Market customers might have noticed something new this year. No, it's not a new vendor selling fresh vegetables, delicious baked goods, or hand-made items – it's a recycling bin set out next to a trash can every week for shoppers to deposit bottles and cans. This is the first year the farmer's market has consistently offered recycling bins to its customers, in compliance with the town regulations that all businesses must provide recycling on site.

We salute Linda Luke from the Farmer's Market board who has made a concerted effort to make recycling easy for customers each Saturday by setting out trash and recycling bins side by side in a visible location so that customers have the option to recycle while shopping at the market.



Did you know?

Contact lenses go in the trash...

(or you can recycle them and their packaging through Bausch + Lomb's free program)

The American Chemical Society recently reported that contact lenses flushed down the toilet or sink are making it past filters at sewage treatment plants and end up in oceans. As fragments of plastic they contribute to the micro plastic soup in the ocean and, having absorbed pollutants while passing through the sewers, they become a hazard to coral reefs and to bottom feeding fish and the larger animals that feed on them, eventually ending up in human food. Although each lens seems small, studies show that 19% of contact lens wearers do flush their lenses and six to 10 metric tons of lenses end up in wastewater each year in the US!

It is easy to prevent this problem – **Throw your used lenses in the trash.**

Or, **recycle ANY BRAND of used lenses and the packaging they come in** through a [Producer Responsibility initiative from Bausch and Lomb.](#)



Youth groups win!

Local youth groups are cashing in on recycling

So far this year, a number of groups have collected the deposit revenues from a two week collection of bottles and cans in exchange for providing community service hours to the town. Community service performed by the youth groups is detailed in the committee's report for the Annual Town Report.

This year, the following groups have participated: Hingham Harborwomen Hockey, East School PTO, Hingham Youth Hockey, Hingham High's Field Hockey, Dance, and Girls Softball teams, Hingham High Class of 2018 and Class of 2019, Hingham High Green Team, and the Boys Tennis, Swim and Dive, and Girls Soccer teams, Boy Scouts Troup 1 and Troup 4, Plymouth River School PTO, Old Ship Youth Group, Hingham Music Parents Association, Hingham Girls Youth Hockey, East Elementary School Green Team, and the Hingham Gridiron (HHS Football boosters).

If you would like to collect the deposits on your glass redeemable bottles AND have the beverage bottlers who earn the profits cover the costs of recycling their product, you can take them to redemption stations at local grocery stores or redemption centers.

4 Tips to Make this a GREEN Holiday Season!

1

Turn your cardboard into cash for Hingham

Putting all those cardboard boxes (sans inserts like Styrofoam and packing peanuts) in the cardboard bay and keeping them out of the trash compactors is a triple win for the town: it generates revenue, allows the fibers to be reused again and again – saving trees- and reduces the amount of trash we have to pay to dispose of.

Cardboard never should go into the trash compactors. It is a violation of the state's Waste Bans, subjecting the town to potential fines. The only exception is the greasy or food-soiled bottom of a pizza box – rip off the top and recycle that and put the soiled bottom into the trash.

2

Recycle your used cooking oil

If you have used cooking oil after a holiday meal (or any time during the year), please know that used cooking oil is valuable as a biofuel additive and is collected at the Transfer Station.

Bring the oil to the back entrance of the baler building (same area where automotive fluids are collected) where you will find a large container into which to pour your used cooking oil.

3

Properly dispose your wrapping paper and gift boxes

Most wrapping papers and all gift boxes (if there is no wavy material sandwiched inside) are recyclable in the paper compactors. Do not include metallic wrapping paper and ribbons. It is OK to leave tape and staples on the paper being recycled.

4

Compost Christmas trees and other holiday plant decorations

Bring your Christmas tree and other plant materials to the yard waste area and leave in the brush pile for composting. Please be sure to carefully inspect the tree to ensure that all ornaments, tinsel and other manmade decorations have been removed. These can tangle and break 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 and the wire used to form the wreath are removed before you put them in the yard waste area. If you do not want to do this, please put your used wreath in the trash compactors.