

GREEN CART CHRONICLE

An Update from the City of Newton DPW Sustainable Materials Management Division

WINTER 2019

BOOSTING NEWTON'S RECYCLING IQ

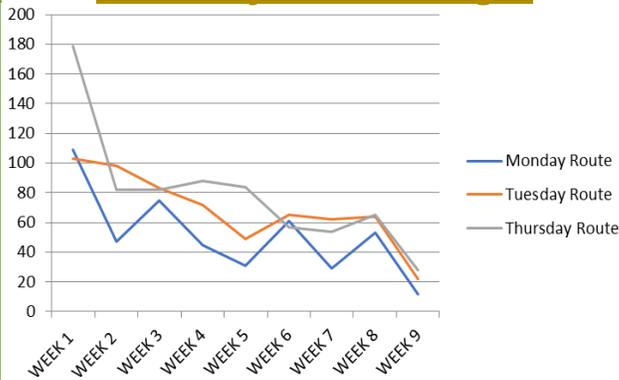
Newton's recycling contamination has reduced by 50%! As you may be aware, Newton has been working hard to raise its [Recycling IQ](#). From October to December 2018, a team of City staff inspected 1,600 recycling carts across the Monday, Tuesday, and Thursday collection routes. As a result of this initiative, the City's recycling contamination rate has dropped from 18% to 9% as of January 2019!



Recycling Warning Sticker

During this concerted education program, recycling warnings were issued with a focus on the top six recycling problem materials (see side panel). Warnings were also given for less common contaminants, including non-recyclable paper (paper towels, napkins, cups and plates) and plastic straws.

Weekly Warnings



Unsurprisingly, plastic bags were the number one contaminant. With 1,001 warnings administered throughout the 9-week program, plastic bag warnings accounted for 54% of all issues. Throughout the program, the number of

warnings for all contaminants declined steadily (graph above)

Beginning in Spring 2019, Newton will resume curbside recycling education efforts to keep contamination below 10%.

THIS ISSUE

[RECYCLING IQ KIT RESULTS P.1](#)

[RECENT CHANGES TO RECYCLING LIST P.2](#)

[CARTS IN THE SNOW P.3](#)

[YARD WASTE COLLECTION P.4](#)

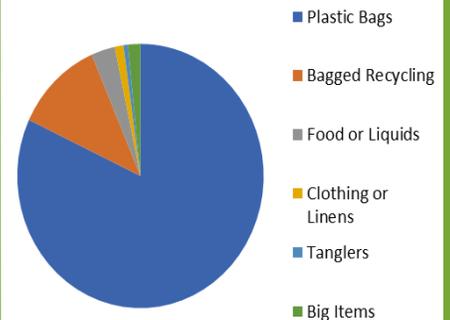
[SCHOOL CONNECTIONS P.5](#)

[TEXTILE RECOVERY P.6](#)

[STAY CONNECTED P.7](#)

Yard waste collection ended on 12/21/18. It will start back up on 3/25/19.

Top Contaminant Warnings



Plastic bags, bagged recycling, food and liquids, clothing and linens, tanglers (long, flexible items, such as a hose), and big items have been identified by MassDEP as the top recycling contaminants.



Learn more about the [Recycling IQ Kit](#).

CARTONS ARE OUT



Food and beverage cartons are no longer accepted in the curbside recycling cart. This multi-layered material can not easily be separated through the single stream sorting equipment. Additionally, this material only made up 3% of the recycling stream, which made it hard for recyclers to collect enough volume to be economically viable. Recyclers requested that this material be removed from the statewide list.

 Thank you for recycling in Newton

MASSDEP RECYCLE SMART MA CAMPAIGN LAUNCHES STATEWIDE ACCEPTANCE LIST

For many years, nearly all municipalities have had their own recycling acceptance list. This list varied even among towns that use the same waste hauler or recycling facility. Different lists, and varying speeds at which the different lists were updated, have led to mass confusion as people move in and out of towns and speak with friends and neighbors that live in different areas.

In an effort to cut through the confusion, streamline the educational messaging, and ultimately reduce contamination in the long run, the Massachusetts Department of Environmental Protection (MassDEP) held discussions with material recovery facilities (MRFs) in Massachusetts to craft a statewide acceptance list for single stream recycling.

As a result, the Recycle Smart MA campaign was launched in August 2018, featuring the RecycleSmartMA.org website that includes the downloadable [Smart Recycling Guide](#) and the [Recyclopedica](#) search bar (which is similar to Newton's Recycle Right tool). These tools aim to clearly communicate which materials are accepted by all MRFs in MA

Newton DPW has adopted this statewide list and become a Recycle Smart Partner with MassDEP. We have worked to reconcile all Newton education materials with this list.

Check out our newly updated [Single Stream Flyer](#) for more information on what belongs in the green cart.

WONDERING HOW TO GET RID OF SOMETHING?

USE RECYCLE RIGHT NEWTON

Your one-stop solution to make managing trash and recycling at home easier. It's quick, easy, fun, and will save you time!



Download the free app today for Apple or Android

No smartphone? No problem. Use the web application at: www.newtonma.gov/recycling



COLLECTION DAY REMINDER

BULKY ITEM PICKUP

RECYCLE RIGHT TOOL

WASTE SORTING GAME

CARTS IN THE SNOW

Collection crews have a tough time reaching trash and recycling carts behind or on top of snow banks. Please clear an area at the curb, or put containers next to or in front of snow banks.

Also, think of the plows when placing your carts out. You should place them where the arm of the collection trucks can reach them, but not where they will conflict with snowplow operations.

Stay up to date with weather related collection delays! Download Recycle Right Newton to set up service alerts. Available for free from the [App Store](#) or [Google Play](#).



Properly set out your carts to ensure no interruptions in service. Proper set out allows quick and safe access for collections.

WHAT TO DO



Shovel out a place for your cart or place carts next to snow banks instead of behind them.

WHAT NOT TO DO



Please don't leave carts buried under snow. Also, do not place carts on top of snow banks. As snow banks melt, carts fall in the street.

YARD WASTE COLLECTION

In 2019, collection is scheduled to start back up on March 25 and end on December 13. This schedule can change due to weather. For example, yard waste pickup started one week earlier last year following the major wind storm.

During winter, most residents do not need yard waste service. Any that do need it are asked to store yard waste outside or make private arrangements for collection. We suggest reaching out to local landscaping companies or private haulers for collection if it is absolutely necessary.

You may also opt to use a 50 gallon barrel with a cover to store the material until the collection begins in the spring. Lastly, if you have room, consider [composting](#) yard waste in your backyard.

Preparing Yard Waste

Accepted Materials

- Grass clippings
- Leaves
- Tree and Shrub Prunings
- Wood Chips
- Small Vegetable and Flower Plants
- Other Vegetative Matter
- Twigs and Branches less than 4' long and 6" in diameter

Use twine to tie branches and limbs in bundles that are less than 4' long and 3' in diameter.

Yard waste set out in plastic bags or cardboard boxes will be rejected.

Not Accepted

- Plastic Bags
- Dirt
- Sand
- Rocks
- Asphalt
- Brick
- Concrete

Bag or barrel must not exceed 50 gallons or 50 pounds.

CALL TO VOLUNTEERS!

FIX IT CLINICS: Are you handy with fixing household items, such as lamps or vacuum cleaners?

Consider offering your expertise as a volunteer in a



Newton Fix-It Clinic, currently being planned. [Email us](#) if you're interested in sharing your fix-it expertise.

SWAP SHOP: Interested in helping to increase **waste diversion** in Newton?

Volunteer at *Re-Use-It Newton*, Newton's seasonal swap shop facility located at the Newton Resource Recovery Center at 115 Rumford Ave. [Email us](#) for more information.



Re-Use-It Newton opened in July 2018.

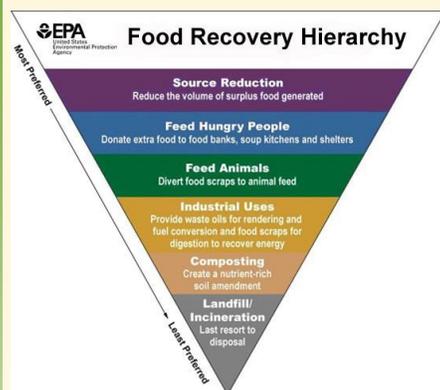
What to stay up to date with what's going on in the City? [Sign up](#) for Mayor Fuller's email updates!

FOOD RECOVERY: WHY IS IT IMPORTANT?

Green Newton will be hosting a discussion on the importance of food recovery at the [Newton Free Library](#) on Monday, April 29th at 7pm.

Alison Cross, a member of Wellesley's 3R Working Group (Reduce. Reuse. Recycle.), will present on Food Recovery programs currently being implemented in area schools and universities.

Food Recovery programs redirect useable surplus food to serve vulnerable, food insecure populations.



Because 40% of food produced on our farms ends up in the landfill, while one in seven Americans face food insecurity, Food Recovery programs are a one solution to close this gap.

Former Newton City Councilor, Amy Mah Sangiolo, will also present, and describe exploratory efforts to develop a similar program in Newton with the ultimate goal of expanding food recovery networks throughout the Greater Boston area.

SCHOOL CONNECTIONS

In the Spring of 2018, [Green Newton](#) revived the School Connections group to bring together parents and teachers interested in advancing sustainability in Newton Public Schools. The group meets monthly to discuss sustainability issues. Thus far, there has been a focus on improving recycling and waste reduction.

The group's goal is to establish "green standards" for Newton schools and to work on a variety of areas, including recycling, composting, food recovery and school garden projects.

Meetings are typically held on the second Thursday of each month. All are welcome to join. Please contact [Marcia Cooper](#), the President of Green Newton, for more information about how you can become involved. Kids are welcome!



School Connections Group, November 2018

UPCOMING SCHOOL CONNECTIONS MEETINGS:

Thursday, March 14th, 3:45pm-5:00pm, Druker Auditorium at the Newton Free Library

Thursday, April 11th, 3:45pm-5:00pm, Druker Auditorium at the Newton Free Library

TEXTILE RECOVERY

Do you have clothing, shoes, or other textiles that you no longer wear or use, but still have plenty of life left in them? Don't throw them away!

Use the MassDEP-supported [Beyond the Bin Recycling Directory](#) to search by type of material and your location to find out where in Massachusetts to recycle, reuse, or re-purpose items that don't belong in the recycling or trash.

Or, bring or mail unwanted clothing and shoes to stores or manufacturers that accept them for recycling (see right).



In Newton, you can donate all old textiles, including shoes, belts, and stuffed animals at the [Newton Resource Recovery Center](#). All items must be clean and dry. No wet, mildew-y textiles or items contaminated with oil, paint, or hazardous materials. Clothing/textiles do not belong in the trash or your green cart!

TEXTILES BY THE NUMBERS

- Residents and businesses in MA dispose of approximately 230,000 tons of textiles annually.
- About 95% of this material could be reused or recycled instead of thrown away.
- Nearly 6% of the waste delivered to combustion facilities for disposal is made up of clothing, curtains, towels and other fabrics.

MANUFACTURER & RETAILER TAKE-BACK PROGRAMS FOR TEXTILES

Clothing

[Blue Jeans Go Green](#): Any Brand of Denim

[Give Back Box](#) : Mail-in program that partners with more than 30 major retailers to direct clothing donations to charities. Any Brand

[Green Eileen](#): Eileen Fisher Only

[H&M Garment Collecting](#): Any Brand

[Levi Strauss & Co.](#) : Any Brand

[The North Face: Clothes the Loop](#): Any Brand

[Patagonia Common Threads](#) : Patagonia Only

[UNIQLO Recycle](#): UNIQLO Only

Footwear

[Give Back Box](#) - Mail-in program that partners with more than 30 major retailers to direct footwear donations to charities. Any Brand

[Levi Strauss & Co.](#) - Any Brand

[Nike Reuse-A-Shoe](#) - Athletic Shoes Only; Any Brand

[Zappos for Good](#) - Any Brand

MassDEP maintains this list for consumer convenience. View the most up to date list [here](#).

