

# Middletown Recycling Coordinator's Report November 2024

## Grants

### DEEP SMM Grant – Co-Collection, Unit Based Pricing Program –

- Met with Housing Authority to discuss implementation of the next phase.
- Scheduled outreach tables at Amazing Grace on Dec 9 & 16.
- Developed an education/enforcement plan which will be discussed at the Sanitation District on Nov 26.
- Drafted a flyer for landlords (still in review).
- Visited all the stores selling bags to review purchasing and assist with the refunds for the reduction in bag pricing.
- Updated [Sanitation District](#) website.
- Adjusted bag pricing on all educational materials and website.



The flyer features a blue background with the text 'Save as you Throw Bags' in orange at the top. Below this is the large white text 'Price Decrease!'. To the left is an illustration of a hand holding an orange trash bag. To the right is a green banner with white text 'Where To Buy!?'.

**Starting November 1, 2024!**

These bags are for use by people who live in the Sanitation District for their household trash

Buy Your SAYT Bags		
Large (33 Gallon)	Roll of 5	\$6.25
Small / Tall (15 Gallon)	Roll of 5	\$4.25
Senior/Mini (8 Gallon)	Roll of 10	\$6.00

**VENDORS**

ReBoot Eco (131 River Rd)	Walgreens (311 E. Main St)
Smith & Bishel (155 Main St)	Walgreens (633 Washington St)
City Hall Rm. 210	Stop and Shop, (416 E. Main Street)
Ace Hardware of Middletown (480 So. Main St)	Big Y (850 So. Main St, at Guest Services)
Market 32 Price Chopper (855 Washington St., at the guest services desk)	

- Submitted reimbursement request to DEEP; processed payments and working on grant administration for 2<sup>nd</sup> bridge funding request.
- Implemented [new bag assistance program](#); provided information in Spanish. Summary of below:

Bag Assistance data: Bag costs (regular costs vs assistance costs):

<p><b>Price of reduced-cost trash bags:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 1 roll (5 bags) 15-gal. trash bags - \$1 (full cost without assistance: \$4.25)</li> <li>• 1 roll (5 bags) 33-gal. trash bags - \$2 (full cost without assistance: \$6.75)</li> </ul>
<p><b>Bag limit per billing cycle (½ year):</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 12 rolls of 15 gallon bags (60 bags) \$12</li> <li>• 6 rolls of 33 gallon bags (30 bags) \$12</li> </ul>

As of Nov. 1<sup>st</sup>, **15** households have applied and been accepted.

167 households had received free bags with the former free program.

Small Bottle Surcharge Funding

The City received it’s October payment of \$33,874.75 for the small bottle surcharge.

**Administration**

RRAC – All approved minutes are completed and have been filed with the Town Clerk. Recorded meetings have been uploaded to Granicus.

Commissions – Welcome to our three new members: Dan Schott, Brian Gomez, Jen Smith. An enormous thank you to Alison Johnson for her outstanding work on the commission for the past many, many years. Alison Johnson will be stepping down as an official member, but will stay in involved on many levels. We greatly appreciate Alison’s contributions to the Commission through editing documents, brainstorming ideas, volunteering at numerous events and, more recently, her efforts to with litter cleanup activities. *Thank you Alison!*

Current Commission membership (all terms expire on April 22)

Stephan Alison, 2027  
 Brian Gomez,  
 Nicole Charles, 2028  
 Izzy Guy, 2025  
 Dan Schott, 2029  
 Rebecca MacLachlan,

Eleanor Nettleton, 2028  
 Jen Smith, 2027  
 Debbie Stanley,  
 Krishna Winston, 2025  
 John Yarmolovich, 2027  
 Tisha Zawisky, 2027

Sanitation Commission – two new members, Lorraine Panciera and Jen Kleindienst, were recommended for the Sanitation Commission for the December Council meeting. Stephan Alison’s renewal appointment was approved at the November meeting.

#### Complaints/Issues Handled –

- 4 recycling enforcements
- 3 multi family assists
- 6 business assists
- 1 school assist
- 2 bulk waste complaints
- 2 new restaurants
- Numerous leaf calls and complaints
- Many, many resident calls and emails;

Hauler Ordinance and Recycling Center Policy updates - The City has issued 191 new resident passes which will expire Dec. 31 2025.

#### Contracts/Purchases

- MSW/Sorting of MSW and Food Scraps – amendment in progress; waiting for PO
- Sanitation District : 90 gallon carts received; waiting for funding to try 35 gal carts
- Waste Zero amendment for retail sales of bags: in progress
- Waste Zero amendment for program management & education: in progress
- Reimbursements from DEEP for SMM Grant
- Administer process for 2<sup>nd</sup> bridge funding from DEEP for SMM Grant
- Begin reviewing options for next mixed recycling contract (expires March 6 2024)

#### Conversations–

- Sustainable Suffield
- Colchester Public Works

#### Reports

- Begin Annual Recycling Report for DEEP
- Completing DEEP quarterly Municipal Transfer Station report

## **Materials**

Tonnages (see end of report)

Terracycle – Watch how they process materials [here](#).

## **Projects**

Swap Shack – Please continue signing up for shifts through the Chair. Thank you to everyone who has been volunteering to keep this open.

Reconstruction Center – After discussing this with the Town of Mansfield and our recycling center staff, I determined we are not able to do this at this time. It is a great idea but labor intensive and we do not have the resources available.

[The Mill Pilot Project](#) –

The City is partnering with 2 local businesses and Middletown High School to test a food scrap recycling device for feasibility, usefulness and cost savings. [The Fresh Monkee](#), [Perk on Main](#) and MHS Food Services were selected for this pilot project and have volunteered to test a Food Mill device which will dehydrate and grind their food scraps into grounds that are significantly lighter and have only a fraction of the volume. This material would otherwise be thrown away or sent to a food scrap recycling service.

The goal of this project is to see if this kind of device can help in reducing the volume of food scraps generated in different larger-scale establishments or as an option for locations that do not have access to food scrap recycling service, or on-site composting.

The end product after milling is being handled differently in all three cases. [Perk on Main](#) is adding the grounds to their [Blue Earth Compost](#) carts. Middletown High School is diverting their grounds to the Agricultural Sciences Department who will be experimenting with different uses. [The Fresh Monkee](#) has partnered with Long Lane Farm at Wesleyan who is using the grounds in their compost pile. The grounds are NOT compost material. They are dehydrated food scraps and still contain a lot of nitrogen. They will need to be composted further to be used a regular compost.



The Fresh Monkee owner, Reshma Patel, showing The Mill in action at their store on College Street.

[Litter Clean up ideas](#) – We have been brainstorming ideas of what to do for a litter clean up program in the city. Ideas have included:

1. Create and provide litter kits to give away to residents. Partner it with an annual presentation on litter prevention.
2. Provide litter clean up kits for “checking out” at the library and public works; designate certain areas for clean up with the kits.
3. Organize our own periodic litter clean up events.

4. Partner or provide compensation to non-profits wishing to carry out litter clean up projects (scouts, Jonah Center, etc..)

*Opinions and discussion welcome.*

#### Recycling Center

- Add Blue Earth Compost container for pumpkins at Recycling Center;
- Install barriers at top of ramp for safety;
- Reviewed and rejected possibility of adding container for usable furniture/construction for Reconstruction Center;
- Walk through of Recycling Center with Acting Risk Manager and Acting Director for health and safety risks;
- Reviewed requirements with DEEP and requested changes to cylinder area to match permit requirements;
- [Completion of the solar project](#) on the landfill behind the recycling center.

#### Sustainability –

- Drafted ordinance for Recycling and Sustainability Commission. Schedule to review with Mayor and General Counsel.
- Attended Sustainable CT Coffee Hour: *A Summary of State Climate Action Planning Efforts*. Kyle Shiel from the Capitol Region Council of Governments and Christine O’Neill from the Naugatuck Valley Council of Governments provided a summary of climate action planning efforts that have taken place across the state. Recording of the conversation is [here](#). More information is here: <https://crcog.org/regional-planning-and-development/regional-climate-action-plan/>.
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- The City of Middletown has submitted an Energy Efficiency and Conservation Block Grant application to the US Department of Energy for the purchase, installation and future maintenance of 16 updated electric vehicle charging stations. 12 of these stations will replace the broken ones in Melilli Parking Lot and 4 new stations will be installed in the parking lot at Kid City. If awarded, this project will greatly improve our public electric vehicle charging infrastructure at no cost to the City. The construction and installation will be carried out by Environmental Systems Co., who were able to secure a \$120,000 rebate from Eversource in order to make this project possible. *(This project is coordinated by the Economic Development office with support from our division)*
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- HeatSmart Activities:
  - Regular meetings with Eversource
  - Coordinated tabling with approved Energize CT contractors for MFM and Chamber events; planning outreach table for Russell Library;
  - Met with two students from Wesleyan who are interested in assisting with efforts;
  - Planning for social media, website presence, civic send, and chronicle ad, drafting a letter from the Mayor.

### Other Miscellaneous projects:

- Manage Recycling Nook & collection at Russell Library
- Sustainability vests – Done and available!
- Review proposals for RiverCOG Regional Waste Authority project
- Computer Security Training
- Over 100 tires pulled out of Pameacha Pond
- Ordered mugs for Mayor’s holiday coffee hour
- Developing program for camping kits when on-boarding new employees
- Design wrap for new sanitation truck; waiting on funding approval
- Post No Bag sign at Food Scrap drop off (*thank you to John Yarmolovich*)

### **No Plastic Bags!**

No white, clear or black plastic bags!



**Paper and compostable  
bags only!**

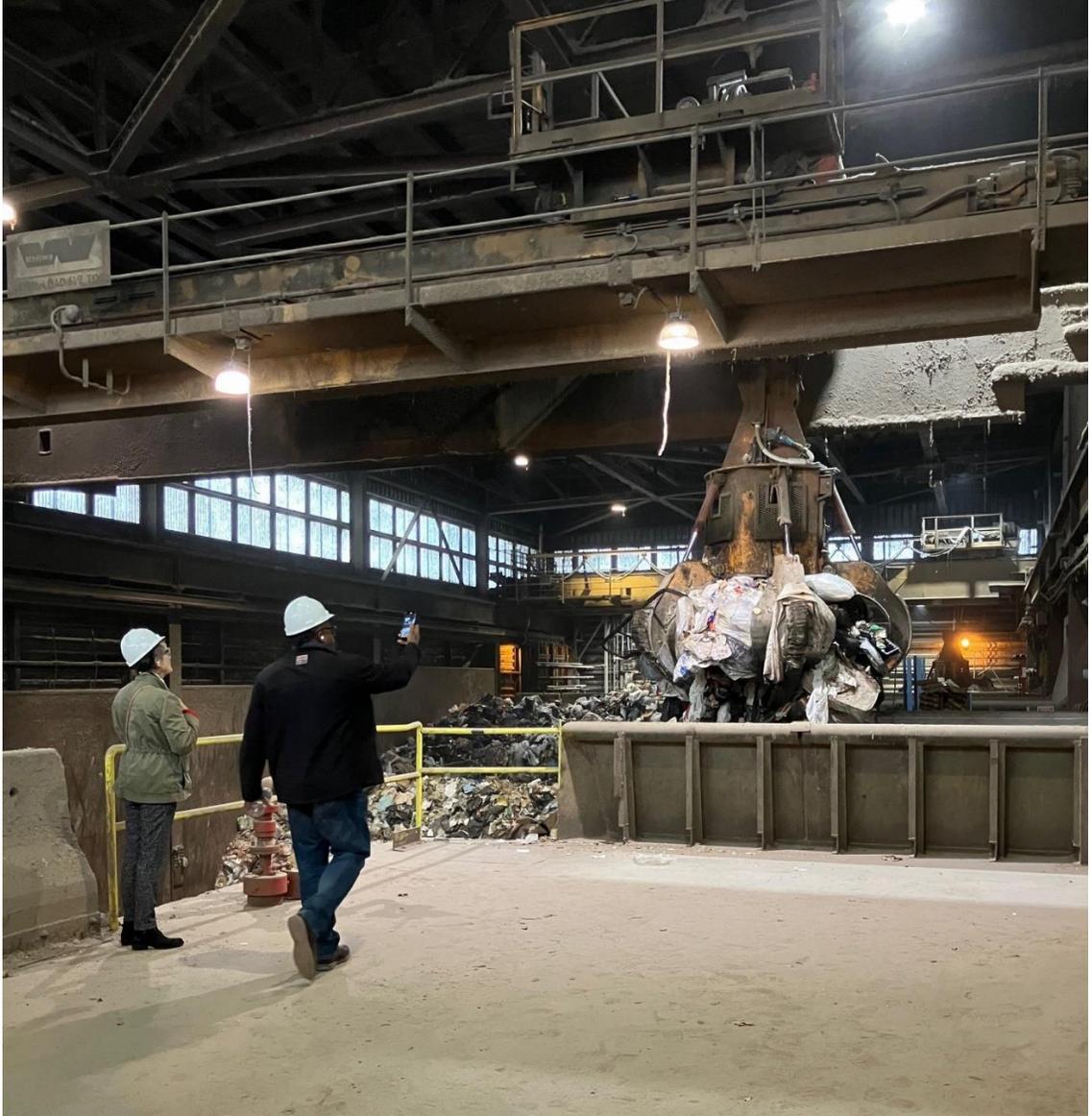
### **Outreach and Public Education events:**

- Social Media, Website updates, Civic Send, Newsflashes, calendar postings, call handler & press releases
- ReBoot Eco Grand Opening – table with Uconn master composters
- Pumpkin Smash at Veteran’s Park
- Zero Waste Wellness Lunch and Learn at City Hall – distributed camping kits to participants to use for internal meetings and events;
- America Recycles Day email to city employees
- Response to questions from CT Inside Investigator

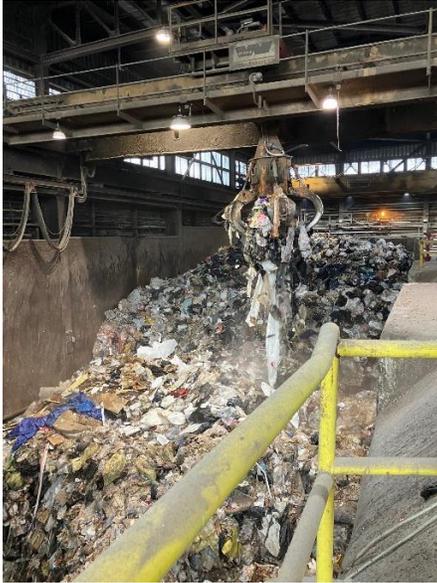
### **Meetings & Webinars**

- Middletown & Wesleyan Sustainability meetings
- Meeting with Mayor on sustainability projects
- HeatSmart meetings with Eversource
- SMM Grant meetings with DEEP and Waste Zero
- Meeting with Sanitation Drivers
- Sanitation Commission
- Meeting with MHS to set up The Mill

- Wesleyan Student interviews
- Sustainable CT Coffee Hour – Climate Pollution Reduction Grants status
- Meeting with ECRRA member and administrator
- Field trip to Lisbon WTE facility



Taking pictures of the “pit” and the “claw”



**What I'm reading:**

November Reading 2024

[How Cities are leading the Charging in Reducing Single Use Packaging](#)

[Adding to the Grid in Middletown](#)

[How is California Complying with Food Scrap Diversion Requirements?](#)

Respectfully Submitted,

Kim O'Rourke,  
Middletown Recycling & Sustainability Coordinator

## Materials

### Recycling Tonnages –

Food Waste (Restaurants and drop offs only) –

Commercial/School/Drop off Food Waste Collections						
Month	FY 21	FY 22	FY23	FY 24	FY 25 SD	FY 25 TS
Month	lbs	lbs	tons	tons	tons	Tons
July		7956	11.86	16.2	9.11	1.34
Aug		9933	12.15	15	11.14	1.8
Sept		25165	11.56	14.5	12.80	1.56
Oct		22101	14.07	14.86	15.39	1.45
Nov		27945	11.8	12.8		
Dec		30005	12.8	14.5		
Jan		26558	15.14	15.45		
Feb		26618	15.15	13.33		
Mar		35860	15.75	14.62		
Apr		29945	16.32	15.69		
May	795	39005	15.17	14.89		
Jun	5330	33545	16.1	13.38		

Green Bags	Tons	
Nov 23	4.0	
Dec 23	7.4	
Jan 24	7.7	
Feb 24	4.5	
Mar 24	5.1	
Apr 24	7.2	
May 24	5.3	
Jun 24	3.1	
Jul 24	4.8	
Aug 24	4.4	
Sept 24	3.8	
Oct 24	5.78	

Cardboard (Current cost \$0/ton)

Cardboard - Tonnage						
Month	FY 2020	FY 2021	FY 2022	FY 2023	FY 2024	FY 2025
July	34.86	34.45	32.51	24.02	16.68	31.16
August	30.92	33.57	30.5	30.09	20.56	40.29
Sept	26.39	30.39	25.33	39.55	16.18	36.87
Oct	35.22	31.27	33.44	28.78	1.93	23.88
Nov	38.62	28.27	38.24	28.95	17.17	
Dec	39.87	27.62	31.26	29.44	13.08	
Jan	33.74	33.58	18.51	35.48	42.25	
Feb	25.33	26.9	27.8	21.17	29.48	
Mar	28.65	30.06	29.42	26.7	31.43	
April	15.03	34.3	28.36	30.48	29.98	
May	31.27	28.16	32.58	32.67	35.07	
June	28.96	32.77	21.24	29.13	31.85	
<b>Total</b>	<b>368.86</b>	<b>371.34</b>	<b>349.19</b>	<b>356.46</b>	<b>285.66</b>	

Single Stream Recycling

Mixed Recycling Tonnage						
Month	FY 2020	FY 2021	FY 2022	FY 2023	FY 2024	FY 2025
July	56.35	78.63	68.02	51.08	51.07	54.09
Aug	66.19	53.48	61.15	46.78	60.8	53.86
Sept	57.46	53.82	57.9	64.26	46.2	54.28
Oct	70.77	54.47	63.42	63.63	49.04	42.44
Nov	60.93	56.12	61.95	53.18	48.15	
71.53Dec	60.31	67.63	68.67	61.58	52.85	
Jan	59.13	54.31	56.34	61.56	57.65	
Feb	59.41	60.3	52.09	42.89	41.26	
Mar	88.82	71.71	66.85	51.76	50.69	
Apr	46.46	103.4	65	54.31	50.65	
May	54.26	146.58	56	65.51	58.54	
June	57.14	62.21	60.29	52.08	52.45	
<b>Total</b>	<b>737.23</b>	<b>862.66</b>	<b>737.68</b>	<b>668.62</b>	<b>619.35</b>	

Costs of Single Stream Recycling

Recycling Payment/Reimbursement - Mixed Recycling per ton						
Month	FY 2020	FY 2021	FY 2022	FY 2023	FY 2024	FY 2025
July	\$62.75	\$82.76	\$15.20	\$41.18	\$95.08	\$62.23
Aug	\$66.30	\$81.68	\$2.11	\$68.15	\$98.65	\$62.77
Sept	\$65.40	\$77.41	\$6.85	\$88.70	\$91.28	\$63.52
Oct	\$64.03	\$72.73	\$5.25	\$99.98	\$86.26	\$71.53
Nov	\$63.10	\$69.44	\$5.65	\$98.13	\$81.00	
Dec	\$61.94	\$65.65	\$22.60	\$97.41	\$76.71	
Jan	\$86.52	\$64.38	\$41.70	\$100.54	\$75.74	
Feb	\$88.53	\$61.95	\$39.28	\$98.90	\$70.21	
Mar	\$90.06	\$59.15	\$31.95	\$93.99	\$65.81	
Apr	\$84.54	\$51.64	\$28.78	\$89.15	\$65.04	
May	\$74.67	\$48.90	\$27.44	\$84.90	\$60.91	
June	\$79.28	\$42.00	\$31.22	\$84.90	\$61.31	