

Middletown Recycling Coordinator's Report

October 2024

Grants

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

- Sanitation District bills were mailed on September 30th.
 - [Sanitation Calendar](#)
 - [Sanitation Insert](#)
- A [press release](#) was issued on October 2, 2024 announcing continuation of the program.
- The bag assistance program has been updated per the Sanitation District Commission for November 1, 2024. Full details are available [here](#). Residents must apply and provide verification of their income status to qualify for low cost bags. Emails and letters were sent to everyone who participated in the program, except for the Housing Authority houses. We are meeting with Housing Authority staff on Monday. With Izzy Guy's assistance, we hope to coordinate with Amazing Grace to set up a table there to talk to residents.
- We have been developing the enforcement process for those not using the orange bags, per guidance from the Sanitation Commission. This will begin again in November. Full details will be available at the next November meeting.
- A letter from the Mayor was sent to retailers currently not selling bags to ask them to consider offering them to customers. We have had residents asking that bags be sold in certain stores, but to date, they have not agreed to the sales. It would help for residents to ask these stores directly, to demonstrate interest. Stores include: ION, Middletown Market, Arescos, Stop and Shop in Cromwell and the pharmacies on Main Street.
- Issues the City is currently working through – making sure retailers maintain stock of 15 gallon bags; how to expand this concept to the entire city; track financials to make sure the program will be self-sufficient with proper enforcement and if not, what that plan B would be.

Small Bottle Surcharge Funding

I completed a survey issued from CEQ on the small bottle surcharge program. The questions included the what percentage of funds have been used for litter clean up and what for waste reduction; and how much for infrastructure, staffing and education. The City has not received it's October payment for the small bottles, but the media reports it should be approximately \$33,000.

Administration

RRAC – All approved minutes are completed and have been filed with the Town Clerk.

Commissions - Manage memberships on Recycling Commission and Sanitation Commissions. Three people will be considered for appointment to the Resource Recycling Advisory Commission at the November Council meeting: Dan Schott, Brian Gomez, Jen Smith. Stephan Allison was recommended for reappointment to the Sanitation District Commission. Thank you to everyone willing to serve on these commissions.

Complaints/Issues Handled –

- 4 Cart on the curb violations
- 1 letter sent regarding putting recycling in plastic bags
- 5 business assists
- Numerous resident calls and emails;

Hauler Ordinance and Recycling Center Policy updates - The City has issued 3001 resident passes from July 2023 to Oct 8, 2024. After that date, we started issuing new passes that expire December 2025.

Contracts/Purchases

- MSW/Sorting of MSW and Food Scraps – amendment in progress; waiting for PO
- Sanitation District : ordered 90 gallon carts; waiting for funding to try 35 gal carts
- Waste Zero amendment for retail sales of bags: in progress
- Reimbursements from DEEP for SMM Grant
- Prepare for Phase 3 amendment to DEEP SMM Grant for SAYT
- Waste Zero Program Management, Outreach and Education & Sorting payments

Conversations–

- Center for Eco Technology – School recycling education
- Trumbull – mattress recycling

Materials

Tonnages (see end of report)

Projects

Swap Shack – Please continue signing up for shifts through the Chair. We should discuss the how the swap shack will work in the winter months.

Reconstruction Center – A board member of the Reconstruction Center in New Britain approached me to ask if the city would consider keeping a container at the transfer station for usable construction materials, cabinets, furniture aside for them to pick up. They are looking for product for their store.

The Mill Pilot Project – The City has met with Fresh Monkee, Perk on Main and the Board of Education and the units have been ordered.

Jonah Center Litter Pick up – The Jonah Center has declined continuing to negotiate a contract for litter clean up activities. The City is exploring other ways to encourage litter cleanup efforts.

Sustainability –

- Pull together samples of Sustainability Commissions and topics to consider for transforming the Recycling Commission to a Recycling and Sustainability Commission.
- Continue application for [DOE Energy Efficiency block grant](#) – to be used to repair/update EV charging stations
- HeatSmart Activities:

- Regular meetings with Eversource
- Distribute information at events and through the office
- Representatives attended the South Fire District Open House and the Middletown Farmers Market on Oct 25.

Other Miscellaneous projects:

- Promote and prepare for leaf collection; publicity suspension of bulk waste and brush collection
- Manage Recycling Nook & collection at Russell Library
- Barriers and roll off covers at recycling center – in progress
- Sustainability vests – being printed at Cinder + Salt
- List of waste materials and vendors at the recycling center

Outreach and Public Education events:

- Social Media, Website updates, Civic Send, Newsflashes, calendar postings, call handler & press releases
- Article in the Pipeline
- Order Sign for Food Scrap drop off
- Middletown Farmers Market – ended October 25; great big thank you to K. Winston for staffing this every other week.
- Beman Farm to School Event
- Bees Wax Wrap Program with Middletown Rec
- South Fire District Open House – volunteers needed
- Repair Café in Old Saybrook
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Upcoming Events –

- November 3, ReBoot Eco Grand Opening
- November 9, Pumpkin Smash at Veteran’s Park
- November 13, 12-1, Lunch and Learn at City Hall
- Nov 20, Presentation to Environmental Business Council

Meetings & Webinars

- Middletown & Wesleyan Sustainability meetings
- Meeting with Mayor on sustainability projects
- HeatSmart meetings with Eversource
- CT Recycling Coalition Annual Meeting and Conference
- SMM Grant meetings with DEEP and Waste Zero
- Sanitation Commission
- Public Works Commission
- BOE, Rethink Disposable regarding reusables in the schools
- BOE food scrap collection in the schools
- Wesleyan Student interview
- Tire Stewardship meeting

- RiverCog board meeting – Clynk

What I'm reading:

October Reading 2024

<https://www.theguardian.com/us-news/2024/sep/24/clothes-recycling-california-responsible-textile-recovery-act>

<https://ctnewsjunkie.com/2024/10/24/nips-net-huge-revenue-numbers-for-municipal-budgets/>

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		
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		

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	
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	
Total	368.86	371.34	349.19	356.46	285.66	

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	
Nov	60.93	56.12	61.95	53.18	48.15	
Dec	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	
Total	737.23	862.66	737.68	668.62	619.35	

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	
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	