

# Middletown Recycling Coordinator's Report

## July 23 – September 23, 2024

### Grants

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

- A [council workshop](#) was held on September 3 to explain the results and recommendations for moving the Save As You Throw system forward. The Council voted in favor of moving it to the next phase. DEEP has also agreed to provide additional funding through the next phase.
  - [SSM Grant Resolution](#)
  - [Fact Sheet on SAYT Results](#)
  - [Additional Information for Council](#)
- Ongoing: preparing billing, bag assistance and deliveries, collect payments, bag sales, reporting, assisting with inquiries & outreach.
- [Middletown Press Article](#), September 17, 2024
- The Sanitation District Commission will be discussing and finalizing the procedures for bag assistance and enforcement at its September 2024 meeting.

### Administration

*RRAC* – All approved minutes are completed and have been filed with the Town Clerk. Recordings of the meetings have been uploaded to the City Granicus website.

#### Complaints/Issues Handled –

- 4 Cart on the curb violations
- 1 mixing of recycling with trash complaint
- 1 complaint on business recycling
- 6 business assists
- Numerous resident calls and emails;

*Hauler Ordinance and Recycling Center Policy updates* - The City has issued 2920 resident passes since July 2023. 13 haulers/contractors have registered and/or licensed so far for FY 25.

*DEEP Reporting* - Transfer Station Reports have been submitted to DEEP through June 2024.

#### Contracts/Purchases

- Leaf Composting Amendment extension - executed
- MSW/Sorting of MSW and Food Scraps – amendment in progress
- Roll off covers at Transfer Station
- Sanitation District : Gather pricing for 90 gal and 35 gal carts
- Lead Acid Battery RFQ - executed

### Conversations–

- Dedham, MA – AI
- Eye Recycle – will not provide events in towns that have redemption centers.

## **Materials**

### Tonnages (see end of report)

Bulk Waste Costs – the Department is planning to increase costs of bulk waste to align with the recent increase in tip fees. The Acting Director has initiated discussions to make the recycling center financially self-sustaining.

## **Other Projects**

Swap Shack – Please continue signing up for shifts through the Chair.

Downtown Trash and Recycling Stations – Sanitation District staff have begun to clean all the stations on Main Street.

The Mill Pilot Project – The logistics are almost finalized for each participating entity. Perk on Main, Fresh Monkee, and Middletown High School have agreed to participate. We will begin individual meetings with each participant this month.

### Sustainability–

- Continue review draft Government Guide
- Commence application for [DOE Energy Efficiency block grant](#) – to be used to repair/update EV charging stations
- Publicize [landfill solar project](#)
- Promote Urban Forestry tree event
- HeatSmart Activities:
  - Regular meetings with Eversource
  - Distribute information at events and through the office
  - Open Air Market table and distribution of water bottles

### Other Miscellaneous projects:

- Litter cleanups – coordinate collection of material
- [Coordinate leaf collection logistics](#)
- Publicize paving projects
- Manage Recycling Nook – Beauty Product Program discontinued by Terracycle.
- Assistant Transition: Kate Gendrich ended. Lisa Liesener started.
- Barriers and roll off covers at recycling center – in progress

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

- Social Media, Website updates, Civic Send, Newsflashes, calendar postings & press releases

- Middletown Farmers Market – continues through end of October, thanks you to K. Winston for staffing this every other week.
- Camp Crystal
- [Organics presentation](#) for Sustainable CT Coffee Hour
- Back to School Fair
- Open Air -Market, Wadsworth Mansion
- Uconn Master Composter Class Presentation on Municipal Composting Programs
- Household Hazardous Waste Collection
  - 2023: 122 households and 92 vehicles; 2024: 167 households and 137 vehicles.
- Ewaste Collection at Wesleyan
- Bulletin Board at Recreation Department

#### **Upcoming Events –**

- October 5, Bees Wax Wrap Program with Middletown Rec
- October 12, South Fire District Open House – volunteers needed
- October 19, Main Street Trick or Treat
- October 26, Repair Café in Old Saybrook
- November 9, Pumpkin Smash at Veteran’s Park – (Izzy/Jen)
- November 13, 12-1, Lunch and Learn at City Hall

#### **Meetings & Webinars**

- SWAC
- Middletown & Wesleyan Sustainability meetings
- Meetings with Sustainable CT Interns
- HeatSmart meetings with Eversource
- CT Recycling Coalition Board Meeting
- SMM Grant meetings with DEEP and Waste Zero
- Sanitation Commission
- Public Works Commission
- BOE, Rethink Disposable regarding reusables in the schools
- Superintendent, Facilities & Food Service Director
- Eversource Heatpump webinar
- Yale webinar on climate activism and burnout
- RiverCog Waste Authority Grant
- Ecoin at CHC re: Greenhouse on Main Street
- Wesleyan Student re: senior project
- Meriden officials – tour of recycling center
- [Metro Stor](#)

**What I'm reading:**

[Petaluma Reusable Cup Project](#)

[States Failing to Divert Food Waste](#)

Respectfully Submitted,

Kim O'Rourke,  
Middletown Recycling 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		
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		

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	
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	
<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	
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	
<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	
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	