

Middletown Recycling Coordinator's Report

June 24, 2024

Grants

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

Currently happening:

- The survey was completed. We received 240 responses from residents and 30 responses from landlords. I will offer a review of responses during our meeting.
- Data shows there has been a 30% reduction in waste, diverted 87,000 lbs of clean food scraps, a savings of \$100,000 in tip fees from residents with an 85% participation rate.
- The Waste Reduction Advisory group met last Thursday and reviewed different options to moving forward.
- [Thank you campaign](#) – winners were chosen and notified. It is unclear if this motivated generators to comply. The oops tags along with not picking up the trash seem to be the biggest motivator for those not complying.
- The Sanitation Commission is meeting Tuesday June 25 to discuss next steps. Recommendations will need to go to the Public Works Commission, Finance and Government and to the Common Council.

Administration

RRAC – Minutes are completed and have been filed with the Town Clerk. Recordings have been uploaded to the City Granicus website.

Complaints/Issues Handled –

- 2 new restaurants
- 3 complaints on business grease
- 2 business assists
- 2 waste audits
- 1 noise complaint re: trash trucks
- Numerous resident calls and emails;

Hauler Ordinance and Recycling Center Policy updates - The City has issued 2329 resident passes and 49 commercial hauler licenses to date.

The residential recycling passes are extended to Dec. 31, 2024. Commercial passes need to be renewed by July 31, 2024. Paperwork is being finalized and will be released next week.

The DCP weights and measure certificate was renewed for the transfer station scale.

Contracts/Purchases

- Food Scrap Collection

- Tire Disposal Contract
- Mixed Bulk Waste Bid
- Leaf Composting Amendment extension
- MSW/Sorting of MSW and Food Scraps
- Roll off covers at Transfer Station
- Sanitation District : carts and dumpsters
- Cleaning Sanitation District carts

Conversations–

- New Haven – Update on SMM Grant Program
- Old Lyme – part time staff
- Minnesota – Co-collection

Materials

Tonnages (see end of report)

Textiles – A new textile bin has been placed in the parking lot by the compost bin garden.

Other Projects

School Waste Programs

- Provided pricing for food scrap collection at MHS

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

Other Miscellaneous projects:

- Logistics for Pride, Juneteenth & Car Show
- Litter cleanups – coordinate collection of material from River Road and Reservoir/Cedar Road.
- Circus camp food scrap collection
- MHS Community Service students at the Recycling Center
- Waste Material Matrix
- Summer Assistant, K. Gendrich, has commenced her summer work schedule.
- HeatSmart Activities:
 - Regular meetings with Eversource
 - Insert for July tax bill
 - Prepare social media post

Outreach and Public Education events:

- Social Media, Website updates, Civic Send, Newsflashes, calendar postings & press releases
- Repair Café at Dekoven House
- Waste Reduction and Compost Presentation to Portland River Valley Garden Club
- Mayor for a Day with three students
- Recreation Camp Directors meeting

Upcoming Events –

- Dates TBD – Middletown Farmers Market
- July 8 – STEM GEMS Summer Camp – Worms needed
- July 31 – Camp Crystal – Worms welcome!
- August 25, 9 – 4pm Open Air Market, Wadsworth Mansion
- September 21, 9 – 12 noon, Ewaste Collection at Wesleyan
- November 13, 12-1, Lunch and Learn at City Hall

Meetings & Webinars

- Middletown & Wesleyan Sustainability meetings
- HeatSmart meetings with Eversource
- CRC Annual Conference
- SMM Grant meetings with DEEP and Waste Zero
- Waste Reduction Citizens Advisory Group
- Sanitation Commission
- Tire EPR meeting with DEEP and tire manufacturers
- Policy Now Building Coalitions for EPR webinar
- CCSMM School Recycling subcommittee
- Diversity training
- Battery safety training
- RiverCog – EPA grant for food scrap to transportation fuel grant

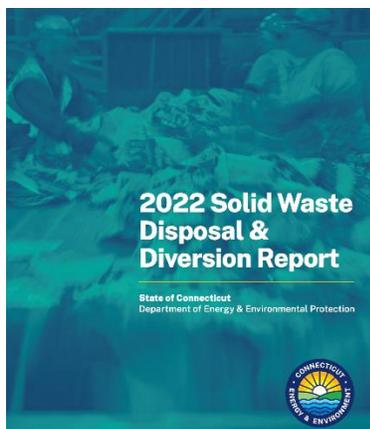
What I'm reading:

[NY Pizza Box Recycling Container](#)

[NJ Lithium Ion Battery Bill](#)

[Colorado EPR for Packaging](#)

[Minnesota EPR](#)



Eight years ago, the Nutmeg State set a goal of diverting 60% of municipal solid waste (MSW) by 2024. However, a [recent report](#) concluded that Connecticut will fall short of this target, as municipalities achieved an overall 42% diversion rate in 2022.

Of the 3.49 million tons of MSW generated in CT in 2022:

2.2 million tons were disposed, including:

1.55 million tons burned at in-state incinerators

640,000 tons landfilled or incinerated out of state

1.3 million tons were diverted through recycling, composting or anaerobic digestion

Connecticut's waste management system is at a critical point. Burning, landfilling and trucking our trash out of state are bad for our environment and public health and increase costs to municipalities.

Municipalities must dramatically increase recycling rates, divert compostable food waste and reduce new waste at the source.

According to a 2015 waste characterization study, the majority of waste disposed in CT could have been single stream recycled (17%) or composted (41%). Even though food scraps compose 22% of the waste stream, only about 5% of wasted food in CT is currently diverted. Yet, the State Assembly failed to pass legislation this session, which would have designated food scraps as a mandated recyclable and increased the amount of edible food donated. Stronger local and state policies are necessary to turn the tide on our waste crisis.

Waste Free Greenwich Newsletter

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[Five Packaging Strategies in the Federal Food Waste Strategy](#)

[The Middle – Conversation on Getting Politics Out of Climate Change](#)

Respectfully Submitted,

Kim O'Rourke

Kim O'Rourke, Middletown Recycling Coordinator

Materials

Recycling Tonnages –

Food Waste (Restaurants and drop offs only) -

Month	FY 21	FY 22	FY23	FY 24
Month	lbs	lbs	tons	tons
July		7956	11.86	16.2
Aug		9933	12.15	15
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	
Total	6125	314636	167.87	

Cardboard (Current cost \$0/ton)

Cardboard - Tonnage					
Month	FY 2020	FY 2021	FY 2022	FY 2023	FY 2024
July	34.86	34.45	32.51	24.02	16.68
August	30.92	33.57	30.5	30.09	20.56
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	

Total	368.86	371.34	349.19	356.46	
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Single Stream Recycling

Mixed Recycling Tonnage					
Month	FY 2020	FY 2021	FY 2022	FY 2023	FY 2024
July	56.35	78.63	68.02	51.08	51.07
Aug	66.19	53.48	61.15	46.78	60.8
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	
Total	737.23	862.66	737.68	668.62	

Costs of Single Stream Recycling

Recycling Payment/Reimbursement - Mixed Recycling per ton					
Month	FY 2020	FY 2021	FY 2022	FY 2023	FY 2024
July	\$62.75	\$82.76	\$15.20	\$41.18	\$95.08
Aug	\$66.30	\$81.68	\$2.11	\$68.15	\$98.65
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	

