

Middletown Recycling Coordinator's Report

May 20, 2024

Grants

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

Currently happening:

- Conducting a [survey](#) of residents, businesses and landlords to get feedback on the program. (266 submissions so far). This will end on May 25 so we have time to evaluate the responses.
- 2400 letters from the Mayor went out to all residents in the District with information on the program, where to get bags, the survey and recycling.
- [Thank you campaign](#) – crews are checking all carts and those in compliance will be entered into a raffle for \$100 gift card to a local grocery store; we are giving away a total of five gift cards. Those not in compliance receive an oops sticker and their trash is not emptied. They are asked to bag the trash properly and call the office for pick up.
- Ace Hardware has been added as a location that is selling bags. Stop & Go and Corner Stop are being removed because of complaints of them overcharging for the bags.

Moving towards assessment:

At the end of the month, as the above activities end, staff will be evaluating the program, per city resolution. Criteria for considerations will include:

- Financial
- Waste Reduction
- Labor costs
- Logistics
- Political
- Expansion

Options will be:

- Continue as is
- Continue with modifications
- Revert back to the old system

Recommendation will be brought forward in July.

Small Bottle Grant

The City received three checks from distributors for the sale of small little bottles. The amount totaled \$32,058.80. This funding will be brought to the Common Council's June meeting for acceptance. This funding has been used for waste reduction efforts and litter control.

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 –

- 1 Cart on the curb violations
- 2 new restaurants
- 5 business assists
- 1 noise complaint re: trash trucks
- 1 illegal dumping at Food Waste on Randolph Road
- Completed 1 FOIA request; received an additional one
- Numerous resident calls and emails; please note a significant number of calls revolve about these issues:
 - Sanitation billing
 - Compliance with bag program

Hauler Ordinance and Recycling Center Policy updates - The City has issued 2177 resident passes and 49 commercial hauler licenses to date.

As reported last month, the residential recycling passes will be extended to Dec. 31, 2024. Commercial passes are currently being updated for July 2024.

Contracts/Purchases

- Food Scrap Collection RFP
- Tire Disposal Contract
- HHW Contract – Executed.
- HHW Interlocal Agreement – Executed.
- Mixed Bulk Waste Bid
- Leaf Composting Amendment extension
- MSW/Sorting of MSW and Food Scraps
- Trash and Recycling Stations for Main Street – Installation initiated.
- Roll off covers at Transfer Station
- Sanitation District : carts and dumpsters
- Cleaning Sanitation District carts

Conversations–

- New Haven – Update on SMM Grant Program
- Haddam – plexiglass recycling

Materials

Tonnages (see end of report)

Woodchips - Per Acting Director, starting May 1, 2024 woodchips are only available for pick up at the recycling center. Delivery has been suspended.

Textiles – I have received permission to put a textile collection bin at 131 River Road. I am waiting for a response from the company.

Picture Frame Glass – No update. I have not been able to solve the transportation of this material.

Other Projects

School Waste Programs

- Resusables with Rethink Disposable – No update.

Swap Shack – Please continue signing up for shifts through the Chair. Thank you and welcome Tami Kapaczewski for joining as a new volunteer.

Interns – Daniel Coxson from Wesleyan compiled the City's data regarding recycling pricing over the last few years and assisted with the legislation review below.

Legislation 2024

Update on solid waste bills that are still alive at the CT General Assembly:

H.B. No. 5226 (RAISED) AN ACT ESTABLISHING AN EXTENDED PRODUCER RESPONSIBILITY PROGRAM FOR CONSUMER BATTERIES.

- Creates an EPR program for consumer batteries.
- Died on the Senate Calendar.

S.B. 191 AN ACT CONCERNING FOOD SCRAP DIVERSION FROM THE SOLID WASTE STREAM AND THE REDEMPTION OF OUT-OF-STATE BEVERAGE CONTAINERS.

- Some towns opposed this bill because it did not contain funding to roll out programs.
- There is a need to educate legislators on the importance of food donation and diversion.
- Died on the Senate Calendar

H. B. 5004 AN ACT CONCERNING THE IMPLEMENTATION OF CERTAIN CLIMATE CHANGE MEASURES.

- Comprehensive bill that addresses climate change. It includes action on reducing greenhouse gas emissions, investment in renewable energy and green economy startup businesses, incentivizing sustainable purchasing by local governments and enhancing nature-based solutions to mitigate climate change across Connecticut.
- Died on the Senate Calendar.

S.B. 292 AN ACT CONCERNING THE USE OF PFAS IN CERTAIN PRODUCTS

- Limits the use of PFAs in certain products.
- Passed. Public Act 24-59.

H.B. 5230 AN ACT CONCERNING SMOKE DETECTORS IN THE SOLID WASTE STREAM.

- Requires the installation of photoelectric smoke detectors only in newly constructed single-family homes after October 2024. Photoelectric smoke detectors do not contain any radioactive material.

- Died on the House Calendar.

S.B. 293 AN ACT CONCERNING MUNICIPAL SOLID WASTE MANAGEMENT.

- Requires a waste characterization study and needs assessment and increase certain transportation weight limits for vehicles hauling solid waste.
- Passed. Public Act 24-2.

H.B. 5352 AN ACT CONCERNING MINOR REVISIONS TO THE TIRE STEWARDSHIP PROGRAM.

- To provide a tire stewardship organization more time to begin the tire stewardship program after the plan is approved, to reduce allowable administrative fees for the tire stewardship program and to allow a surplus for the tire stewardship program to avoid cash flow problems.
- Passed, no public act number yet.

H.B. No. 5353 (RAISED) AN ACT CONCERNING THE GAS CYLINDER STEWARDSHIP PROGRAM.

- To provide a gas cylinder stewardship organization with the right to institute a civil suit against noncompliant producers when certain costs are incurred by the organization.
- Passed, no public act number yet.

Bonding package included \$10 million for waste reduction. Unsure how that will be used.

Other Miscellaneous projects:

- Meeting with resident on solar outreach project for the PLTI program.
- Logistics for Kids Health and Safety Fair and Pride event.
- Submit paper work for payment of outstanding invoices.
- Litter cleanups – coordinate collection of material from 2 clean ups (Harbor Park & River Road) and coordinate details with a local resident interested in organizing small clean up activities.
- HeatSmart Activities:
 - Regular meetings with Eversource
 - Postcard mailing to Sanitation District
 - Information at Kid’s Health and Safety Fair
 - Secure Energy in Action exhibit for Kid’s Health and Safety Fair

Outreach and Public Education events:

- Social Media, Website updates, Civic Send, Newsflashes, calendar postings & press releases
- Updated to the call handler script
- Presentation at Northwest Children’s Center
- Presentation to MacDonough School 5th Grade
- Community Paper Shred Event
- Compost Bin and Rain Barrel Sale and Pick up
- Community Health Fair at State Capital
- Presentation to Professor Caruso’s class at Wesleyan University
- Table and filming at Kid’s Health and Safety Fair

Thank you to all the volunteers, and the Wesleyan students, who have helped with these events.

Upcoming Events –

- June 15, 12-3, Repair Café at Dekoven House – sign up through the Rockfall Foundation
- Dates TBD – Middletown Farmers Market
- August 25, 9 – 4pm Open Air Market, Wadsworth Mansion
- September 21, 9 – 12 noon, Ewaste Collection at Wesleyan

Meetings & Webinars

- Middletown & Wesleyan Sustainability meetings
- HeatSmart meetings with Eversource
- CRC Board Meetings and subcommittee meetings
- SMM Grant meetings with DEEP and Waste Zero
- CTLCV Wrap Up meeting
- Interview with Wesleyan student re: Earth Day
- Weekly meetings with Wesleyan intern
- Recycle CT Board Meetings
- CRC, WI, WO Training Sessions
- ACES Community Meeting

What I'm reading:

CT Mirror, Food Insecurity, - <https://ctmirror.org/2024/05/15/ct-food-insecurity-hunger-data/> - *why can't we make the connection between the escalating rates of food insecurity and food donation/rescue efforts?*

Courant, update on MIRA - <https://www.courant.com/2024/05/16/funding-to-right-40-years-of-ills-ends-decades-of-environmental-exploitation-advocates-say/>

Saugus Ash Landfill - <https://itemlive.com/2024/05/15/saugus-town-meeting-overwhelmingly-approves-closure-committee-for-ash-landfill/>

Courant, expansion in Southington, <https://www.courant.com/2024/05/08/ct-solid-waste-company-plans-expansion-increase-in-volume-what-to-know/>

New Haven Register, new waste facility in North Haven - <https://www.nhregister.com/recordjournal/article/waste-treatment-facility-north-haven-environment-18637893.php?src=nhrhpdesecp>

Littles, Martha's Vineyard bans nips - <https://vineyardgazette.com/news/2024/04/25/liquor-stores-look-sell-nips-ahead-new-ban>

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	
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	
May	31.27	28.16	32.58	32.67	
June	28.96	32.77	21.24	29.13	
Total	368.86	371.34	349.19	356.46	

Single Stream Recycling

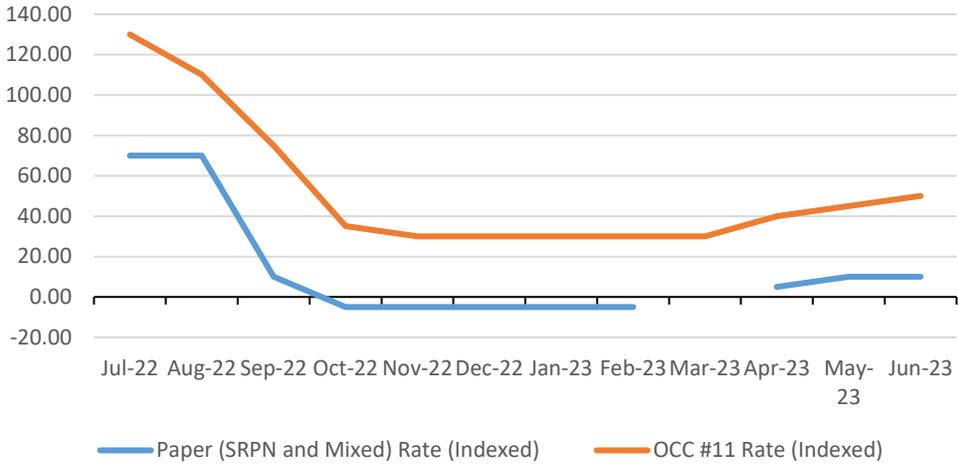
Mixed Recycling Tonnage					
Month	FY 2020	FY 2021	FY 2022	FY 2023	FY 2024
July	56.35	78.63	68.02	51.08	51.07
Aug	66.19	53.48	61.15	46.78	60.8
Sept	57.46	53.82	57.9	64.26	46.2
Oct	70.77	54.47	63.42	63.63	49.04
Nov	60.93	56.12	61.95	53.18	48.15
Dec	60.31	67.63	68.67	61.58	52.85
Jan	59.13	54.31	56.34	61.56	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	
June	57.14	62.21	60.29	52.08	
Total	737.23	862.66	737.68	668.62	

Costs of Single Stream Recycling

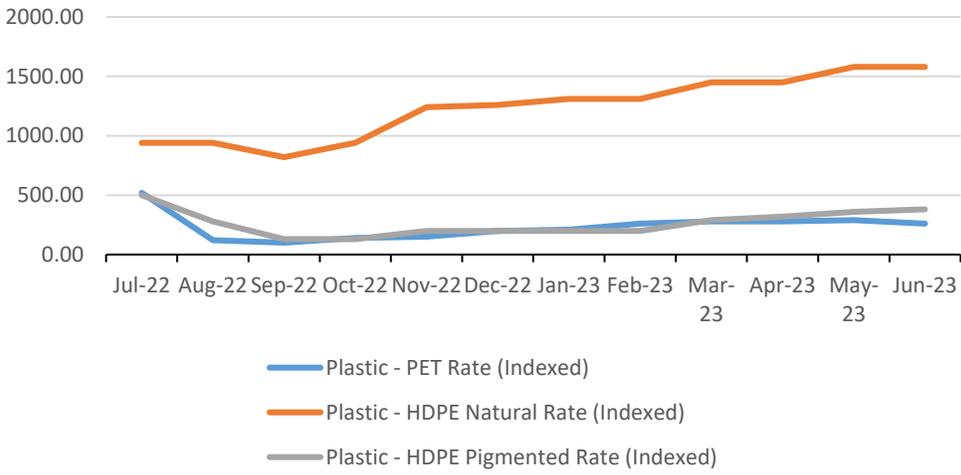
Recycling Payment/Reimbursement - Mixed Recycling per ton					
Month	FY 2020	FY 2021	FY 2022	FY 2023	FY 2024
July	\$62.75	\$82.76	\$15.20	\$41.18	\$95.08
Aug	\$66.30	\$81.68	\$2.11	\$68.15	\$98.65
Sept	\$65.40	\$77.41	\$6.85	\$88.70	\$91.28
Oct	\$64.03	\$72.73	\$5.25	\$99.98	\$86.26
Nov	\$63.10	\$69.44	\$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	
June	\$79.28	\$42.00	\$31.22	\$84.90	

Below are graphs to demonstrate the market rates the City’s individual recycling streams. These rates are used to determine the monthly recycling rate.

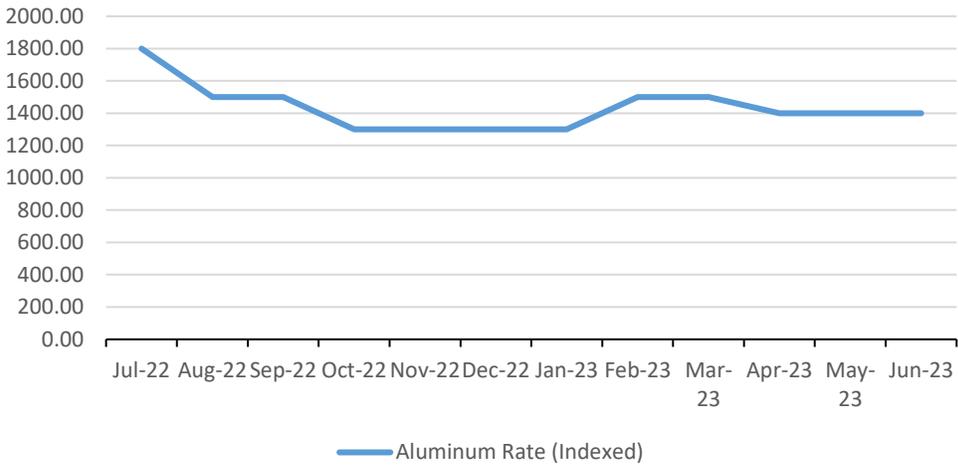
Paper and OCC Rates 2022 -2023



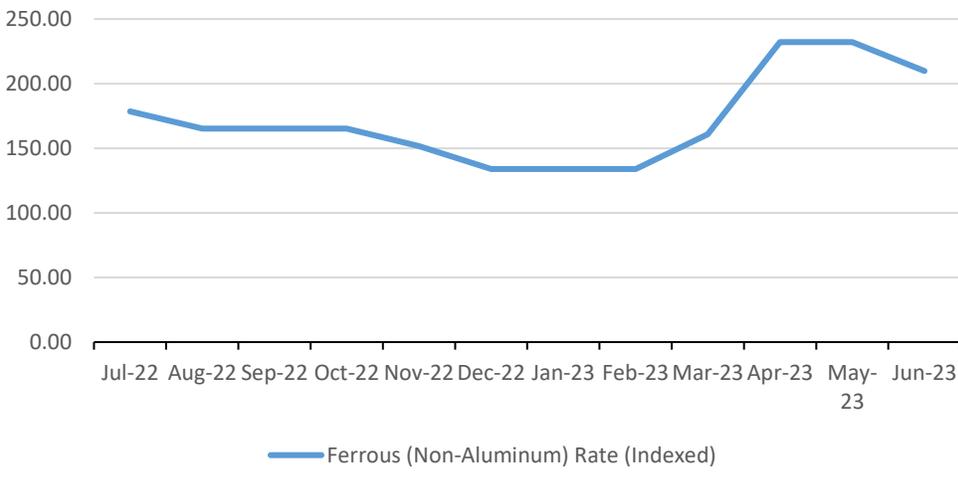
Unmixed Plastic Rates 2022 -2023



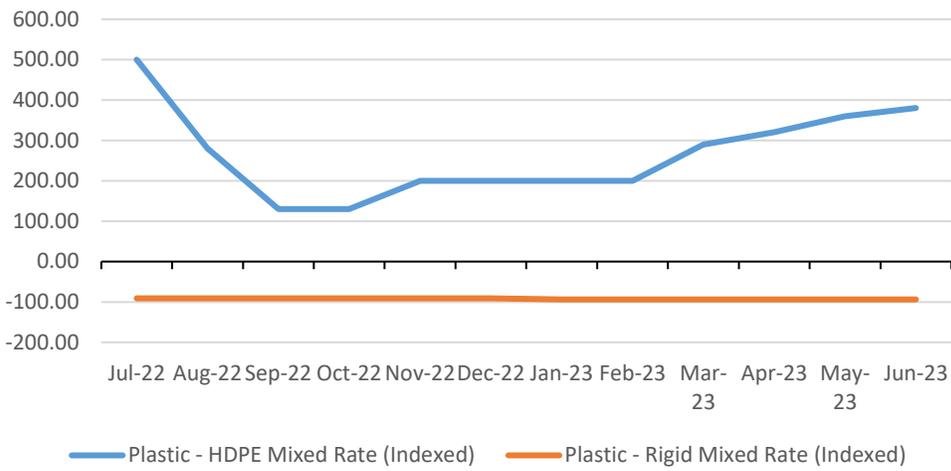
Aluminum Rate (Indexed) 2022 -2023



Ferrous (Non-Aluminum) Rate (Indexed) 2022 -2023



Mixed Plastic Rates 2022 -2023



Total Value 2022 -2023

