

# Middletown Recycling Coordinator's Report

## April 22, 2024

### Grants

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

The Sanitation bills went out on April 1<sup>st</sup>. Unfortunately, the system reverted to the old prices and a corrected bill had to be issued later in the week. Compliance checks have continued but because of transition in the Department, movement on enforcement on streets with alternative street parking has been delayed. I have now been instructed to develop an incentive program for north end residents. The Mayor and his staff believe the dynamic of the north end is different from other areas and it needs a different approach to compliance.

A questionnaire for residents and landlords was released to Sanitation District residents to get their feedback on the program. It is available on the [Sanitation District webpage](#).

The [Waste Reduction Citizen's Advisory Working Group](#) met on April 8. It was decided not to meet again until more data is available and the questionnaire results are received.

The mailing to residents has been finalized and will be sent to the printers next week.

We have received 84 applications for bag assistance and have conducted 4 waste audits. A second round of assistance forms are coming in now. Except for the Housing Authority properties, assistance bags are giving out per billing cycle.

I presented at the CDBG Citizens Advisory meeting to offer information on the grant application to continue the bag assistance program for low and middle income residents.

### Administration

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

#### Reports

- Annual DEEP Municipal Recycling Report
- Internal office billing process for Sanitation District

#### Complaints/Issues Handled –

- 7 Cart on the curb violations
- 2 new restaurants
- 2 business assists
- Business complaint regarding the paper shred events being for residents only.
- 2 ongoing FOIA requests; one completed
- Numerous resident calls and emails; please note a significant number of calls revolve about these issues:

- Sanitation billing
- Small yard debris

Hauler Ordinance and Recycling Center Policy updates - The City has issued 2047 resident passes and 47 commercial hauler licenses to date.

I am currently working on the Hauler/Contractor registration and licensing for July. In order to control the administrative duties in the office, the residential recycling passes will be extended to Dec. 31, 2024.

#### Contracts/Purchases

- Food Scrap Collection RFP
- Tire Disposal Contract
- HHW Contract
- HHW Interlocal Agreement
- Mixed Bulk Waste Bid
- Leaf Composting Amendment extension
- Trash and Recycling Stations for Main Street – Purchased. Now coordinating installation and maintenance.
- Roll off covers at Transfer Station
- Sanitation District : carts and dumpsters

#### Conversations–

- RiverCog – starting process to explore forming a waste authority; looking for speakers for Chester fair

## **Materials**

Tonnages (see end of report)

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

Brush and Bulk Waste policy – the Acting Director has initiated conversations to make changes to these policies to make them less burdensome to Department staff.

Textiles – I have received permission to put a textile collection bin at 131 River Road. I will be contacting the company to see if they can provide one in that location.

Picture Frame Glass – I have been speaking with Middletown Framing regarding picture frame glass. If it is kept separate, we can take it to SMI, but it requires a separate trip. I am still trying to work out the logistics.

## **Other Projects**

School Waste Programs

- Resusables with Rethink Disposable – Rethink Disposable, MPS and I met to discuss the status of this program. The Food Services Director is concerned that it has taken so long to work through the process because. Now, he won't be able to roll out the program as he expected this year. He had additional staff this year to assist and he most likely won't have that staff next year. He hopes to introduce some of the exchanges before the end of the school year, but most will happen next year. He will need to figure out the logistics.

Swap Shack – Please continue sign up for shifts through the Chair. Feedback has been very positive with the new system.

Interns – Daniel Coxson from Wesleyan has compiled the City's data regarding recycling pricing over the last few years. I will include the results in my next report.

#### 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.
- On the House calendar.

#### **[S.B. 191](#) AN ACT CONCERNING FOOD SCRAP DIVERSION FROM THE SOLID WASTE STREAM AND THE REDEMPTION OF OUT-OF-STATE BEVERAGE CONTAINERS.**

- Designates food waste as a mandatory recyclable material in CT.
- On Senate Calendar, but prospects are not looking good.

#### **[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.
- Referred to Appropriations Committee from House.

#### **[S.B. 292](#) AN ACT CONCERNING THE USE OF PFAS IN CERTAIN PRODUCTS**

- Limits the use of PFAs in certain products.
- On Senate Calendar.

#### **[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.
- Referred to Public Safety Committee from House.

#### **[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.

- On Senate Calendar.

**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 out of Environment Committee.

**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.
- Referred by House to Judiciary Committee.

DEEP Review on legislation from SWAC meeting on 3/26/2024 can be found [here](#).

*Other Miscellaneous projects:*

- The 2023 MS4 Stormwater Management Plan is final and I have made it available at Russell Library, Public Works and on the [city website](#).
- The [Eversource HeatSmart](#) Program is updated and running again. A flyer went out with the Sanitation District billing. Representatives from EcoSmart tabled at the Earth Day event. We have had 10 households sign up for home energy assessments. I also met with representatives from East Haddam and Clinton to help them get their programs started.
- Sustainability – the Acting Director has instructed me not to work on sustainability initiatives.

**Outreach and Public Education events:**

- Social Media, Website updates, Civic Send, Newsflashes, calendar postings & press releases
- Interview with WMRD
- Hartford Marathon road race
- Food Waste Solutions presentation with CT DEEP at Russell Library
- Bees Wax Wrap class at Middletown Recreation Center
- Earth Day Extravaganza
- Community Conversation on the Environmental with ArtFarm
- Community Compost Bin and Rain Barrel Sale running
- Daffodil Day at Wadsworth Mansion

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

**Upcoming Events –**

**Sign up for events [HERE](#)**

April 27, 8:30 – 11 am, [Paper Shred Event](#), Palmer Field

May 5, 11 – 1, Pick up for [Community Compost Bin and Rain Barrel Sale](#)

May 10, 10-2, Kids Health and Safety Fair, Main Street

June 15, 12-3, Repair Café at Dekoven House

August 25, 9 – 4pm Open Air Market, Wadsworth Mansion

### **Meetings & Webinars**

- Middletown & Wesleyan Sustainability meetings
- HeatSmart meetings with Eversource and other towns
- CRC Board Meetings and subcommittee meeting for education, event planning and fundraising
- SMM Grant meetings with DEEP and Waste Zero
- Sanitation Commission
- Recycle CT Board Meetings
- Waste Reduction Citizen's Advisory Commission meetings
- SWAC Meeting
- Presentation at CDBG
- CRC, WI, WO Training Sessions on plastic and fibers.

### **What I'm reading:**

[Tackling food waste](#) (Hartford Courant)

[Methane can be seen from space and contributes to Climate Change](#) (The Guardian)

[How to Stop the Wastefulness](#) (Los Angeles Times)

[Michigan Food Waste Efforts](#) (Waste Advantage)

[Food Waste Prevention](#) (Modern Farmer)

[Reuse Center in Denmark](#) (Reasons to be Cheerful)

Respectfully Submitted,

*Kim O'Rourke*

Kim O'Rourke, Middletown Recycling Coordinator

## Materials

Recycling Tonnages – Full tonnage amounts and costs for curbside recyclables can be found here:

Food Waste (Restaurants and drop offs only) – we have reached over 1 million pounds of food scraps being collected with this program!



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	
May	795	39005	15.17	
Jun	5330	33545	16.1	
<b>Total</b>	<b>6125</b>	<b>314636</b>	<b>167.87</b>	

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	
<b>Total</b>	<b>368.86</b>	<b>371.34</b>	<b>349.19</b>	<b>356.46</b>	

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	
May	54.26	146.58	56	65.51	
June	57.14	62.21	60.29	52.08	
<b>Total</b>	<b>737.23</b>	<b>862.66</b>	<b>737.68</b>	<b>668.62</b>	

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	
May	\$74.67	\$48.90	\$27.44	\$84.90	
June	\$79.28	\$42.00	\$31.22	\$84.90	