

Middletown Recycling Coordinator's Report March 2024

Material Tonnages (see end of report)

Grants

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

The artificial intelligence (AI) computers have been fully trained and education efforts are focused on those entities not in compliance. We have continued to spot check and sticker carts and send letters to those not in compliance. This has resulted in a steady stream of phone calls and more customers complying with the program. The neighborhoods where we have been consistently stickering are in high compliance, 95-99%. We are starting to reach out more to the neighborhoods with alternate street parking.

The next Sanitation bill will be sent out April 1st. The reduction in billing will continue with the requirement to use the city bags. The city has collected over 36,400 lbs of food scraps by the end of February.

Below are inserts that will be included in the spring 2024 billing:

- [Sanitation Information](#)
- [HeatSmart Information](#)

The [Waste Reduction Citizen's Advisory Working Group](#) met on March 11 to discuss compliance issues and the landlord/renter dynamic. It was a small group. Participants liked the idea of the sanitation fee going back up to the full price and the City providing a reasonable amount of bags to customers. We want to get more feedback from customers through the questionnaire that is being developed.

A subcommittee of individuals helped designed a mailing to District residents and a questionnaire. Distribution to Sanitation District residents is scheduled for mid April.

A meeting was held to discuss the possibility of creating short videos that could go on social media.

A meeting was held with the Executive Director of the Housing Authority to discuss outreach to their residents.

Bag Assistance and Waste Audits – We have received 67 applications for bag assistance and have had 3 requests for waste audits. These are scheduled for this coming week.

Free Starter Bag giveaway and food waste containers – These items are still available for no charge at the Public Works office in City Hall.

Community Development Block Grant – The Public Works Department applied for CDBG funding to continue to provide assistance to low income renters for the waste reduction program once the SMM grant expires.

Administration

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

Reports – Data is being compiled to complete the Annual DEEP Municipal Recycling Report.

Complaints/Issues Handled –

- 2 Cart on the curb violations
- 2 new restaurants
- 11 business assists
- 2 FOIA requests (1 from last month; one new)
- Numerous resident calls and emails

Hauler Ordinance and Recycling Center Policy updates - The City has issued 1,929 resident passes and 45 commercial hauler licenses to date.

Contracts/Purchases

- SMM Bag Contract
- Heavy Duty Roll offs – Delivered 3.22.2024
- Mixed Recycling Contract
- Name change amendment for sorting and msw contract
- Food Scrap Collection RFP
- Tire Disposal RFQ
- HHW Contract
- HHW Interlocal Agreement
- Mixed Bulk Waste Bid
- Leaf Composting RFP
- Trash and Recycling Stations for Main Street – using ARPA funding and coordinating with the Downtown Business District.

Conversations–

- Town of Mansfield CT
- Town of Manchester CT
- VT Department of Conservation
- Transitions Academy
- Jonah Center

Other Projects

School Waste Programs

- Resusables with Rethink Disposable – Reusable items have been ordered. The shipment has been delayed. A meeting is scheduled with MPS Food Services and ReThink Disposable this coming week.

- Textiles – Funding for the textile bin at Keigwin School has been forwarded to the MHS environmental club. They are very appreciative. It will assist with their efforts to improve recycling at the High School and their outreach to the elementary schools.

Swap Shack – Please sign up for shifts through the Chair. I have requested the sign to be corrected.

Trash and Recycling Cart Cleaning – I received a demonstration from a [local business](#) that offers cleaning services for residents and businesses. They are interested in working with the Sanitation District and are available to any Middletown resident or business.

Filming – We filmed a video on managing waste from restaurant take out. This is available on the [Middletown Recycles](#) You Tube page with this [link](#). It will be made public in April. The next video will be an updated tour of the Recycling Center.

Interns – We have two interns working on various projects. One is working on improving the city’s sustainability webpage and developing the reuse guide. She also assists with translations. The second is compiling data from the single stream recycling to track rates and prices of materials.

Seasonal staff – The city hired a recycling assistant for the next few months to assist with the many recycling projects through the spring.

Legislation 2024

Update on solid waste bills at the CT General Assembly:

H.B. No. [5215](#) (RAISED) AN ACT CONCERNING MUNICIPAL AUTHORITY TO PROHIBIT THE SALE OF NIPS.

- This bill allows municipalities to consider banning nips if they choose to. Right now, they cannot.
- [Written testimony](#) submitted.
- Did not pass out of the Environment Committee.

H.B. No. [5220](#) (RAISED) AN ACT EXAMINING THE VIABILITY OF AN EXTENDED PRODUCER RESPONSIBILITY PROGRAM FOR SOLAR PANELS.

- Requires the Commissioner of DEEP to file a report to the CGA about the viability of developing an EPR program for solar panels.
- Did not pass out of the Environment Committee.

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

- The City supports the concept of EPR for batteries, but this is not the same framework as the other EPR programs in CT and does not allow any municipal transfer station to participate, if they want to, at no cost, to the town.
- [Written testimony](#) submitted.
- Passed out of the Environment Committee with substitute language.

[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.
- [Written testimony](#) submitted.
- Passed out of Environment Committee.

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.
- Passed out of Environment Committee.

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

- Limits the use of PFAs in certain products.
- Passed out of Environment Committee.

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.
- Passed with substitute language.

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.

H.B. 5351 AN ACT STUDYING THE NEED FOR AN EXTENDED PRODUCER RESPONSIBILITY PROGRAM FOR CARPETS.

- Establishes a study for an extended producer responsibility program for carpets that are sold and distributed in this state.
- Did not pass out of the Environment Committee

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.
- Passed out of Environment Committee.

Other Miscellaneous projects:

- The draft the 2023 MS4 Stormwater Management Plan was available until March 15 and is now considered final. Information will be updated appropriately.

- I have continued to coordinate the [Eversource HeatSmart](#) Program. I designed an insert for the Sanitation District billing, postcard and rack card. The City switched the intake vendor to reduce costs.
- Working with Middletown Human Resources department to develop a plan to issue a reusable plate setting to current and future city hall employees to reduce the need for single use items such as plates, bowls, plasticware and cups, for internal meetings and gatherings.

Outreach and Public Education events:

- Social Media, Website updates, Civic Send, Newsflashes, calendar postings & press releases
- Composting table Beman Family STEAM Event
- What's In, What's Out Event with CT DEEP at the Senior Center
- Table at Middletown Recreation Easter Event
- Interview with WFSB re: SAYT
- Presentation at ACES Family Center
- Interview with WIHS on waste reduction and plastic pollution

Upcoming Events –

Sign up for events [HERE](#)

April 7, 11 – 1pm, Hartford Marathon, South Green,

April 9, 6 – 7:30 pm, [Food Waste Prevention with DEEP](#), Russell Library

April 13, 10 am, Girl Scout Tour of Recycling Center

April 18, 4 – 5pm, [Learn How to make Bees Wax Wrap](#), Middletown Rec

April 20, 12 – 3pm, [Earth Day Extravaganza](#), Harbor Park

April 21, 12 – 3pm, Daffodil Day, Wadsworth Mansion

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, contractors
- CRC Board Meetings and subcommittee meeting for education and event planning
- Monthly Meeting with Mayor
- SMM Grant meetings with DEEP and Waste Zero
- Sanitation Commission

- Recycle CT Board Meetings
- Waste Reduction Citizen's Advisory Commission meetings
- CCSMM's [Increase Recycling and Reduction Working Group meeting](#) on Food Waste Prevention
- NERC/NEWMOA [Webinar](#) on Food Waste Regulatory Strategies
- NERC/PSI [Webinar](#) on Tackling Tire Waste

What else I'm reading:

[Talking Trash: How Worcester's Pay as You Throw Program Reduces Waste and Saves Money, Jan 26, 2024](#)

[Concerns of North Haven waste reclamation plant, Record Journal, Feb 2, 2024](#)

[Middletown Official Says Funding not Enough, Middletown Press, March 1, 2024](#)

[Opinion: Could CT Consider Banning Nip Bottles, Middletown Press, Feb 26, 2024](#)

[HRRRA: Building Effective Community Programs, Waste Advantage, Jan 31, 2024](#)

[Bills Advance to Restrict Out of State Trash in NH, Concord Monitor, March 19, 2024](#)

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)

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	
Apr		29945	16.32	
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	
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	
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	
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	
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	