

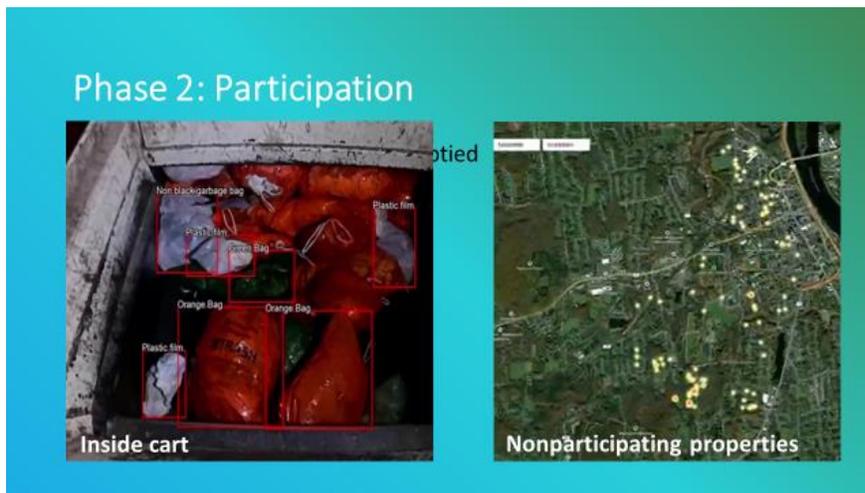
# Middletown Recycling Coordinator's Report February 2024

**Material Tonnages** (see end of report)

## Grants

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

The City is continuing its compliance and education efforts to increase participation. We estimate currently almost 90% of the District is complying. The AI cameras are still in training and when they are fully trained, we will be able to have a more focused, and efficient, outreach effort.



The [Waste Reduction Citizen's Advisory Working Group](#) met on February 12 and focused on education and outreach efforts. There is also a smaller working group meeting monthly. They are helping design a mailing to District residents and a questionnaire.

Director Holden presented an update to the Common Council on February 5. The presentation included Chris Nelson from DEEP and Mark Dancy from Waste Zero. You can find the video [here](#). It starts at approximately 31:00 minutes into the meeting. Special thanks to Commission member, Rebecca MacLachlan for designing the City's portion of the power point presentation.

Chris Holden and I met with a small group organized by resident, Rick Siena, on January 25 to discuss concerns with the waste reduction program. Mr. Siena has been very vocal about his strong opposition to the waste reduction program and has expressed his opposition to the existence of the Sanitation District.

*Bag Assistance and Waste Audits* – We have received 54 applications for bag assistance and have had no requests for waste audits. I updated the website to [include a separate page](#) on the bags and assistance program. I plan to make other improvements to the website, as time allows. Please feel free to offer suggestions.

The City conducted a waste audit of an overflowing trash cart in the District. The ten bags of trash were reduced to two bags of trash, 1 bag of food waste and the rest was recycling.



*Bag Giveaway* – We continue to give the free starter pack to those just learning about the program. They are available at the Public Works office in City Hall.

*EPA Healthy Communities Grant (Reusable take out containers)* – The [webpage](#) has been updated and the final report is available [here](#).

*Small Liquor Bottle (nips) Fund* - The City is considering using some of this funding to work with Jonah Center to administer a litter clean up program. Conversations are ongoing.

## 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 Cart on the curb violations
- 1 new restaurant
- 6 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 1,826 resident passes and 45 commercial hauler licenses to date.

I had to correct confusion in the office over the ability of people to use the recycling center if they do not have a vehicle. Walk-ins are allowed in the recycling center to deposit free items and visit the swap shack. Chargeable items must be brought in in a vehicle.

### Contracts/Purchases

- SMM Bag Contract
- Heavy Duty Roll offs
- Mixed Recycling Contract
- Name change amendment for sorting and msw contract
- Food Scrap Collection RFP
- Tire Disposal RFQ

Conversations–

- BluSky – Bio Char Opportunity for wood debris
- Rocky Hill & West Haven – SMM Grant programs
- Professors Christine Caruso & Kate Miller – Wesleyan collaborations

**Other Projects**

DBD Trash Containers – Trash and recycling containers have been ordered and we hope to have them in by early May.

Compost Bin Garden – Thank you to Commission member, John Yarmolovich for fixing one of our compost bins at the Garden.

School Waste Programs

- Food Waste Education Efforts in the Schools – I presented with Jen Smith at a Vo-Ag class at the High School. Hopefully, Jen can present at our next meeting about the food waste efforts in the schools.
- Resusables with Rethink Disposable – No update. Food Services is working out the details of implementation.
- Textiles – Per request of MHS High School Environmental Club, I adjusted the funding coming from the textile bin at the High School, to go to them. It was going to Beman. The proceeds from the textiles bins go directly to the schools, and senior center, where the bins are located.

Field Trip to Quantum BioPower Anaerobic Digester – We had another excellent tour at Quantum BioPower on February 6. Members of the Sanitation District Commission, Recycling Commission, Common Council, the Mayor, and one legislator attended.



Swap Shack – Update from Chairperson. I have developed a [doodle poll](#) to allow people to sign up on their own. Please check it out and see if it will work for you. I have also requested a sign for the swap shack.

Filming – We have two new videos available. One is on [controlling food waste odors](#), the other is a [video](#) that the City of Waterbury developed and we recently adapted for Middletown. These were just completed. They will be added to the website and social media. We also filmed a video on the disposal of take out containers. This is currently being edited.

FoodCycler Pilot Program – No update.

Reuse, Refill, Repair, Recycle Database – RiverCOG was not awarded a Rockfall Grant to develop a Reuse, Refill, Repair, Recycling on-line database so we are working with our intern to start a resource document. Please forward the names of any companies in Middlesex County (or close to) to me and I will have her research them and add them to the document. The idea is to put something on all of our websites, RiverCog, and all municipalities in the area, to guide residents to places that perform reuse services.

#### Legislation 2024

There is an [Environment Committee Public Hearing](#) on Wednesday, February 28 at 10am. Two bills in particular are up for consideration:

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.

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.

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.

Other topics that will come forth:

Changes to the tire epr program, changes to the gas cylinder epr program, [and SB 191](#), AN ACT CONCERNING FOOD SCRAP DIVERSION FROM THE SOLID WASTE STREAM AND THE REDEMPTION OF OUT-OF-STATE BEVERAGE CONTAINERS.

Eye Recycle – **Please read for discussion:** I met with Eye Recycle who is offering a program for communities to collect deposit containers at transfer stations. They provide totes on site, but the site

would have to bag the containers and store a fair amount of them to make it economical. The funding goes to the municipality.

Another option is to host a Pop-Up event. Eye Recycle comes with their truck, residents drop off redeemables, they are transferred to bags for quick counting and people are paid on the spot. All brands accepted and there's no limit to how many items they can turn in.

We also have our local *Cans for Cause* organization in Middletown, who is interested in collecting deposit containers from the recycling center. We provided a cart by the mixed recycling for this, but that just got filled with trash. We could consider moving that cart to the Swap Shack and tell patrons to leave their deposit containers there. Those would go directly to that organization.

Other Miscellaneous projects:

- Updated the [stormwater management information](#) and the draft the 2023 MS4 Plan on the website.
- Continued to coordinate the [Eversource HeatSmart](#) Program. Finished the final report for the 2023 efforts. I have had meetings with contractors, Eversource and other towns to determine how to move forward with this program.

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

- Social Media, Website updates, Civic Send, Newsflashes, calendar postings & press releases
- Growing Power Table 2/24 (thank you Izzy Guy, Eleanor Nettleton and Krishna Winston)
- Rockfall Foundation's Meet Your Greens Presentation 2/15
- Numerous meetings with residents and businesses on SAYT
- Presentation with Sierra Club on Middletown's waste reduction program 2/21
- Common Council Presentation, 2/5

**Upcoming Events –** [Let's discuss the best way to sign up for these events.](#)

March 2, 9am – 12 noon, [Family STEAM Day](#) at Beman Middle School (volunteers welcome)

March 23, 9am – 12 noon, [Easter Egg Hunt](#) at Middletown Rec (volunteers welcome)

March 21, 6:30pm, [Recycling Presentation with DEEP](#), Senior Center

April 7, 11 – 1pm, Hartford Marathon, South Green, [\(volunteers needed\)](#)

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 [\(volunteers needed\)](#)

April 21, 12 – 3pm, Daffodil Day, Wadsworth Mansion [\(volunteers needed\)](#)

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

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

May 10, 10-2, Kids Health and Safety Fair, Main Street (Volunteers needed)

August 25, 9 – 4pm Open Air Market, Wadsworth Mansion (volunteers needed)

### Meetings & Webinars

- Middletown & Wesleyan Sustainability meetings
- HeatSmart meetings with Eversource, contractors, other towns
- SWAC – [January 25 Meeting](#)
- CRC Board Meetings – Draft informational piece I put together for them on [CT's recycling laws](#)
- Monthly Meeting with Mayor
- SMM Grant meetings with DEEP and Waste Zero
- Zero Waste Coalition/Sierra Club
- Sanitation Commission
- Recycle CT Board Meetings
- Waste Reduction Citizen's Advisory Commission meetings
- Meeting with Councilperson on SAYT

### What else I'm watching and reading:

[Colgate-Palmolive Faces Lawsuit over toothpaste tube](#)

[Fair Trash Plan Comic](#)

[New Haven Electric Trash Truck](#)

[CT Compost Alliance Annual Conference](#)

[West Hartford Explores Waste Reduction Program](#)

[Woodbury Approves PAYT Program](#)

[Greenwich Trash Woes](#)

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	
Mar		35860	15.75	
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	
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	
<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	
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	
<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	
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	