



History of Recycling in Newton



1971	First city in Massachusetts to start a newspaper recycling program (drop-off).
1972	Bi-monthly voluntary curbside collection of newspaper.
1975	Added glass and cans to bi-monthly curbside collections.
1980	Weekly paper collections, bi-monthly glass (separated by color) and metal can collection. Began city-wide education program.
1981	Mandatory paper recycling ordinance passed.
1984	Stopped collecting glass and metal curbside, but began collecting glass at Rumford Ave.
1989	Added yard waste special collection days to curbside collection.
1990	Expansion to weekly residential curbside program (accept newspaper, glass jars and bottles, plastics #1 and #2, aluminum and metal cans and seasonal yard waste collection) and the Resource Recovery Center at Rumford Ave opened.
1991	Collections at City buildings (including schools) and businesses encouraged to bring paper to the Resource Recovery Center.
1992	Added magazines to the recycling program.
1993	Partnered with the Salvation Army to include bagged clothing and household items in weekly curbside collection (stopped in 1997).
1994	Expanded recycling program to include mixed paper, junk mail, paperboard, and cardboard in curbside collections. Received grant from the Massachusetts Department of Environmental Protection to provide low-cost home composting bins to residents .
1995	Expanded recycling program to include all stiff plastic containers (#1-#7), set goal to recycling 50% by 2000.
2000	To be in compliance with State Waste Bans, computer monitors and televisions (CRTs) were banned from collection in trash. Instead, these materials had to be brought to the Resource Recovery Center for recycling.
2002	Began collection of ink-jet and laser printer cartridges and cell phones. Collection points were placed at Customer Service at City Hall, the Newton Free Library, and the Resource Recovery Center.



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2003	Environmental Affairs Division created in the Department of Public Works with the primary function to oversee solid waste collection and provide education.
2004	Organized Trade and Recycling volunteer opportunity as part of NewtonSERVES day. Opened Permanent Household Hazardous Waste Collection Facility at the Resource Recovery Center.
2005	Started the Recycle More Paper city-wide educational campaign with the tag line “if you can rip it, you can recycle it!” Received grant from the Massachusetts Department of Environmental Protection to provide low-cost rain barrels to residents.
2006	Established GreenUp Newton, a month long celebration of Earth Day in April. Started The Green Bin , an e-newsletter sent quarterly with program information and green tips. Today The Green Bin continues as The Green Cart Chronicle .
2008	Began Single Stream Recycling pilot project. Added curbside collection of CRTs and TVs.
2009	Expanded Single Stream Recycling city wide. All residential yard waste collected curbside began to be composted at the Resource Recovery Center. In October, one 64 gallon recycling cart and one 64 gallon trash cart were distributed to each household. No more 18 gallon bins.
2010	Reached 54% recycling rate for Fiscal Year 2010, the first time the rate reached over 50%. The average recycling rate for the previous decade was 45%. Established NewtonRecycles on twitter. Started to collect Styrofoam at the Resource Recovery Center. Newton became one of the founding members of the Massachusetts Product Stewardship Council (MAPSC) and now serves as a Steering Committee member, along with Carlisle, Cambridge, Chicopee, Holyoke, Northampton, Salem, Springfield, Somerville, and Worcester. MASPC works to promote product stewardship and extended product responsibility (EPR).



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2011	Changed the way electronics and appliances are handled. Residents must now pay for curbside collection. Electronics and appliances are accepted for collection at the Resource Recovery Center at no cost, but all computer monitors and TVs cost \$25. There is an \$18 fee for each additional computer monitor or TV. In December, Newton became the 12th community in Massachusetts to pass a resolution supporting Extended Producer Responsibility.
2017	Established NewtonRecycling on Facebook and NewtonRecycles on Instagram. Revived The Green Bin e-newsletter as The Green Cart Chronicle .
2018	Newton's 1st curbside organics pilot program is launched in Spring. The pilot program offered curbside collection of organic waste from 200 households for 3 months.

