

GREEN CART CHRONICLE

Your Quarterly Update from the City of Newton Environmental Affairs Division

ISSUE 2, SEPTEMBER 2017

PLASTIC BAG CONTAMINATION

Plastic bags are the #1 source of contamination in Newton's recycling. Though they are recyclable, plastic bags must not be placed in the green curbside recycling cart. Clean and dry plastic bags and wrap (such as the wrap on toilet paper) should be taken to a store drop-off location—see the list below for Newton locations.

Never bag your recyclables! Recyclable items should be placed loose in the green cart. Plastic bags get wrapped around the machines that sort and move materials at the Materials Recovery Facility (MRF). This causes the process to halt until the plastic bags are removed by hand from the machines—which also creates a safety risk for workers. Check out this [video](#) on plastic bag contamination from Monroe County, New York.

REDUCE:

STOP THE PROBLEM BEFORE IT HAPPENS.

Avoid plastic bags by bringing your own reusable cloth bags shopping. If you do not bring plastic bags into your home, you will not need to manage them.

Tell your friends and family about the correct way to recycle plastic bags and encourage them to bring their own bags shopping.



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NEWTON PLASTIC BAG DROP OFF LOCATIONS

- Shaw's
33 Austin St
- Shaw's
1 Boylston St
- Shaw's
2040 Commonwealth Ave
- Wegmans
200 Boylston St
- Whole Foods Market
916 Walnut St
- Whole Foods Market
647 Washington St.

[Or find a different location here.](#)

COMMUNITY OUTREACH

The Environmental Affairs Division is increasing community outreach efforts to raise awareness about recycling and waste reduction – and we need your help to make this happen.

Would learning more about waste reduction be of interest to your community group? If so, we would love to present at a future meeting of your group. The information presented will be tailored to your group's interests and time allowed. Subjects can include from how to properly manage waste in Newton, an explanation of the environmental impact of managing waste, and a discussion of strategies to reduce waste generation.

Tours of the Newton Resource Recovery Center, the Avon Materials Recovery Facility, and the Millbury Waste-to-Energy facility are also available upon request.



Waneta Trabert, Newton's Director of Environmental Affairs presenting to the Newton Rotary Club. May 10, 2017

RECENT EVENTS



On May 2nd, Newton's Director of Environmental Affairs, Waneta Trabert, presented to the **Curiosity Club** at the Boys and Girls Club. View the [presentation](#).



On May 10th Waneta spoke with the **Newton Rotary Club** at Brae Barn Country Club about Newton's trash and recycling services. View the [presentation](#).

Environmental Affairs staff will be reaching out to local Boy Scout and Girl Scout troops, along with other community organizations this Fall.

OTHER EDUCATIONAL OPPORTUNITIES

Do you want to help the community learn more about recycling? **Invite** Newton Environmental Affairs to run a table at your event, business, or meeting place!

CONTACT INFORMATION

Email or call customer service at 617-796-1000.

ACCEPTED ITEMS

- Clothing & coats (youth sizes 0-20 & adult sizes S & M)
- **New** socks, underwear, PJs
- Shoes, boots, sneakers, sandals (infant/child sizes 0-13 and adult sizes 1-10)
- Brand new arts & crafts/ school supplies
- Baby supplies & bedding (up to size twin)
- Diapers, all sizes
- Baby equipment, especially strollers & car seats within 5 years old
- New & like new toys
- New hygiene supplies for ages 0 to 12
- New batteries

NON ACCEPTED ITEMS

- Furniture/household goods
- Cribs of any kind
- Car seats & other infant safety items over 5 years old
- Over-sized plastic play structures & backyard toys
- Stuffed animals
- Used rackets, mitts, hockey sticks, bats, helmets, skates, shin guards/pads
- Bicycles or ride on toys
- DVDs/CD/VHS tapes/ computer games
- Violent toys/games
- Electronics
- Religious or holiday related books or toys
- Books & clothing with family related messaging ("I love you Mommy," "Daddy and I")
- Bathing suits or costumes
- Used underwear, socks, PJs
- Used hygiene products, baby food, bottles
- Used arts & crafts/school supplies

Have items that Cradles to Crayon can't accept? [Search](#) for a place to donate them.

CRADLES TO CRAYONS

DONATION BOX

Over 305,000 children in Massachusetts ages 12 and under live in low-income households. In 2002, Cradles to Crayons was founded in Boston to provide children with the everyday essentials they need to not only survive, but thrive.

Cradles to Crayons will now be accepting donations at the Resource Recovery Center. The organization joins several other non-profit collections at the RRC, including the [Goodwill](#), [Salvation Army](#), [Red Cross](#), and [More Than Words](#). Drop off donations at the RRC at 115 Rumford Ave, Auburndale, MA Monday-Saturday from 7:15am-2:30pm.

Cradles to Crayons

MOST NEEDED ITEMS

- Children's underwear (2T-18/20)
- Toddler sized blankets
- Diapers, size 4
- Combs & brushes
- Pens
- Composition notebooks



JULY: 3R'S LIBRARY DISPLAY AND CITY-WIDE GUIDE

In the month of June, Conni Melia, the Recycling Program Assistant for the City of Newton, spent one afternoon each week at the Newton Free Library tabling. There, she spoke directly with residents one-on-one, answering their recycling questions.

In July, a display case sponsored by the Department of Public Works Environmental Affairs Division focused on the Three R's.

Visuals and factoids brought the Three R's to life. Focus was placed on food waste reduction, preventing plastic bag contamination through reuse, and recycling paper products.

The City of Newton aimed to educate residents on the importance of practicing the Three R's in daily life through this informational display. The next Environmental Affairs display at the library will be in July 2018.



Conni Melia setting up the display

Photo by: [@jakcheng](#)



2017 GUIDE TO SUSTAINABLE MATERIALS MANAGEMENT

In late July, Newton residents received a guide to managing recycling, solid waste, and household hazardous waste. Information about curbside collection and drop-off services were included, as were strategies to reduce waste and reuse unwanted items.

The Guide is available [online](#) or can be mailed to residents upon request.



NEWTON DPW
ENVIRONMENTAL
AFFAIRS DIVISION

WEB PAGES

- **Reduce:** ideas to minimize your home's waste footprint
- **Reuse:** discover how to give items new life
- **Recycle at the curb:** figure out what goes in your green cart
- **Recycle at the Resource Recovery Center:** read about the recycling options at the RRC
- **Managing Solid Waste:** find out what's trash and what's not
- **Composting:** understand what composting is and how to do it
- **Yard Waste:** view the yard waste guidelines
- **Household Hazardous Waste:** info about events and accepted materials
- **About Environmental Affairs:** learn more about what we do
- **Get Involved:** learn how you can take part

Email us with suggestions, comments, and concerns regarding the website change.

WEBSITE REVAMP

The **City of Newton Environmental Affairs webpage** has been condensed from 54 pages to just 11. This change was made to update content, eliminate redundancy, improve the ease of navigation, and relieve administrative burden.

The webpages advise residents on how to reduce their waste footprint, divert materials from incineration and manage common waste streams. Old pages have been rerouted to the new pages. We advise residents to remove any bookmarks to old webpages and navigate/search their way to the updated information.

Use the **Recycle Right Newton** collection calendar and search function on the homepage. These tools remind you when your collection day is and how to get rid of something.

Coming soon: the division's news and updates will be displayed in a slideshow at the top of the Environmental Affairs homepage. Icons that link to common searches will be placed below the slideshow.

New Webpage Feature

Get Involved

- [Contact Us](#)
- [Volunteer](#)
- [Green Cart Chronicle](#)
- [Educational Materials](#)

Follow Us



Contact Us

To ask a question or get answers to our Frequently Asked Questions, please visit our [online Customer Service Center](#).

To report missed recycling, trash or yard waste or to schedule a pickup of appliances/electronics or bulky waste:

- please contact DPW Customer Service by dialing 311 from any Newton landline.
- or make an [online service request](#).

- Linked table of contents at the top of every page
- Easy to navigate
- Quick access to social media accounts
- Optimized for computers and mobile devices

E-WASTE RECYCLING AT THE RRC

e-Waste (electronic waste) is the fastest growing waste stream. As new gadgets hit the market, older ones break or become obsolete. Proper management of e-waste is to recycle it and recover as many valuable metals as possible, along with removing harmful substances from the environment.

e-Waste is now accepted in the large gray shipping container located beyond the Book Shed. Inside the container are five cubic yard boxes, labeled with signs hanging above. Electronics should be sorted into the proper box by residents when dropping them off. With the exception of computer monitors and TVs (see below), all e-waste is accepted at no cost.

Accepted for drop off during regular open hours:
Monday-Saturday from 7:15am-2:30pm.

TV & COMPUTER MONITOR RECYCLING

Newton residents must pay a fee of \$25 fee for one TV/monitor, plus \$18 for each additional TV/monitor. Once paid, curbside collection can be arranged or these items can be dropped off at the Resource Recovery Center with proof of payment. See an attendant when dropping off a TV/monitor to show proof of payment.

Requests for collection must be made by 4:30pm on Friday in order to be picked up the following Wednesday. Payment is accepted **online** or at City Hall Customer Service.

This fee covers the high cost to properly recycle unwanted and broken TVs/monitors.



Look for this sign at the RRC to recycle your old electronics

ACCEPTED MATERIALS

- Printers
- Scanners
- Computers
- Laptops
- Tablets/E-readers
- DVD/Bluray players
- VCRs
- Video game consoles
- Cords & Cables
- Hard drives
- Keyboards/Mice
- Monitor
- Speakers





THANK YOU FOR RECYCLING

Get involved:

- [Volunteer](#) to help with ongoing programs, review educational materials, and work on one-time projects
- [Join the Solid Waste Commission](#) to engage in sustainable materials management policy
- [Request a tour](#) for your community group to see where things go after the curb

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GET CONNECTED



Follow us on Twitter [@NewtonRecycles](#) for updates on environmental education, outreach, waste collection, and conservation.



Follow us on Instagram [@NewtonRecycles](#) for updates on environmental education, outreach, waste collection, and conservation.



Like us on Facebook [@NewtonRecycling](#) for updates on environmental education, outreach, waste collection, and conservation.

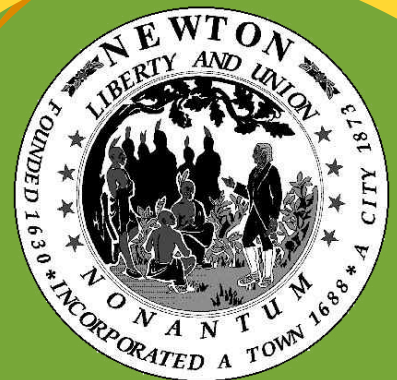


Download *Recycle Right Newton* to get trash day reminders, view the collection calendar, find the best way to get rid of stuff, and play the waste sorting game.



**NEWTON
311**

Answer questions, report issues for resolution, and make requests by dialing 311 from any Newton landline or clicking the icons below to download the Newton MA 311 app for Apple



City of Newton
Department of Public Works
Environmental Affairs Division

1000 Commonwealth Ave
Newton, MA 02459
617-796-1000
recycling@newtonma.gov