

# GREEN CART CHRONICLE

Quarterly Update from the City of Newton DPW Environmental Affairs Division

ISSUE 4, SPRING/SUMMER 2018

## CURBSIDE ORGANICS\* PILOT PROGRAM

On March 12th, Newton's first-ever curbside organics collection pilot program was launched. This effort includes an emphasis on food waste reduction, with an overall goal of getting food waste out of the trash. During the 4-month pilot, organics are being collected from 200 households in the Auburndale/West Newton area. This location was chosen based on an interest survey administered last fall.

The City of Newton selected pilot participants via a virtual lottery drawing held at City Hall in February with Mayor Ruthanne Fuller.

Participants were asked to commit to complete 3 surveys throughout the pilot, attend an orientation session, and focus on food waste reduction. Initial feedback from participants has been overwhelmingly positive.

The City of Newton is developing a plan to run a larger, longer pilot in 2019. Want to get your name on our waitlist for potential future pilots? Sign up for our [wait list](#).

Other communities that are piloting organics collection include Natick and Beverly. Cambridge and Hamilton-Wenham both offer city-wide curbside organics collection.

\*\*Organics" is the term used to describe compostable materials which primarily consist of food waste, but also include compostable paper (napkins, paper towels, coffee filters), tea bags, laundry lint, compostable food service ware, and small amounts of yard clippings or flowers.

### THIS ISSUE

[CURBSIDE ORGANICS UPDATE P.1](#)

[YARD WASTE P.2](#)

[HOUSEHOLD HAZARDOUS WASTE P.3](#)

[CHINA IMPORT BAN P.4](#)

[COMING FALL 2018 P.5](#)

[CHANGES P.6](#)

[STAY CONNECTED P.7](#)



Mayor Ruthanne Fuller with Environmental Affairs Director Waneta Trabert and Recycling Program Assistant Conni Melia at the Curbside Organics Collection Pilot Lottery on February 16.

## ACCEPTED

- Grass clippings
- Tree leaves
- Tree and shrub pruning
- Wood chips
- Small vegetable and flower plants

**Branches must not protrude from the barrel. Tie branches and limbs (6" or less in diameter) in bundles that are less than 4ft long and 3ft in diameter with rope or twine.**

## NOT ACCEPTED

- Plastic bags
- Tree stumps or branches greater than 6" in diameter
- Dirt
- Sand
- Rocks
- Asphalt

**Bag or barrel must not exceed 50 gallons or 50 pounds.**



Consider [composting](#) yard waste in your backyard.

# YARD WASTE

Many folks in Newton manage all or some portion of their yard waste by composting in their back yard. The City encourages backyard composting and sells compost bins at a discounted rate. See our website for [compost bin information](#) and the City's bill pay webpage to purchase a compost bin online.

For those that are not able to or do not wish to compost, curbside yard waste collection resumed the week of March 26, 2018. Weather permitting, it will end the week of December 10, 2018.

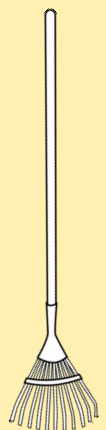
Collection occurs weekly on your [assigned collection day](#). Place yard waste in your own barrel(s) or use paper yard waste bags. Yard waste (along with trash and recycling carts) must be at the curb no later than 7AM on your collection day or as early as 4PM the day before.

See the accepted and not accepted lists on the left. Learn more about managing yard waste [here](#).

## DID YOU KNOW?

Leaves and other yard waste have been banned from disposal at landfills and combustion facilities in Massachusetts since 1992. Placing yard waste in your blue or green cart may result in reject.

This is because yard waste has a higher use than disposal. After it is picked up, yard waste is composted into a soil amendment.



# HOUSEHOLD HAZARDOUS WASTE COLLECTION EVENTS

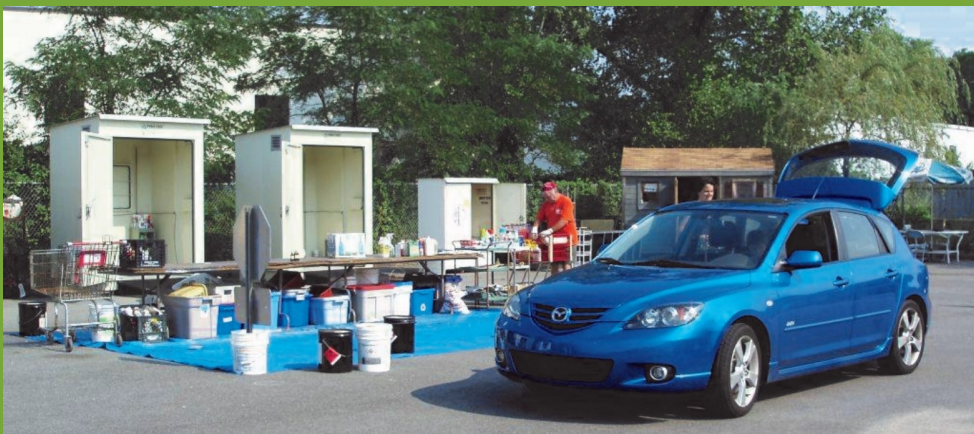
Household hazardous waste (HHW) should not be disposed of in the trash, flushed down the drain, or poured into storm drains or onto the ground.

Bring any hazardous products you want to get rid of to any household hazardous waste collection event held at the Resource Recovery Center at 115 Rumford Ave. Check out our [HHW brochure](#).

Events are held the first Saturday of each month from 7:30am-1:30pm and the third Thursday of each month from 7:30am-10:30am.

Latex paint is NOT a hazardous waste. To manage unwanted latex paint, let it dry and place it with your household trash.

Used oil, batteries, and light bulbs are accepted 6 days per week at Resource Recovery Center at 115 Rumford Ave.



During 2017, Newton served 837 cars during 16 HHW collection events. That is an average of over 52 cars per event! Help us properly dispose of more HHW during 2018 by informing your neighbors of these events.

## ACCEPTED MATERIALS:

- Adhesives, glues, solvents
- Household cleaners
- Insecticides & pesticides
- Floor & furniture polishes
- Pool chemicals
- Unused fuel (gasoline, kerosene)
- Photo chemicals & chemistry sets
- **Oil-based paints, stains & varnishes**

## REGULATIONS:

- Limit: 12 gallons of HHW per household per event; 5 gallons of any one material
- Last car admitted 15 minutes before event ending
- HHW events are weather dependent; see website for cancellations
- Proof of Newton residency required

Follow these [tips](#) to reduce your HHW use.

# CHINA BANS RECYCLING IMPORTS

You may have seen recent headlines about the chaos in current recycling markets. Prior to September 2017, China imported and processed roughly 50% of the world's recycling. Last summer China announced tighter restrictions on recycling imports to minimize trash that had been contaminating single stream recycling. Modern sorting equipment is unable to meet the specifications China set, so these restrictions act as an import ban.

As a result, sorting facilities in the US, Europe, Canada, and other nations are stockpiling materials as they scramble to find a market. New markets, including India, Indonesia, and Vietnam, are accepting some materials, but supply is higher than demand, thus the value of recyclable materials has plummeted.

Locally, the City of Newton has faced increased fees for the processing of its recyclables due to high contamination. To fight the contamination, we will be launching a robust education campaign this summer (see page 5).

## HOW CAN YOU HELP?

**Newton's recycling is not as clean as it should be.**

Plastic bags continue to be the number one problem.

Help reduce recycling contamination in Newton by learning and sharing the most common problem items shown below—**keep these out of your green cart!**



Do Not Bag  
Recyclables  
No Garbage



No Plastic Bags  
(return to retail)



No Food  
or Liquid  
(empty all  
containers)



No Clothing  
or Linens  
(use donation  
programs)



No Tangles  
(no hoses, wires,  
chains, or electronics)

## QUICK FACTS

**Effective:** January 1, 2018

**# of materials banned:** 24

**Contamination standard  
for bales:** 0.5%

## IMPACTS

- Global drop in prices for many commodities.
- Higher recycling costs for municipalities and businesses in many states and countries.
- Some municipalities in MA and other states are beginning to change accepted materials in recycling
- Market options are tightening around the globe as supply of recyclables outpaces demand.

## RECENT ARTICLES

[Boston Globe—6/5/18](#)

[NYT—5/29/18](#)

[Resource Recycling—6/5/18](#)

[Waste360—6/1/18](#)

RECYCLING TIPS:  
INCLUDE ONLY THE  
FOLLOWING ITEMS IN  
YOUR GREEN CART



Kitchen, Laundry, Bath:  
Bottles and Containers  
empty and replace cap



Aluminum and  
Steel Cans  
empty and rinse



Mixed Paper,  
Newspaper,  
and Magazines



Bottles and Jars  
empty and rinse



Flattened  
Cardboard

Plastic bags are the #1 source of contamination in Newton's recycling.

**DO NOT BAG RECYCLABLES.  
DO NOT PUT PLASTIC BAGS IN  
CURBSIDE RECYCLING.**

The recycling IQ will help Newton to educate residents on recycling, increase the quality of our recycling stream, and save on disposal fees, increasing the success and sustainability of our program.



Learn more about the  
[Recycling IQ Kit](#).

# BOOSTING NEWTON'S RECYCLING IQ

Contamination of single stream recycling has snowballed into a big problem. In order to investigate and reduce recycling contamination in Newton, the City applied for and was awarded the **Recycling IQ Kit Grant** from the Massachusetts Department of Environmental Protection (MassDEP). This grant provides technical assistance and funding to communities to reduce recycling contamination (IQ = improved quality).

This grant will fund a city-wide education campaign this fall including printed and paid digital advertising. Additionally, starting in October 2018, a team will set out to address curbside contamination by lifting lids to carts and providing specific feedback to residents to recycle right and rejecting carts that repeatedly contain contaminants, such as plastic bags.

According to MassDEP, other communities have been successful in following this program:

Overall contamination trended **downward**.

Plastic bag contamination, which was specifically targeted, trended **downward**.

The number of contaminated carts notably **decreased** within 8 weeks of starting the program.

# UPCOMING CHANGES

Effective July 1, 2018, the Environmental Affairs Division will be renamed the Sustainable Materials Management Division. *Sustainable materials management* is the contemporary term used by professionals in the waste field to encompass waste reduction and diversion efforts combined with operations and logistics used to collect and process materials. This simple change in nomenclature serves to shift the culture internally within the City government to better describe what the current Environmental Affairs Division does. The change will also, over time, contribute to shift the culture of the whole community.

**NEWTON RE-USE-IT  
COMING SOON!**

**LIKE SWAP  
DAY...  
ONLY BETTER.**



**WE NEED  
VOLUNTEERS**

**FOR MORE INFO EMAIL:**

[RECYCLING@NEWTONMA.GOV](mailto:RECYCLING@NEWTONMA.GOV)

Thank you for reusing in Newton

## NEVER MISS TRASH DAY AGAIN

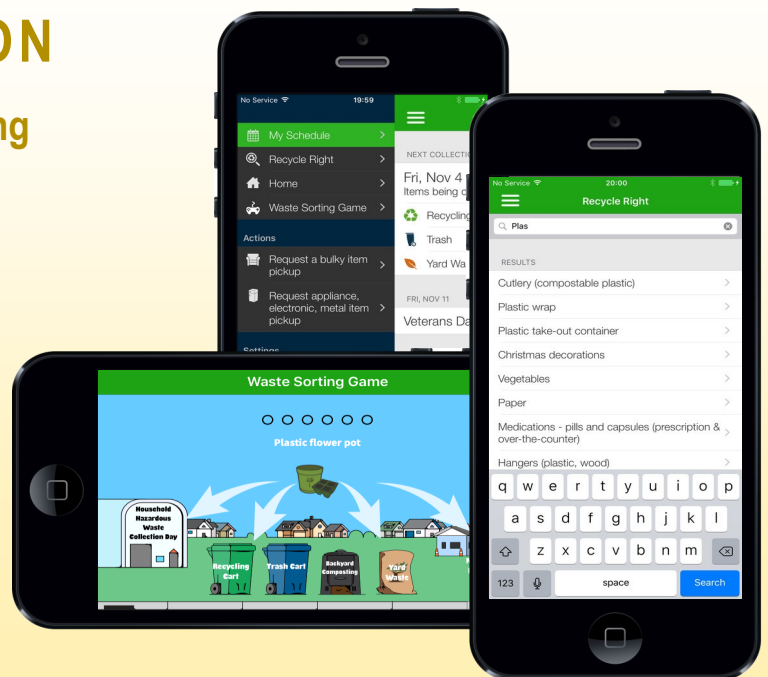
### RECYCLE RIGHT NEWTON

Your one stop solution to make managing trash and recycling at home easier. It's quick, easy, fun, and will save you time!



Download the free app today for Apple or Android

No smartphone? No problem. Use the web application at: [www.newtonma.gov/recycling](http://www.newtonma.gov/recycling)



COLLECTION DAY REMINDER

BULKY ITEM PICKUP

RECYCLE RIGHT TOOL

WASTE SORTING GAME



## GET CONNECTED



Follow us on Twitter [@NewtonRecycles](https://twitter.com/NewtonRecycles) for updates on environmental education, outreach, waste collection, and conservation.



Follow us on Instagram [@NewtonRecycles](https://www.instagram.com/NewtonRecycles) for updates on environmental education, outreach, waste collection, and conservation.



Like us on Facebook [@NewtonRecycling](https://www.facebook.com/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

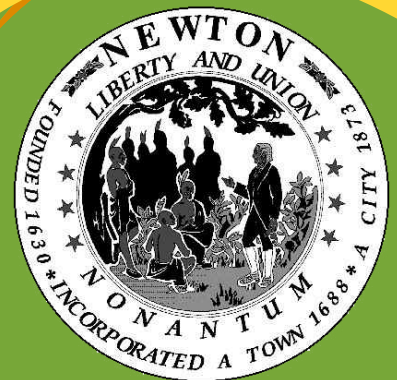


## THANK YOU FOR RECYCLING

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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