

Recycle-News-Haven

The NHSWRA Newsletter



Feature

Hometown Recycling Day 2021 – Coming to a neighborhood near you!

Building on the success of our major recycling event of last year, The Authority is planning another such event, but expanded!

In addition to hosting collection of e-waste (electronics), mattresses and box springs, textiles (clothing and accessories) and rechargeable batteries, and free document shredding on site, we will have staffed information booths (no collection) on location from recycling services vendors in the area, dealing with such things as organics and paint. There will also be information on household hazardous waste disposal and curbside recycling.

And where and when will **Hometown Recycling Day 2021** be held, you might ask? 114 Farnham Avenue, on the campus of Southern Connecticut State University (SCSU, or “Southern” as it is affectionately known), on October 23, 2021 from 9 a.m. - 3p.m. We wanted to select a site easily accessible to residents in Beaver Hills, Newhallville, Dwight, Edgewood, Prospect Hill, Westville, and West Rock.that was on the other side of the City from last year's event (which was held in Hill South district and also targeted residents in West River and Hill North) yet remote enough from the Transfer Station (where most of the materials featured can be dropped off on a regular basis) so as to provide a recycling opportunity for those that are not able to get to the Transfer Station as easily, either because of time constraints or transportation issues.

That being said, **Hometown Recycling Day** will be open to *all* citizens of New Haven, with an additional emphasis on SCSU students and students of other higher learning institutions living in the City. The Authority has always welcomed the college student population of New Haven at the Transfer Station, and this event will hopefully serve to encourage those short term residents to take advantage of our services.

SO... IMAGINE THIS – a pleasant Saturday in October and you round up that old mattress that has been sitting in the garage, that eight-track stereo, TV or computer monitor, some old clothes (even ripped or stained – but no mildew, *please*), a few lithium-ion batteries and even some old financial records in that filing cabinet in the spare room that you didn't want to just throw in the trash for security reasons. You arrive at the beautiful SCSU campus and deposit all of these things – and maybe also learn a little about what we do with them, and how our vendor partners work to make your city and the State a cleaner, more sustainable place. Oh, and let's not forget organics and composting - Though you can't deposit them at this event, you can certainly learn about collection services for table scraps and other compostables that enable you to do just that, yet another win-win for you and the environment!

Stay tuned to your in-box and visit us at www.nhswra.com or follow us on Twitter @NewHavenRecycle for more upcoming information from the NHSWRA on this exciting event, **Hometown Recycling Day, 2021!**



Feature That's UNACCEPTABLE!

All You Ever Wanted to Know about Recycling Contamination (and more)

First, let me tell you the sad truth: There are things that are not supposed to be in your curbside recycling bin, and for good reason: At best, they slow down recycling processing. At worst, they can damage recycling equipment, and a large enough percentage in recycling can cause entire loads to be rejected by the processor, effectively raising costs for the City, and ultimately, you!

These things that are not allowed are called *contamination*. Lately, New Haven has had enough percentage (and then some) contamination in municipal curbside recycling to cause quite a few loads to be rejected. These loads are typically semi-trailers full, each containing *14 tons* on average! Once again, the monetary loss is carried by the citizens of New Haven. And of course, all of that material is then sent to waste-to-energy plants or landfills which eliminate any kind of sustainability that could've been produced by the acceptable recyclables in those rejected loads. So now, having heard the sad truth...

WE can change this.

Here's what you shouldn't put in your curbside bin:

Things that can damage sorting equipment:

- plastic bags
- clothing or linens
- tanglers (items like wire hangers, hose, belts
rope, bungee cords)

Do not put
these items in
your recycling!



Things that will be rejected at the sorter:

- bagged items
- bundled items (tied together)

They will do
damage to
recycling
sorters!

Things that will cause a whole load to be rejected:

ANY item that is not acceptable for recycling. (The State and the recycling processors have come up with a list of what is acceptable and what isn't: [What's In / What's Out](#) (As an example: just because it is plastic doesn't mean it is plastic that can be recycled). If you are unsure, check the list! OR, check the Waste Wizard app in our website, toward the bottom of the Home Page. Just type in the item you are wondering about and it will let you know how to dispose of it, and if is acceptable in single-stream recycling.

Whatever you do, don't guess that an item is acceptable in your blue binbecause all of your good efforts at recycling can be ruined by one or two incorrect assumptions. And if you are unable to get an answer on a particular item before the recycling truck comes around in the morning, then set it aside or if you absolutely have to, put it in the regular trash. Just this once, right?!

***Some pics of contamination
in loads from New Haven:***



Feature **Help is on the Way!** - *Capital improvements at the Transfer Station*

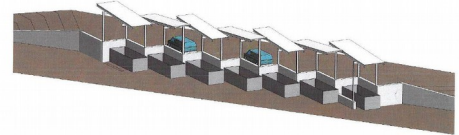
The New Haven Transfer Station is a large, high-volume operation, with many moving parts, all of which must work in sync if waste and recycling is to efficiently flow in from neighborhoods and out of the City on a daily basis!

I sat down with Pierre Barbour, Executive Director, to ask him about the capital improvement project and when we can expect to see some changes at the Transfer Station.

Pierre, could you give us an overview of the capital improvement project?

“To make things more efficient, and our customers' disposal experience more fulfilling, the New Haven Solid Waste & Recycling Authority has contracted with the engineering firm of Fuss & O’Neil to study the traffic flow in and out of our 260 Middletown Avenue facility. The basis of the study was to recommend better ways of routing traffic which will serve to make depositing materials easier, faster, and safer for all who utilize the facility, including commercial vehicles, City trucks, residents, and employees.

“The pending new construction has a twofold purpose. First, the existing block wall at the Residential Drop-Off has fallen into disrepair, after a couple of decades of use, and must be replaced. The scope of work in this area is constructing a buildout with more structural integrity than the current design, “which has seen better days.” Also, the facility is not utilizing as many of the bays first contemplated. This, of course, will change with the new structure. The Residential Drop-Off area, after construction, will be able to accommodate more residents simultaneously. The drop off bays will have overhead canopies covering them to not only protect the users from the elements, but equally important, are designed to keep storm water from getting into the disposal containers and possibly contaminating catch basins and surrounding water ways.



Architect's rendering of the planned Residential Drop-off area.

“The second, and most important, reason for re-developing the buildout is to reverse the approach in order to reduce the traffic “choke-point” at the front gate. The entrance to the resident drop area will move to the far end of the facility. This would enable the queuing line for vehicles to form away from the front entrance gate and commercial traffic, which currently, causes some of our existing traffic congestion. This will also eliminate another identified traffic congestion point- where trucks queue to re-weigh and/or exit. Residential drop-off customers will now be able to exit separately.”

In addition to the one located in the Residential Drop-off area, there will be another staffed 'guidehouse' or 'facility management point' on the way up the hill alongside where the back wall of the yard waste tip is located.

Commercial traffic will also be less disrupted by residential traffic, so should proceed more smoothly to the scale.

He says the Authority is concurrently working on having large commercial haulers go over the scale only once, so they will be able to be on there way more quickly and by so doing will also facilitate the speed with which contractors and jobbers can get back on and re-weigh. The institution of the Residential Permit Account (where customers do not have to leave their vehicles for transactions), has been very successful to date at speeding up traffic flow and is the beginning of this process.

“When we get everything operational, this restructuring of the facility will be an integral part of creating a smoother, more efficient disposal experience for all. We anticipate that every traffic stream we have should benefit from these improvements. The whole goal [of this project] is to get people in and out of the facility as quickly and safely as possible.”

What about the residents and the contractors? How would this new setup change their lives for the better?

“We will see without question a more efficient traffic flow for John Q. Citizen coming between the hours of 9 and 12. We have enough acreage to handle citizens in particular who are coming into the facility.” [and this new plan will undoubtedly make better usage of that acreage].

What is the timeline for this project?

“We just got the city planning commission approval; we should have the contract documents ready to go out to bid within the next month” “I’m hoping to see a shovel in the ground by end of September/early October.” The challenge at that point would be weather – concrete cannot be poured in colder weather. “If it becomes impractical to finish by this cold season, we should be able to finish it all by the end of May 2022.”

Part of this project includes improvements in the drainage system, which will put the Transfer Station in better compliance with Connecticut DEEP inspection requirements for mitigation of storm water issues.

Can we expect to see some new signage, perhaps widening of byways and striping?

“We’re not only changing the traffic flow, but changing signage and adding a lot more signage as well. And yes, striping will make traffic flow more clear.” And all of this will be on top of a lot of new pavement!

“Once we’re all done, we are going to be using the interior section for a new recyclables area, where textiles, mixed recyclables, mattresses and cardboard will all be easily accessible.” (The current recycling area will simply become the exit for residential drop-off.)

Pierre would just like to add in closing that any type of construction can be destructive to the flow at such a busy facility, and he asks us all to be patient during the transition, with the realization that better things are coming on completion of this project. The New Haven Transfer Station will be open throughout this process: “We will try to get folks in the best that we can.”



Calendar:

Hometown Recycling Day 2021 -
Saturday, October 23 from 9am to 3pm
114 Farnham Avenue, New Haven
(on the SCSU campus)

City of New Haven meeting schedule:

<https://newhaven-ct.legistar.com/Calendar.aspx>

New Haven Public Works info:

Street milling and paving list:
<https://www.newhavenct.gov/civicax/filebank/blobdload.aspx?blobid=40317>

Resident Services:

Coupons are once again available! Free coupons may be obtained with a valid ID at Public Works Residents Office, 34 Middletown Avenue Monday-Friday 7am–4pm. Remember: you *must* present a coupon (one per load) in order to drop items at Residential drop-off at the New Haven Transfer Station.

Residents are reminded that Trash and Recycling will pick up leaf bags that are paper, compostable, contain no branches, dirt or rocks and placed out at the curb on your day of your refuse collection. Yard waste will only be picked up at the curb IF branches are 4 feet in length and tied in bundles not exceeding 1 foot in diameter. Residents also have the option of delivering unbundled yard waste to the Residential Waste Center

Street sweeping rules are still in effect. For more info on parking and neighborhood routes go to:
<https://www.newhavenct.gov/streetsweeping.htm>

As always, any questions give us a call at (203) 946-7700. We have been experiencing heavy call volume but if you leave your name and phone number with question we will get back to you. If you would like a street sweeping schedule mailed to you, just leave your address and we will send it out.”

Remember you can always report Public Works issues at **See Click Fix** found on New Haven City website (see “Links,” below).

Links:

What’s New Page- https://www.newhavenct.gov/gov/depts/pw/whats_new_.htm
New Haven Public Works- <https://www.newhavenct.gov/gov/depts/pw/>
See Click Fix- <https://seeclickfix.com/new-haven>

NHSWRA contact info and link:



14 Trumbull Street, Suite 102
New Haven, CT 06511
Office: 203.691.5374
Fax: 203.691.5990
www.nhswra.com
info@nhswra.com

Recycle-News-Haven is a copyrighted publication
of the New Haven Solid Waste & Recycling Authority.
All Rights Reserved