

Recycle-News-Haven

The NHSWRA Newsletter

On behalf of the New Haven Solid Waste & Recycling Authority I want to wish you a safe, happy, healthy, and prosperous 2022. In this New Year, the NHSWRA will work to meet new challenges in waste and recycling. Improvements to our physical plant are on the horizon. Waste disposal capacity in and around New Haven will likely shrink, so it is becoming even more paramount to shore up recycling streams, expand organics recycling for households, and work with local and state government on waste solutions. We look forward to helping New Haven and surrounding communities meet disposal, waste diversion, and recycling challenges.

- Pierre Barbour, Executive Director



Feature All About the Basura – Where does your waste go?

No stranger to the Transfer Station, HS in the Community has been here before for a guided tour and liked it so much they came back!



A cloudy, chilly day in December – what better time to pile in a school bus and take a tour of New Haven's waste repository, the Transfer Station! Pierre Barbour, our Chief Executive Director, met with Paul Jones and students – starting with an introduction to the facility and a peek at the Department of Public Works refuse area.

The City of New Haven is one of the Authority's major customers, bringing in municipal solid waste from over 30,000 residences all around town. The refuse truck shown here is pulling onto the upper scale, where it is weighed in and the “empty weight” or tare as it's called is automatically subtracted, giving the total tonnage. Type of material is keyed in by the scale operator and tickets or invoices are automatically printed out and sent to where they need to go.



Pierre Barbour breaks it down for students of High School in the Community

The pic below: A truck emptying its load of Municipal Waste on the tipping floor. Students get a first-hand look at the process while at the same time getting a sense of the scale of the operation. The Transfer Station receives about 350 tons or more a day, with a capacity to process up to 700 tons per day!



The scene above depicts the old New Haven landfill in the background. All municipal waste land fills have been closed in Connecticut for years, but they must still be maintained and monitored for things like run-off and methane emissions. The City operates a flare station adjacent to the landfill, designed to burn off any methane gas produced.

Next tour: the Residential Drop-off!



Feature

Tour de Force – a school visits the Transfer Station

I sat down with Paul Jones who teaches AP environmental science at High School In the Community to find out about his class and course.

“The course is really just a survey of the scientific principles and concepts of ecology and environmental pollution and our relationship to the natural world.” Jones says the focus of the course has to do with our interaction with the environment and the systems we create to control it, of which the waste stream is a major part. He tries to make the students aware of the impact of our actions and our patterns of consumption and put it in concrete, visceral terms so they can really internalize it. And of course, the Christmas season is a good time to drive the discussion about metrics of waste collection but it's quite another to see those metrics before you on the tipping floor.



Paul Jones, teacher at High School in the Community
Explains how class trips help kids 'apply the science'

The kids are able to formulate more knowledgeable questions and voice concerns based on what they see at the Transfer Station – including expressing an interest in the landfill, which is no longer in use but still has to be monitored and maintained.

Such things cease to be abstract concepts – for instance they can see that the landfill is not a threat to air quality, but it does require husbanding.

I asked Paul if the tour of the Transfer Station gives the students more of an idea of the stages of processing of municipal waste from their curbside totter all the way to processing at waste-to-energy plants, and that all the “moving parts” must be in sync in order to keep up. He agreed absolutely, also adding that they got to see right before them on the tipping floor that along the way, there is recycling mixed in loads that are supposed to be garbage only.

(unfortunately there were no loads of recycling visible during the tour, so the students couldn't see that unacceptable items could be found in those loads as well!)

Paul points out that the students tend to become aware during their experiences in the field trips that there are a lot more facets to the technology and operations which in turn inspires the realization that there are opportunities for them to explore in career and or study. Simply put, it's important to know how the science is applied.

“And, since these are New Haven kids, I think it's important for them to see their local system [in operation], so they can tell their neighbor where to bring their box spring [for instance]....” Almost half of the participants in this year's tour didn't even know that the Transfer Station exists. So there is that.



Dep't. Material World

In our May-June 2021 issue, we talked about the “Top 10” most searched items on our website, www.nhswra.com, and the correct way to dispose of them. Here are the next 10 most popular items:

1. Plastic bags – plastic shopping bags may be recycled at participating retail grocery stores in your area. Call ahead to make sure.
2. Wood – not all wood is equal – wood used in construction or has been demolished ('demo') is acceptable at the New Haven Transfer Station but must be weighed and paid for (currently at 4.75 cents a pound, or 95.00/ton). Wood that is part of free-standing furniture from your home is considered residential bulky waste, and is acceptable at the Residential Drop-off area at the Transfer Station with valid coupons (obtainable at New Haven Public Works Central Station – 34 Middletown Avenue)
3. Plastic take-out containers – Even though these items are listed on our website as recyclable, they are not accepted by our Materials Reduction Facility currently, as there is very little market for them. Place them in your brown toter.
4. Leaves – are accepted from residents at the Yard Waste tip, Residential Drop-off area of the New Haven Transfer Station. Non-residents must weigh and pay on the scale (approx. 2.5 cents/lb. Or

47.50/ton) Residents with municipal garbage collection (Refuse department, Public Works) may take advantage of curbside leaf pick-up (seasonal pickup along with trash), providing they are in biodegradable paper bags.

5. Styrofoam – (actually 'polystyrene') cups, containers and packing material are not considered mixed recyclables in Connecticut and must be placed in your brown trash toter. However, there are regional commercial enterprises that accept this material directly for recycling.

6. Branches – are accepted from residents at the Yard Waste tip, Residential Drop-off area of the New Haven Transfer Station. Non-residents must weigh and pay on the scale (approx. 2.5 cents/lb. Or 47.50/ton)

7. Fluorescent Bulb (CFLs) – These are considered Household Hazardous Waste and as such, are not acceptable in either of your curbside bins or at the New Haven Transfer Station. [HazWaste Central](#), an outreach of the Southern Connecticut Regional Water Authority, accepts these and other Household Hazardous waste (seasonal – Spring through early Fall) at 90 Sargent Drive, New Haven from 9 a.m. to 12 p.m. On Saturdays. (Call ahead to register your vehicle and contents). FYI, LED and Halogen bulbs are also considered Household Hazardous waste.

8. Light Bulb (not CFL) – Otherwise known as 'incandescent' bulbs, these are acceptable in your curbside trash bin (brown toter)

9. Tree trimmings – are NOT recyclable in your bin or at the Transfer Station (sorry!) They may be placed in your brown toter.

10. Linens – Good news! Linens are now recyclable at the New Haven Transfer Station. No coupons are necessary. As long as they are in 30 gallon bags or smaller, and are dry, with no mildew.

Calendar:

The New Haven Transfer Station and administrative offices of the New Haven Solid Waste & Recycling Authority will be closed for all business on **Monday, January 17th** in observance of Martin Luther King Day.

City of New Haven meeting schedule:

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

New Haven Parks and Public Works info:

A message from Parks and Public Works Resident Services:

Public Works offices will be closed on **Monday, January 17th** in observance of Martin Luther King Day. Garbage collection will be offset by one day that week.

Coupons are once again available! Free coupons may be obtained with a valid ID at Parks and Public Works Resident Services Office, located at 34 Middletown Avenue. Our hours are 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.

Safe and free disposal of household hazardous waste is located at the Regional Water Authority, 90 Sargent Drive. They are currently closed for the season. Opening date will be announced in Spring.

Residents may put their 'real' Christmas trees (unadorned) at curbside on their regular pickup day this month, or bring them to the Residential Waste Center.

Street sweeping has been suspended for the season

As always, any questions, give Parks and Public Works Resident Services a call at (203) 946-7700. We have been experiencing heavy call volume but if you leave your name and phone number with a question we will get back to you.

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

Links:

New Haven Public Works- <https://www.newhavenct.gov/gov/depts/pw/>
See Click Fix- <https://seeclickfix.com/new-haven>

NHSWRA contact info and link:



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