



Feature

### Can Mr. Beast Really Save Our Oceans??

*He's a gamer, gives away money, has a band of greedy friends that hang around him, and also happens to be a MAJOR YouTube influencer. He also knows how to market, and this time he's targeting the world. The challenge? 30,000,000 pounds of ocean cleanup!*

Everybody likes a winner. And Mr. Beast (or “Jimmy,” as he is known to his friends) creates at least one a week. An exuberant yet unremarkable Gen-Z guy from North Carolina, he repeatedly either gives piles of \$ away in each of his You Tube episodes, or devises silly games people must play to obtain that money, to the tune of millions upon millions of views, which translates into (you guessed it) more money! Well occasionally he uses his powers for the greater good, (he's started a tree planting program with his vids) and this time he has put out several videos of beach cleanups in really badly littered areas (locations seem to be in the Dominican Republic). Not only that, he has garnered the collective forces of other major influencers, and challenged all those yet to get on board, to do so.

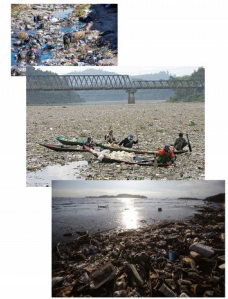
This is a guy who sets goals and achieves them, and now he has set a rather auspicious target of 30,000,000 pounds of trash – trash to be pulled from the ocean, beaches and rivers that flow to the ocean -- in a matter of a couple of months.

To understand the scale of trash contamination in the oceans currently, It is estimated that there are 80,000 tons of it in the Northern Pacific garbage patch (the largest one of 6 such patches in the world). That's *tons*, not pounds, (which Jimmy is referring to). When the math is done, there is an estimated 640,000,000 pounds of garbage floating in the Earth's oceanic waters. Sadly, 30,000,000 pounds doesn't seem like that much in comparison. But it is a sizable chunk, and if Mr. Beast and his contagion are successful, that chunk would be a huge kickstart to a fledgling effort that has been largely 'theatric' up to this point.

The dubious engineering involved in grabbing stuff out of the ocean (without harming aquatic life) has been around for quite a few years, but has taken some major strides recently, with system 002, (or

“Jenny,” as the vessel is affectionately called), recently pulling approximately 63,000 pounds out of the surf with its half-mile wide net, in a time span of about 12 weeks. But you don't even need to get your calculators out for this one: At that rate it's clear that there is a need for hundreds of such boats operating 24/7 in the ocean to even make a dent in a cleanup operation.

Ah, but that's where the phrase “working smart” comes into play. Let's change the playing field from the ocean to the rivers that feed into the ocean. There are modified versions of these “skimmers” that have had great success on such rivers. AND, it is estimated that only 1% of rivers emptying into the oceans do most of the damage. So the approach becomes a targeted one, and the pendulum swings once more back in the direction of hope! Not only that, these rivers (as you can imagine – but you don't have to, because I've supplied the pics to back it up) are 'trash-rich' – (i.e. they have a high density of material to be scuppered. So the right skimmer rigs could pull a lot more out of the water, a lot more quickly, and even enough of them could effectively staunch the flow of garbage into the ocean. The skimmer featured in one of Mr. Beast's episodes is called The Interceptor, and collected 38,000 pounds of trash in a couple of days.



In particular, Mr. Beast is teaming up with another major influencer, Mark Rober. Together they have 100,000,000 views only 3 days from start of streaming! #TeamSeas is coordinating the massive effort, and with a one-dollar donation enabling one pound of trash to be removed, they have already reached one third of their total funding goal for this project.

This is only one of many of Mr. Beast's projects. He can easily sustain this campaign and more, so let's hope he remains socially responsible down the road! And we must remember that cleaning the rivers that feed the ocean does not get rid of the ocean gyres (as the revolving garbage patches are called). But it is a start, and a very good one – from a younger generation that may be stepping up to the plate in their own market-driven way!



Need more convincing? Watch this video:  
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=pXDx6DjNLDU>



## Feature “Why can't I...?” Residential Drop-off at the New Haven Transfer Station



*The 'why' behind the 'why.' -  
ten do's and don'ts  
and the reasons for them*

*Why do I need coupons? I have a New Haven Driver's license! –*

The coupons assist us with accountability. They are used to verify waste being delivered to the Authority's transfer station is waste that has been generated by New Haven residents and isn't coming from individuals outside of New Haven. The disposal costs from waste dropped off at the transfer station by coupon is paid for from the city's waste disposal budget. These are tax dollars, so utilizing them on behalf of verified residents is critical to keeping expenditures as low as possible and within budgeted resources. Another way to look at it is, the City is the New Haven Solid Waste Authority's largest customer, disposing of over 30,000 tons of household and bulky waste every year. So the answer to our question is yes, coupons are necessary in helping maintain a healthy waste stream in the City. On the plus side for you as residents: There *are* categories of items that don't require coupons: Metal, Electronics, Mattresses (in decent condition, no bugs and not mildewed) and Textiles (clothing and accessories – as long as they are not wet or mildewed). Properly disposing of or recycling these items is also a great way to save tax dollars, reduce waste, save precious resources (water, fuel, trees), and help the environment.

*Why are bathroom cabinets considered demolition, and dressers are not? -*

As you may be well aware, anything that is considered 'demolition' or 'construction' material must be paid for at the Transfer Station. Bathroom *and* kitchen cabinets are considered demolition, because even though they may be from your residence, they have been removed from fixed installation. This includes any of these items that may be found elsewhere on your property (see question #4, this article). So it stands to reason that a good indicator of what is or isn't demolition from your home is whether you had to yank it out from the wall, ceiling or floor. Another good indicator is unfinished joining surfaces, or nails sticking out (careful!). Things like counter-tops, molding, stairs and railings etc. fall in this category. But fear not – you can still divest yourself of these items by taking them over

the scale at the Transfer Station – for a very competitive rate – during the same hours that you are able to visit the residential drop-off – 9 a.m. to 12 p.m. Monday-Saturday (except holidays).

*Why do I have to take logs over 6” around to the scale? -*

Even though you are able to take most tree sections and branches directly to residential drop-off, anything larger than 6” around (across, actually – diameter), must be paid for, simply because it is an extra cost to the Authority to have these items 'reduced' to wood chips in order to be processed. The cost to you is very reasonable, at less than 2.5 cents per pound.

*Why can't I drop these boards and trash in yard waste? They are waste from my yard, after all! -*  
yard waste actually refers to plant or vegetable matter, and not just anything that happens to be in your yard! Sorry...

*What IS the deal with paint cans? -*

Paint cans can be tricky, so let me break it down for you: First of all, we are a SOLID waste authority, so that eliminates any liquids, including paint! Now what about empty cans? Well, yes, we will take those empty *latex* paint cans. Oil paint cans must go to a participating PaintCare stewardship program store. (Though the paint can may be empty, there is always some residue, and the oil paint residue is actually considered Household Hazardous Waste by the State of Connecticut. As such we are unable to receive it at the Transfer Station)

*It's 1 minute after 12 p.m. - why can't I just drop my load off?? -*

When you bring your items to the Transfer Station, that may be the end of the process for you, but not for the workers at the facility. A couple of things happen at the close of residential drop off each day: The containers for residential bulky waste are picked up and weighed at the scale house, and the attendant in that area is on his way to a short lunch break, after which he must start work at the scale house. When someone brings a load in after 12 p.m., the unloading process has to be monitored for safety and compliance of the customer. This takes up to 10 minutes or more. *Then* the workers in Operations must pick up the container and bring it to the scale to weigh and process. This could take another 10 minutes. Before you know it, it is time to start up operations again and several people have not had a lunch! That is why it is important to not only come before 12 with your load, but to try to come a good 10 minutes before 12 so these workers can get a well-deserved break (which, incidentally, is required by law.)

*I was there the other day and no one was around but there was a little pile of items so I dropped mine with them – that's ok, right? -*

WRONG! The Transfer Station gates might've been open, or the Transfer Station was open for those with commercial permits, but that does not mean you can just leave your items on the ground and drive away – it is actually against the law, and violators can be prosecuted! There are a few reasons for this, not the least of which is your safety and the Authority's liability. Please wait until the next day's residential business hours to drop your items.

*I have kitchen garbage and you won't let me drop it off?! it's garbage, isn't it? -*

Fun fact: Any garbage that has putrescent material (food matter that can decompose) must be picked up by a licensed hauler and brought to the Transfer Station. It is against the law to dispose of it on your own. And if you think about it, you can see how this is definitely a public safety issue. Please call your trash hauler for a special pick-up, or keep the items tightly sealed and if necessary, refrigerated, until your next pick-up day.

*I don't live in town but I own houses in New Haven – so why can't I drop off items from those houses?*

- As a non-resident, you are not entitled to drop at the residential drop-off. (That's why it's called the residential drop-off!) However, you do have alternatives. You can pay to dispose of items at the Transfer Station. Or you could encourage your tenants to get the coupons that they are entitled to as residents, and then they could make use of the residential drop-off for their household and bulky trash.

*I can't drop off dirt or rocks, cinder block or bricks at all?? Why?*

The Authority no longer is processing those items. We can suggest alternatives to you, however, should you show up with some of those materials at the Transfer Station. Please keep in mind also that cement or concrete must be documented as contaminant-free and dropped off by the contractor licensed to make that certification.

*Why can't I have that desk I saw next to the dumpster? -*

There is a law against doing that sort of thing, what is known as 'scavenging.' The law states basically that once the material is in the realm of the Transfer Station, it cannot be transferred to private individuals.

We hope this helps clarify some issues you may have had, and will help to alleviate any frustration or confusion you might encounter in your future visits to the New Haven Transfer Station!

## Feature **Hometown Recycling Day 2021 a success!**

*More expanded than last year's event, HRD 2021 lives up to expectations...*

What makes a recycling collection and awareness event a success? Is it the amount of attendees that show up? Or is it the amount of material taken in? Then again, could it be the intangibles – the level of convenience to the attendees? Or perhaps it is simply in the amount of increased awareness and good will generated about Recycling...

Success is all of the above!

By the numbers:

- o 22% more attendees than last year's event
- o 10,494 lbs. of electronics were collected
- o 38 mattresses / box springs
- o 2,100 lbs. of Textiles (clothing and accessories)
- o 3,920 lbs. of paper shredded
- o 6 boxes of rechargeable batteries, or approximately 90 lbs.

By the smiles:





We'd like to think that people were pleased to be able to find out more about organics and composting, household hazardous waste, single-stream recycling, and the New Haven Transfer Station, and yes, perhaps even a little excited to have a couple of chances at winning a backyard composting bin or tumbler!

And of course the perfect weather that day didn't hurt!

Our thanks to Heather Stearns and our proud sponsor Southern Connecticut State University, Rich Christensen and Kathie Hurley of the New Haven Public Works Department, and the Public Works employees, Camila Sosa and the crew at Take2 Electronics, Dan McGowan and the helpers at The Mattress Recycling Council, Marc Ward at Bay State Textile Recycling, Jonathan Wilder at Home Depot of North Haven, CWPM, and The people at InfoShred for pulling together to help make this event happen and go off without a hiccup! Special mention to Blue Earth Composting and HazWaste Central for their participation. And of course, a big thank you to the Community Management Teams and the Board of Alders for getting the word out, and to Rebecca Bombero, Acting Chief Administrative Officer and Chairwoman of the Special Events Committee, City of New Haven, and the Mayor's office!



**Raffle winners:**

1<sup>st</sup> prize: Andrew from Hemlock Road (pic on the right) – deluxe 43 gallon two-compartment tumbler composter  
2<sup>nd</sup> prize: Stephanie from Linden St. (pictured on the left) - 216 gallon GEOBIN outdoor composting system.



## Calendar:

The New Haven Transfer Station and administrative offices of the New Haven Solid Waste & Recycling Authority will be closed in observance of both of the following Holidays:

**Thursday, November 11, (Veterans' Day)**

**Thursday, November 25, (Thanksgiving)**

National Recycling Day – November 15, 2021  
<https://nationaltoday.com/national-recycling-day/>

## 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>

### **A message from Public Works Resident Services:**

#### **Public Works will be closed:**

**Thursday, November 11, in observance of Veterans' Day. There will be no trash pick-up on that day. Thanksgiving Day, Thursday, November 25. There will be no trash pick-up on that day. After both Holidays, Thursday's trash will be collected on Friday, and Friday's trash will be collected on Saturday.**

**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 are still picking up leaf bags on regular trash pick-up days. The bags must be made of paper, compostable, contain no grass, branches, dirt or rocks and placed out at the curb on the day your refuse is collected. Please do not blow or rake leaves into the street or you will be subject to a fine! 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>



November, 2021

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 a 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](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](http://www.nhswra.com)  
[info@nhswra.com](mailto:info@nhswra.com)

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