

Recycle-News-Haven

The NHSWRA Newsletter



Feature

Hometown Recycling Day - October 23, 2021

Mark your calendars, load your vehicle, start your engines! **Hometown Recycling Day** is right around the corner! *Place: 114 Farnham Ave., New Haven (on the SCSU Campus, lot 9) Time: 9am to 3 pm.*



West Rock provides a dramatic backdrop for the spacious site of this year's event, on the campus of SCSU

We welcome Southern Connecticut State University as a proud sponsor of this year's event!

The site was chosen with the idea of providing easy access to people in adjacent areas including Beaver Hills, West Hills, Newhallville, Westville, Dixwell, Dwight, Prospect Hill and East Rock, but

is of course open to *all* citizens of New Haven, including SCSU students and students of other higher learning institutions who reside in the City.

As we did last year, we are enabling citizens to drop off certain larger items that are not accepted curbside: **Mattresses and box springs, electronics, clothing and accessories, rechargeable batteries and document shredding while-u-wait! (3 boxes max.)** (some of these items are also accepted at our New Haven Transfer Station, 260 Middletown Avenue)

You can also learn about how to dispose of your household hazardous waste and about organics and composting - Though you can't deposit organics or haz-waste at this event, you can certainly gain some valuable information, and maybe even take a refresher course on curbside recycling, as well as find out more about resident services at the New Haven Transfer Station.

We ask that you observe all city ordinances and guidelines regarding Covid-19 while at the Event – keep yourself and others safe!

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!**

Dep't. **Material World**

A deeper dive into the materials that are acceptable at Hometown Recycling Day – what can you bring. And where does it end up?

Mattresses and Box Springs – as long as your unwanted mattresses and box springs are in decent shape, have no bugs or mold and are not wet, they are acceptable. This does NOT include futon mattresses, baby mattresses, car beds or waterbeds. What happens to these items once you drop them off? The wood is typically sold to wood chippers and used as a fuel source. The cotton and foam are sold to companies that use the materials for insulation and carpet padding. The steel from the metal springs is usually sold to steel recycling companies who melt it down to make new products. Up to 90% of a mattress or box spring can be recycled in this manner. (Mattresses and box springs are not acceptable in curbside recycling.)

Electronics – Our web page, and indeed, most electronics recycling collection facilities state “all covered devices” are accepted. No, that does not mean everything with a cover on it! Rather, it refers

to the list of electronic devices covered (CED's) in CT law that must be recycled. Acceptable items: Computers Televisions Monitors Cell Phones Printers Stereos Laptops DVD/VCRs Fax Machines Telephones Scanners Cameras Game Consoles Microwaves Modems Tablets Keyboards Small Appliances Mice/Wires. Individual circuit board components and metals are recycled and at the same time kept from the waste stream, where their incineration could cause harmful levels of dioxin and heavy metals in the atmosphere. (These items are not acceptable in curbside recycling.)

Textiles - Textiles is a catch-all word that includes clothing and apparel and many other things that are made from synthetic or organic fabric. In the context of our event, that even includes some non-fabric accessories that are utilized along with clothing (such as handbags, belts, shoes). So textiles is a big tent, so to speak (and somewhat literally – canvas in small amounts is recyclable as textiles). 45% of items collected can be reused, 30% can be turned into wiping cloths, and 20% recycled into new products. (Textiles are not acceptable in curbside recycling.)

Rechargeable Batteries – these are *also* acceptable at [HazWaste Central](#) (one of our participants – check out their table at our information booth at this year's event). The materials in these batteries are toxic and may NOT be placed in trash or single-stream recycling (curbside recycling – also check out the New Haven Dep't of Parks and Public Works table at our info booth).

Document shredding – Your documents will be shredded on-site and then recycled into tissue paper, paper towels and dental bibs. (Though paper is acceptable in curbside recycling, *shredded* paper is not!)



Feature **Is EPR the future?**

Extended Producer Responsibility is a great buzz-phrase. Let's see what it's about.

Quite a few years ago, there was a big push to have a single, uniform system of communication (one language) which all the people in the world would eventually learn, the idea being that it would make the world a more efficient and less confusing place. It was called “Esperanto.” Spoiler alert – it didn't catch on. But what if all the people who produced documents, ads, and messages were made responsible for the success of that language, and at penalty if it wasn't successful? Hmmm. Might've worked.

Which brings us to EPR, or “Extended Producer Responsibility.” EPR is defined as placing the burden of end-of-life costs for a given product by a specific producer or group of producers, on the producer(s) themselves. In the case of products that can be sustainable, manufacturers and marketers of those products are incentivized by the burden of cost to make them so. (The cost of such efforts has been typically placed on municipalities, and by proxy, on taxpaying citizens.)

Which brings us to Product Stewardship (PS), which is basically the same shift of responsibility away from the consumer, but allowing for other stakeholders to shoulder some of the burden of the recycling costs involved. An example of this is mattress and box spring recycling in Connecticut: A fee is added to the cost of any mattress sold in our state, and that fee goes to the Mattress Recycling Council (MRC), an independent entity which was formed and certified by the State to administer the end-of-life breakdown of those items into component parts for recycling. Note that you, the consumer, pay the upfront fee! The difference here is that the industry and its contractor, MRC, share the *responsibility* of recycling (according to the laws of the state), and in the process, are mandated to have accessible collection points that serve to make the task easier for the consumer. And with a set fee per mattress, of course, there is an incentive to do this as efficiently as possible.

At the forefront of the EPR focus these days is packaging. Certain states, Maine, California, Massachusetts and New York, to name several, are forging ahead with laws in this area. With the EPR structure, there is much incentive to reduce packaging, and find uniform methods of producing that packaging (e.g. standardized plastic formulas) (allowing for lower recycling costs, and as a bonus, saved energy).



As you can imagine, such a shift of responsibility has not typically been an industry initiative, but rather, a government mandate at various levels and implemented with fits and starts. In this day and age, however, some major corporations are promising to take steps toward EPR programs, likely due to consumers, recyclers, or environmentalists.

In our own state, a combination of EPR and PS is already in place for electronics, mattresses, box springs, rechargeable batteries, and mercury thermostats. If you visit the New Haven Transfer Station, you will probably be aware that three out of four of these items are acceptable there. (Mercury thermostats are NOT acceptable at the Transfer Station, and must be brought to [HazWaste Central](#).) As a matter of fact you might be happy to know that you can bring your unwanted electronics, mattresses, box springs and rechargeable batteries to our annual recycling event, **Hometown Recycling Day**, coming up October 23 (see article in this issue).

Can EPR take the place of individual responsibility to re-use, reduce and recycle?

It seems, at least for the foreseeable future, EPR is not the global panacea for our ever-mounting pile of recyclable waste. Maybe we should think of it more as an adjunct to help streamline the process of waste reduction, by making certain materials *more* re-usable, and *more easily* recycled. And there will always be some cost to all stakeholders. But isn't that what it's all about? We all should share in the cost (and rewards) of making the Planet a better, greener and sustainable place to inhabit.



Resources

Calendar:

Hometown Recycling Day 2021 -

Saturday, October 23 from 9am to 3pm

114 Farnham Avenue, New Haven

(on the SCSU campus, lot 9)

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:

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.

October, 2021

Residents are reminded that Trash and Recycling will pick up leaf bags that are paper, compostable, contain no grass, 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 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
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

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