

Recycle-News-Haven

The NHSWRA Newsletter



Feature

Singing in the Rain – Hometown Recycling Day 2023

Despite the rain and wind, Hometown Recycling Day was a success this year!

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A dark, empty parking lot. Pouring rain and gusty wind. That is what this year's **Hometown Recycling Day** looked like at about 6:30 a.m. on September 30, two and-a-half hours prior to opening. But when it was time to start the event, all staff, vendors, materials and vehicles were in place and ready to accept items from New Haven residents and resident students. Yes, it was still raining, but we were still there, and New Haveners still came!

Like building a house, recycling events require a lot of coordination between contractors, workers, providers, and funding and approving agencies. Also, like a house, these events start as an idea, and then that idea is realized over months of planning and scheduling. The 'idea' in this case was (as always) to serve the communities of New Haven by providing a convenient and comfortable way to recycle those items that are too big for the curbside recycling bin. The New Haven Solid Waste & Recycling Authority is happy to stage this annual event, holding it in different neighborhoods in the City every year.

By the numbers and the attendance, this year's event was successful, despite the weather:

Electronics – 3,768 lbs.
Mattresses / Box springs – 901 lbs.
Clothing and accessories - 1,298 lbs

By the most important gauge, the smiles generated, **Hometown Recycling Day** was a success!

We would like to thank all who put their effort and dedication into making this event happen: Southern Connecticut State University, Take 2 Recycling, The Mattress Recycling Council, Helpsy, Home Depot of North Haven, File Shred, New Haven Parks & Public Works, Paint Care, the New Haven Office of Climate and Sustainability, and the staff at NHSWRA. And lets not forget a special thanks to you, the residents of New Haven. Thank you for recycling!

See you next year... but in the meantime, please visit us with your unwanted items at the New Haven Transfer Station, 260 Middletown Ave., between the hours of 9 a.m. and 12 p.m., Monday through Saturday. Go to www.nhswra.com to see what you can bring.

Dep't. Where shall I Put This?

*More items that you may be wondering how to dispose of or recycle:
(see our earlier article in issue 30, August 2023)*

Ammunition – old ammo does go bad. Even under best storage conditions it only lasts a decade or so. So if you chance upon some “lying around” it is not a good idea to put it to use as it could cause harm to you and loved ones. Call your local police/public safety department or state police to surrender it.

Artist paint – Oil-based art paint has high quantities of toxins, including cadmium and lead. It should be treated as household hazardous waste. Some acrylic paints contain some toxins, so read the labels and act accordingly! Best practices indicate painting in a well-ventilated environment, and capping tubes when done with your session.

Books – Always look into re-use options before recycling or discarding books. Discover Books is one such reputable source. Click here for the nearest receptacle, <https://discoverbooks.com/pages/map> or contact them for a larger volume pick up. Note: Hard cover books cannot be recycled at the Transfer Station, but soft-cover books and magazines are accepted.

Bottle caps – Ah yes, the old bottle cap! Bottle caps may be recycled as long as they are securely fastened to a bottle. Otherwise, they must be placed in your trash. Best practices indicate that we should be keeping those caps ON the bottles (once we rinse those bottles out)

Cat litter – is NOT recyclable. Best practices: to extend useful life, filter out your cat's old 'deposits' and freshen the pan with a little new litter. Once the litter is no longer sanitary for your pet, place in regular trash.

Car batteries – are accepted at some metal scrappers. Call ahead.

Cellphones – are recyclable as electronic waste. However, before bringing to the Transfer Station, it is wise to transfer all data and apps to your new phone, and then remove the sim card from the old phone and factory reset it, so as to protect your identity and privacy. This same practice applies to personal computers, laptops and tablets.

Cellphone batteries – though phone batteries are Lithium and rechargeable, special mention must be made that will keep them in the “sustainable” category: Charge your phone fully before first use. Thereafter, keep it at between 20% and 80%, but charge to 100% once a month. This will dramatically increase your battery life-cycle, and will increase your phone life as well, what with batteries being built-in in most of today's smartphones. Once the battery/phone is no longer of use, it may be recycled at the New haven Transfer Station as electronic waste. (see “Cellphones” above for best practices)

Compostables (vegetable/fruit/greens) - We are currently working on getting a local, reputable and sustainable resource for residents of New Haven to be able to bring these items. Stay tuned! In the meantime, there are compostable collection organizations (usually by subscription) in the immediate New Haven area. Peels on Wheels is one of them. <https://www.pwcomposting.com/>. Best practices: You can always start a composting system at home if you have a garden that needs fertilizing. See Recycle-News-Haven March 2021 issue “Organics and Composting – DO try this at Home” on our website in the archives: <https://www.nhswra.com/newsletters/>

Pallets (“skids”) - The Authority is presently working on getting a good resource for your unwanted pallets, which are highly-recyclable in decent condition. We will keep you posted!

Packing peanuts – those little polystyrene pieces that spill out of your mail order delivery package when you open it! You may bring these to participating pack-and-ship stores for reuse. Call ahead

Pet waste – do NOT try to compost or include in your compostables! Bag and seal and place in regular trash.

Small Appliances – many 'dedicated' electronic items such as toaster ovens, vacuums, etc. Contain dangerous elements and should NOT be placed in regular trash or bulky pickup. These items are accepted at the residential drop-off, New Haven Transfer Station.

(see our August issue of Recycle-News-Haven for more items)

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

The Parks & Public Works office located at 34 Middletown Ave will be closed, on Monday, October 9, 2023. Please note that all trash and recycling pick-up will be delayed one day that week (10/9 – 10/14/2023).

As the leaves begin to fall, please do not blow/sweep yard waste (including leaves) into the public right of way. Our trucks cannot sweep up large piles of debris and this will slow down the street sweeping operation. Please place your yard waste outside on your normal trash & recycling day. Yard waste **MUST** be in brown bags and cannot weigh more than 50 lbs. **GRASS CLIPPINGS, ROCKS, AND DIRT** should not be placed in yard waste bags. Branches cannot be longer than 4 ft long and **MUST** be bound.

Residents can take items to the Transfer Station. New Haven residents with a valid CT state driver's license, or ID can stop by our office at 34 Middletown Ave Monday-Friday 7 am - 4 pm to pick up free vouchers to be used at the Transfer Station, which is open for residents from 9 a.m. to 12 noon, Monday through Saturday. Vouchers cover yard waste (such as branches, brush, and leaves) and residential waste such as electronics, bulky waste, and furniture - This includes items around your house (think: garage, attic, storage room) that are not otherwise recyclable at the transfer station.

VOUCHERS DO NOT COVER DEMOLITION AND/OR CONSTRUCTION, STUMPS, OR BRANCHES LARGER THAN 6 INCHES AROUND AND WILL RESULT IN A FEE FOR THE

RESIDENT. AS NOTED PREVIOUSLY GRASS CLIPPINGS, MULCH, AND DIRT ARE NOT ACCEPTED AT THE TRANSFER STATION!

We are booking bulk appointments for the month of November. Please call our office at 203-946-7700 Monday – Friday from 7 am – 4 pm to schedule. This is on a first come first serve basis so please try to call or stop by our office early! Spots fill quickly!

Did you know that See Click Fix also sends alerts? If you haven't reported a concern via the app, you can still sign up to receive alerts. You can create multiple points of interest and register to receive notifications for that area so you can get street sweeping notices where you live and where you work. We also send out notices to remind you that trash will be delayed for the holiday. Please visit <https://seeclickfix.com/new-haven> to sign up!

Links:

New Haven Public Works-

<https://www.newhavenct.gov/gov/depts/pw/>

Public Works paving schedule-

<https://www.newhavenct.gov/home/showpublisheddocument/15028/637903861608081376>

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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