

Step Up Your Recycling Efforts!

Paper

Did you know..... Over 2,000 years ago, the Chinese discovered that a thin wet layer of interlocking fibers becomes paper when it dries. The first papermaking materials consisted of fibers from rags, tree bark, plants and grasses such as hemp, bamboo, jute, and straw.

Most paper and paper products manufactured today use fibers derived from wood, primarily from conifers such as spruce, fir, pine, and hemlock along with some deciduous trees such as birch, oak, and aspen.

When newspaper fibers are recycled for the first time, the individual fibers are long. Every time newspaper is recycled, the fibers break down and become shorter and shorter. The problem is that short fibers, even when they are interlocked with other short fibers, making the final product weak and unstable. The answer to this problem is to introduce long fibers into the mix.

Here are some interesting facts about paper recycling:

- Every ton (2,000 pounds) of recycled paper saves 17 trees, 380 gallons of oil, 3.3 cubic yards of landfill space, 275 pounds of sulfur, 350 pounds of limestone, 60,000 gallons of water and 225-kilowatt hours of electricity. This equals 64% in energy savings, 58% in water savings and 60 pounds less in air pollution as compared to producing new paper
- According to the American Forest and Paper Association (AF&PA), paper recycling has been at or above 63% every year since 2009 and 96% of Americans (268 million) have access to community recycling programs
- Paper recovery exceeded 52 million tons in 2016, which is more than twice the amount of paper sent to landfills, by weight



- More paper is recovered for recycling from municipal waste streams than glass, plastic, steel, and aluminum combined
- Through paper recycling, AF&PA member companies avoided greenhouse gas emissions of more than 20 million metric tons of CO₂ equivalents each year

Recycling paper at the Weston Transfer Station has never been so easy.

We have added new signs with pictures that show where to put your paper. There is a location specifically for newspaper and periodicals. Mixed papers such as colored paper or office paper get recycled with the cardboard.

As with all recycling, contamination is a dirty word. Items that should not be included in your paper for recycling are items containing food remnants such as coffee cups, food wrappers, candy wrappers, and food containers such as take-out cartons. Flat paper is better as crumpled paper and shredded paper usually ends up sent to solid waste by sorting machines. Also tissues, paper towels, carbon paper and padded brown/kraft envelopes should go in with your solid waste.

In fiscal year 2017, Weston's Solid Waste and Recycling Facility recycled 418,060 pounds of paper, which equates to 209 tons diverted from the solid waste stream. Along with the benefits to our environment, this saved the Town of Weston \$17,867 in disposal fees.

Weston's Solid Waste and Recycling Facility's success starts with you the Weston Resident. Your efforts make it possible for the Solid Waste and Recycling Facility to sell good quality recyclables for the best possible market prices. In fiscal year 2017 total sales of recyclables were over \$19,000. The more revenue received from recyclables, the less likely the permit fee will increase.

Please be sure to take a few moments and separate all your recyclables from the trash. Let's keep recyclables out of the solid waste compactors so we can save our natural resources, protect the environment and help keep the permit fee cost from increasing. Learn more about all that can be recycled at Weston.org/RSW.

For more information about recycling and Weston's Solid Waste and Recycling Facility call John Zaccardi, Supervisor of the DPW Solid Waste and Recycling Division at 781-786-5165 or email John at Zaccardi.j@westonmass.org