

Westhampton Board of Health Establishes 50% Recycling Goal

The Board of Health has established a 50% recycling goal with the intent of increasing quantity and improving the quality of the materials being recycled at the transfer station. In 2016, the Town had a recycling rate of 36%.

Most residents are conscientious about recycling and believe that they are properly recycling. The Board of Health encourages you to be aware of recycling's "Most Unwanted". Bagging recycling in plastic bags is one of the most common problems at the Springfield Municipal Recycling Facility (MRF).

Residents are reminded to keep these items out of your recycling bin:

- No Plastic Bags in with recycling– they bind up sorting material at the MRF
- No Placement of Recycling in Plastic Bags
- No Cords or wrapping items – these shut down MRF rollers
- No Loose Shredded Paper – place shredded paper in paper bags
- Keep non-recyclable plastics out of the MRF container. Samples:
 - Styrofoam – see attendant for special collection area
 - No Plastic Cups – place with household trash
 - No Plastic Containers that contained a hazardous material – i.e. windshield washer fluid, bleach, nail polish, motor oil, etc.
 - No Black Plastic containers
- No wet-strength paper – soda and beer sleeves and paper items from the frozen food section of the grocery store are reinforced with plastic to prevent them from collapsing when wet. These cannot be recycled into paper.
- No food waste in containers – Please rinse. Clean pizza boxes - okay. Pizza in the box is not!
- No scrap metal – it damages recycling equipment. Place in metal bin.
- No ceramics, drinking glasses, canning jars

In addition to properly **RECYCLING**, the Board of Health encourages residents to be mindful to **REDUCE** waste and to do all that you can to **RE-USE** products or re-purpose them.

To help **RECLAIM** food waste, the Town provides residents with **Earth Machine Compost Bins** through the HRMC. The Town offers the bins for \$25 (retail \$99). To place your order, call or email the HRMC Administrator with your name, street address, (mailing address, if different) and phone number. HRMC email: hrcm@hrcm-ma.org; phone: 413-685-5498. The **2017 Reduce, Reuse, Recycle, Reclaim Guide** focuses on composting, food rescue, and reducing food waste. A link to the guide can be found at: <https://tinyurl.com/RRRN-2017>.

For addition information on how to master recycling, visit the "What To Do With" link on the HRMC website at hrcm-ma.org