

Press information from:
WAKEFIELD DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC WORKS

For information contact:

Wakefield Department of Public Works
(781) 246-6301

The DPW Needs Your Help to Increase Recycling Rates

(Wakefield, MA) – You can make a difference! If every resident of the Town of Wakefield recycled one can, bottle, newspaper and plastic container each day, the Department of Public Works (DPW) would save thousands of dollars in trash disposal fees in one year. That means extra money for town programs and services for Wakefield residents.

According to Wakefield DPW Director Richard Stinson, Wakefield residents produced 11,080 tons of total refuse in 2005 and paid a total of \$562,653 in disposal fees for the refuse generated. For each ton of trash taken out of the waste stream, the town will save approximately \$58 in trash fees. That means that every one thousand tons of refuse that is recycled will save the Town about \$58,000 in tipping (disposal) fees.

Recyclables included in the every-other week curbside collection include newspapers, plastics, cans, glass, magazines, telephone books and corrugated cardboard.

According to the DPW, recycling at curbside has become more convenient and residents should remember it is mandatory. What once required some effort has been made easy by placing the recyclables in the appropriate container and taking it to the curb on trash day according to the every-other week (red week/blue week) schedule.

Glass, cans and plastics must be left at curbside in the recycling container; newspapers, magazines and telephone books must be tied with string or placed in a brown paper bag beside the recycling container. Cardboard must be tied with string and placed beside the container.

New Items Banned

Since Wakefield's curbside recycling program was launched in 1990, several items have been added to the list of materials that have been banned from the waste stream, requiring the Town's curbside recycling program and special drop-off collection to expand as well. During the past year, the Town's recycling contractor began accepting all plastics labeled 1 through 7 at curbside, and special collection drop-off days have been established at the Nahant Street Pit to accommodate residents who must dispose of CRTs and propane tanks. Special collection days have been added for residents, two times per year, who must dispose of hazardous waste materials

DPW Sticker Program

In July of 2005, the DPW also launched a pre-purchased sticker program to offset some of the costs of disposing of white goods (large appliances) and electronics (TV and computer monitors.)

A \$20.00 pre-purchased sticker is required and must be placed on each white good item left at the curb during the white goods collection week each month. Wakefield residents can put these items at curbside during the last full work-week of the month. Only items with pre-purchased stickers will be collected at curbside.

CRTs are accepted at the Nahant Street Pit on specific days during the year. A \$20 sticker is also required for each TV or computer monitor brought to the Pit. Stickers can be purchased at the DPW in the Town Hall during regular business hours (Monday through Wednesday 8:00 a.m. to 4:30 p.m., Thursday 8:00 a.m. to 7:00 p.m., and Friday 8:00 a.m. to 12:30 p.m.)

DPW Yard Waste Collection

The Town instituted a successful and popular yard waste collection program prior to the Commonwealth banning leaves and yard waste from regular trash collection in 1991. This successful program is available to residents only. The program accepts leaves and brush at the Nahant Street Pit on scheduled Wednesdays, Saturdays and Sundays. A pit permit is required to enter the Pit and can be purchased at a cost of \$25 per permit at the DPW Office during regular business hours.

For those residents who are not able to bring their yard waste to the Pit, the Town accepts the yard waste at curbside only on specific Saturdays during the year.

Encouraging Recycling

To encourage residents to recycle, the DPW sponsors a recycling awareness program for third and fifth grade students during the spring. The younger children learn about the benefits of recycling through music and song, and all students are given informational materials to share with their family members.

“The children learn about what can and can not be recycled, the importance of recycling on the environment, and the time it takes for some common household items to decompose in a landfill. They also learn about the Nahant Street Pit and the role the site plays in recycling yard waste. Most importantly, they learn to stop and think about what they are throwing away before they dispose of it in the trash barrel at home or at school,” Stinson noted. “They are taught that recycling is not only important to the environment and the town’s finances, it is also mandatory for those who have their trash collected at curbside by the Town’s refuse contractor.”

Each home in Wakefield whose residents have trash collected at curbside should have a recycling container signifying which week the neighborhood recycles. For information on which weeks to recycle, to learn more about recycling, or to purchase an additional container, please call the DPW at (781) 246-6301.

Reminder
Reduce, Reuse, Recycle