



Hello and introduction

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Today we will cover:

- A bit about NH Recycles, the recycling nonprofit that put this presentation together
- Trash: An Overview
- Recycling Basics
- What do Recyclables Become?
- Recycling in NH
- Your Next Steps



NH Recycles is the oldest and largest cooperative-model recycling non-profit in the country.

Our mission is to partner with members to make recycling strong through economic and environmentally sound solutions.

We mainly support small, rural communities in NH, as well as VT and MA, with cooperative marketing, education, and technical assistance.

# Our Impact



We helped our Members **recycle and manage:**

**76.9 Million**  
Pounds of Material



We returned millions in **revenue to members:**

**\$2.97 Million**  
By Selling Recyclables



We helped **avoid** carbon dioxide emissions.

**195 Million**  
Pounds of CO<sup>2</sup>



That's like **removing cars** from the road for a full year!

**19,732**  
Passenger Cars



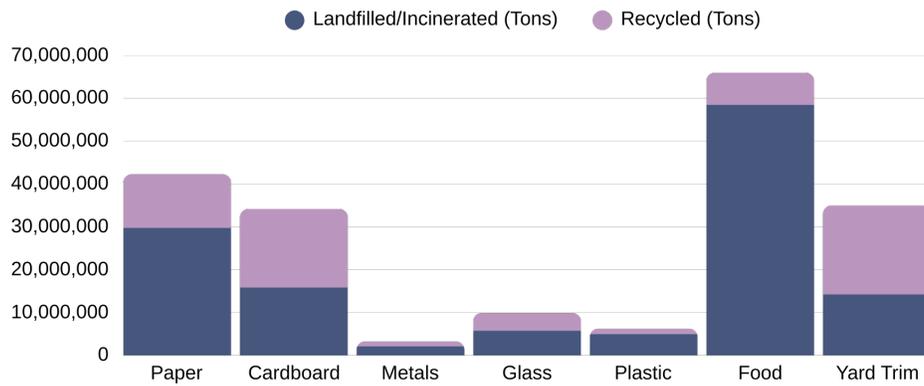
FY2025



**Let's Start  
with Trash**  
(an overview)



# Nationwide - Where Does Our Trash Go?



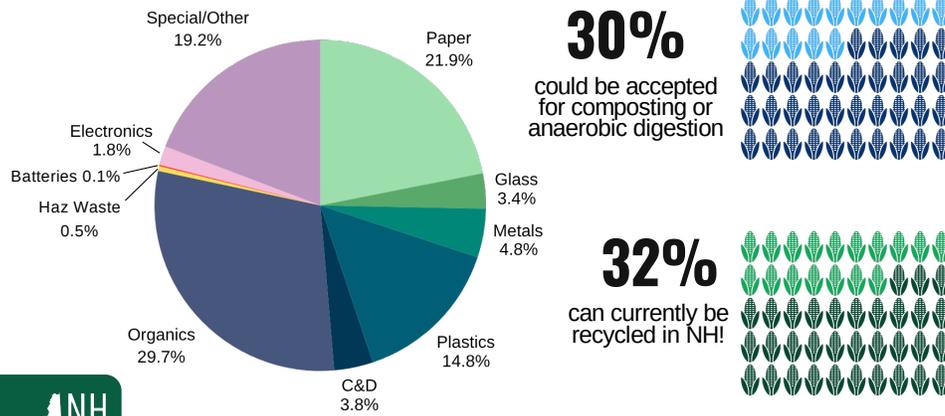
Based on 2024 EPA Assessment of the US Recycling System Report

What Happens to your Trash:

Plastics only include PET and HDPE (#1 and #2)

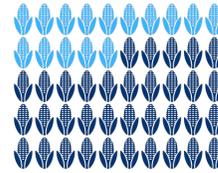
Metals mean aluminum and steel/tin

# In NH – What's in Our Residential Trash?



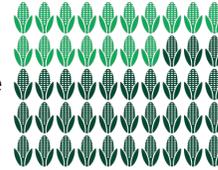
**30%**

could be accepted for composting or anaerobic digestion



**32%**

can currently be recycled in NH!



2024 NH Waste Generation Study Residential MSW Composition by Weight

62% of NH's residential waste can be diverted (so let's do it!)

**Special/Other** = diapers, textiles, carpets, mattresses, and anything else that didn't easily fit into another category

# NH's Top 7 Trash Contributors

What Makes Up Residential Trash by Weight in New Hampshire

## \$23.6 Million

Revenue lost due to recyclables being landfilled or incinerated, rather than diverted to traditional recycling programs.



1. **Food waste** – unpackaged
2. **Food waste** – packaged
3. **Compostable paper** (not recyclable – think paper towels, Kleenex, paper napkins, etc.)
4. **Pet waste** (GROSS!)
5. **Textiles & leather**
6. **Diapers & sanitary products**
7. **Corrugated cardboard & kraft paper**



2024 NH Waste Generation Study Residential MSW Composition by Weight

Roughly **\$23.6 million** was lost due to recyclables being landfilled or incinerated, rather than diverted to traditional recycling programs.

### Top things found in our residential MSW:

1. Food waste – unpackaged
2. Food waste – packaged
3. Compostable paper (not recyclable – think paper towels, Kleenex, paper napkins, etc.)
4. Pet waste (GROSS!)
5. Textiles and leather
6. Diapers and sanitary products
7. Corrugated cardboard and kraft paper

# Solid Waste in NH

New Hampshire's Infrastructure




- 6 Landfills**
  - 3 public (unlimited service area) landfills
  - 3 private (limited-service area) landfills
- 1 Waste-to-Energy Incinerator**
  - Wheelabrator Concord is a waste-to-energy facility.
- ! Turnkey Landfill in Rochester, NH**
  - NH has the largest landfill in New England, operated by Waste Management.
- 0 Materials Recovery Facility**
  - A "MRF" mechanically separates single-stream or zero-sort recyclables
- 0 Anaerobic Digester**
  - An "AD" breaks down food waste into fertilizer and biogas composed mostly of methane. Biogas can be burned for energy or processed into natural gas and fuel.

3 unlimited service areas:

- Mt. Carberry in Success (near Berlin); **Casella's North Country Environmental Services (NCES) in Bethlehem**; Waste Management Turnkey in Rochester (largest landfill in New England)

3 limited-service area

– Conway, Lebanon, Nashua

Wheelabrator waste-to-energy facility in Concord

**New Hampshire LACKS infrastructure:**

NO MRFs.

NO anerobic digesters.

This means all single stream must be sent out of state to be processed.

How much waste disposed  
of in **New Hampshire**  
comes from **out of state**?



AUDIENCE INTERACTION SLIDE!

The majority of out of state waste comes from MA.

However, NH does send some of its solid waste over the border as well, especially from towns that border VT.

How much waste disposed  
of in **New Hampshire**  
comes from **out of state**?



39%



AUDIENCE INTERACTION SLIDE!

The majority of out of state waste comes from MA.

However, NH does send some of its solid waste over the border as well, especially from towns that border VT.

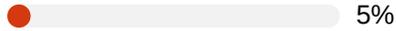
The percentage of in-state material disposed in NH's landfills and waste-to-energy facility has increased in recent years, from 57% in 2022, to 62% in 2023, to 61% in 2024.

## A Note on Contamination

**Recycling is a manufacturing process** - machinery is used to create new items on a large scale. Just as you wouldn't want contamination in other manufacturing (such as manufacturing of car parts or food containers), contamination in recycling is also problematic and can include non-recyclable items, dirty recyclables, and wishcycling.

### Percent of Contamination Found:

Source Separated Recyclables



5%

Single and Dual Stream Recyclables



30%



Recycling is a manufacturing process. Machinery is used to create new items on a large scale.

Just as you wouldn't want contamination in consumable items you use daily, you don't want contamination in the raw materials being recycled back into a usable item.

Contamination tends to be much lower in source separated recyclables opposed to single/dual stream recyclables (eg. clamshells, Dunkin Donuts cup, etc.)



State-wide look at recycling in NH

# Recycling Example

## Aluminum Cans



### Saves MONEY

It's cheaper to recycle aluminum versus extracting new aluminum through mining and processing ore.



### Saves ENERGY

Recycling aluminum saves **more than 90%** of the energy needed to create new aluminum.



### Saves Natural RESOURCES

Nearly **75%** of all aluminum produced is still in use today!



In addition to saving money or generating revenue, waste diversion saves energy and natural resources.

### IMPORTANT:

Recycling helps to save valuable landfill capacity for waste that cannot be diverted.



## 3 Common Types of Recycling Programs

- I Single Stream**  
All recyclables go into one bin and are separated after collection.

---

- II Dual Stream**  
Paper & cardboard and recyclable containers (plastic, metal, glass) are put in separate bins prior to collection.

---

- III Source Separated (multi-stream)**  
Recyclables are separated by material prior to collection OR at the drop off center (transfer station).

AUDIENCE INTERACTION SLIDE (IF YOU HAVE MULTIPLE TOWNS REPRESENTED)!

Ask: What recycling program does your community have?(try to jot down or remember)

By a show of hands, do you have:

- Single Stream
- Dual Stream
- Source Separated

Ask: For folks who have single stream or dual stream, what size is your town or city? (show of hands)

- Under 5000 people?
- Over 5000 people?

Ask: For folks who have source separated recycling, what size is your town or city?  
(show of hands)

- Under 5000 people?
- Over 5000 people?

**Source Separated**

**PROS:** Materials are generally higher in quality and value because there is less contamination.

**CONS:** Requires more effort by the residents to either leave sorted items at their curb or take them to a drop-off site.

**Single or Dual Stream**

**PROS:** Recycling is more convenient because all recyclables go into one or two containers.

**CONS:** The quality of the material can be degraded due to contamination, resulting in materials being sent to landfills.

\*\*The following is for presentations mainly to single or dual-stream communities:

IS MY RECYCLING \*REALLY\* BEING RECYCLED OR JUST BEING TRASHED?

Great question! This is something we more often hear from communities with single-stream recycling, where all recyclables are put together into the same bin and hauled away to a recycling facility.

The short answer is YES, most of your recycling IS being recycled. There will of course be cases where recycling CONTAMINATION creeps in and ruins a small percentage of the recyclable material. (This is why we talk about contamination so much - when in doubt, throw it out!)

But again, most recyclables sent to transfer stations or recycling centers ARE recycled.

If you think about it strictly from a money-making perspective, it's easy to see why recycling the recyclables (versus landfilling or incinerating them) makes sense. It costs money to build, run, and maintain a transfer station or recycling center - from staffing to building and grounds to the machinery required - recycling centers need to make a revenue to support themselves, just like any other manufacturer. (And remember, recycling IS a manufacturing process!) Communities want to be sure as much is being recycled as possible so they can avoid landfilling or incineration costs.

## Which of the following town departments generate revenue?



Economic Development

Police

Fire Station

Human Services

Recreation

Town Clerk/Tax Collector

Sewer

Transfer Station

Planning & Building

Public Works



### AUDIENCE INTERACTION SLIDE!

Revenue is the total amount of money generated by the sale of goods or services, while income is earnings or profit—revenue minus expenses.

## Which of the following town departments generate revenue?



Economic Development

(fees) Police

Fire Station

Human Services

(fees) Recreation

(taxes) Town Clerk/Tax Collector

(fees) Sewer

(sales & fees) Transfer Station

(fees) Planning & Building

Public Works



### AUDIENCE INTERACTION SLIDE!

You can see that the Transfer Station is one of a few departments that brings in revenue, and the only department that brings in revenue through the sale of recyclables.

**Like money?  
Try recycling!**

**REVENUE**  
Earned by **selling high quality recyclable material** to responsible vendors.

**DISPOSAL COSTS**  
**Decrease** as material is diverted from the solid waste stream and is recycled instead.

**NH RECYCLES**

- Revenue is EARNED and Disposal Costs are AVOIDED.
- Disposal costs are how much it costs for waste to be landfilled or incinerated.
- Waste diversion can help avoid the higher cost of municipal solid waste disposal. (Though not always true with single and dual stream recycling when markets are down.)
- The cost of landfilling and incineration will continue to rise, so diversion is key.

**EXAMPLE:**

Typically the cost to recycle is less than the cost to throw that material away. Waste may cost \$100 a ton to landfill or incinerate. A recyclable may sell for \$140 a ton revenue. So if you recycle it, you would BOTH get the \$140 for the sale of the recyclable, PLUS \$100 to avoid landfilling. So now that recyclable is worth \$240!



## Why doesn't my town recycle EVERYTHING?

You need 3 things to decide:

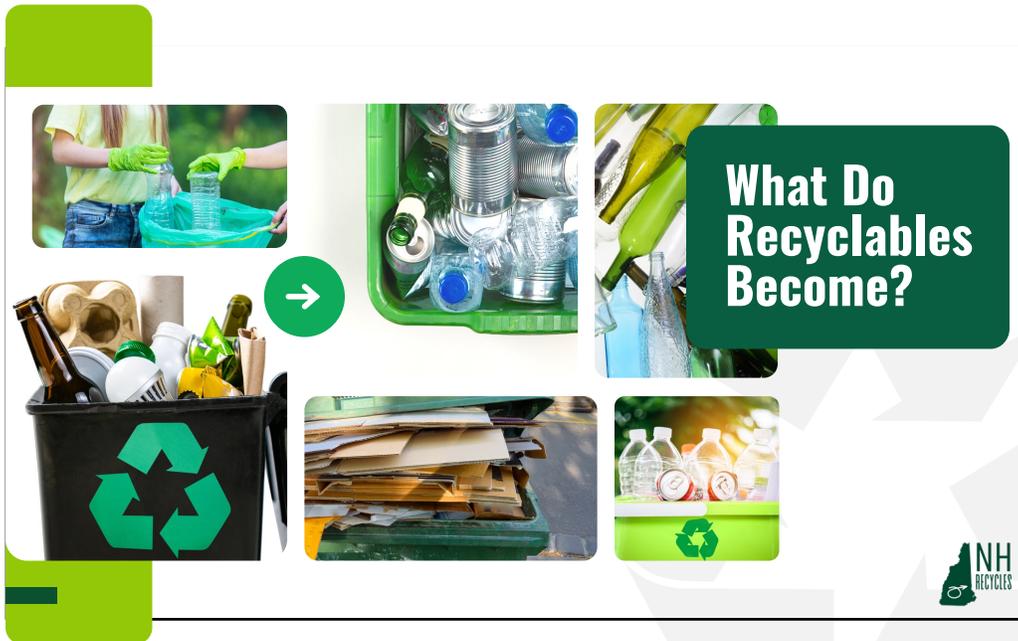
- I Amount**  
Economy of Scale: How much of an item do you have to recycle?
- II Location**  
Transportation & Processing: Where is the location of the processing facility in relation to the community?
- III Cost**  
Markets & Materials: Are you offering high quality materials (clean, dry, and uncontaminated?) Is the market good?

Recycling is a manufacturing process.

Machinery is used to create new items on a large scale.

NEED:

- Amount (economy of scale)
- Location (transportation and processing)
- Cost (look at the market and the quality of the materials)



Recycling doesn't happen when items are tossed in the recycling bin or dropped off at the transfer station.

Recycling happens when materials are turned back into products that people use.



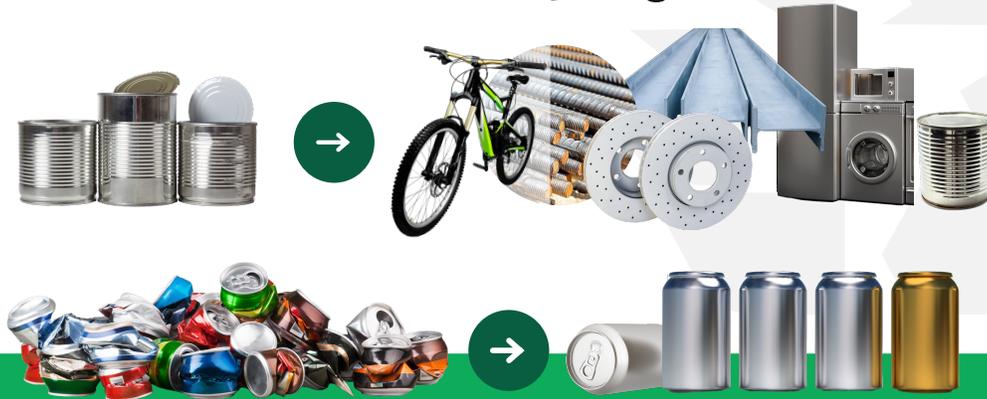
### Cardboard Becomes:

- Paper bags
- New cardboard
- Paperboard
- Cardboard Medium (the corrugated middle part)

### Notebook & Computer Paper:

- paper towels
- facial tissue (kleenex)
- toilet paper
- napkins
- new notebook paper
- new computer paper

## Tin & Aluminum Can Recycling



### Tin (steel) Cans:

- bike parts
- rebar
- car parts
- steel beams
- appliances
- new cans

### Aluminum:

- new aluminum cans

# Glass & Plastic Recycling



Glass can become:

- new glass bottles
- new jars
- fiberglass
- sand used in construction projects (PGA - processed glass aggregate)

Plastics can become:

- carpet
- backpacks
- polar fleece
- sleeping bag & ski jacket insulation
- plastic lumber for decking, docks, and outdoor furniture
- play sets
- new plastic bottles
- buckets
- containers
- frisbees
- stadium seats

## PLASTICS RECYCLING A QUICK GUIDE TO ♻️ NUMBERS



 <b>1</b> PET	 <b>2</b> HDPE	<p><b>YES, RECYCLE!</b> Items include soda and water bottles, milk and juice jugs, shampoo and cleaning bottles.</p>	
 <b>4</b> LDPE	 <b>5</b> PP	 <b>6</b> PS	<p><b>MAYBE, ASK?</b> Items include yogurt containers, styrofoam packaging, single-use shopping &amp; dry cleaning bags.</p>
 <b>3</b> PVC	 <b>7</b> OTHER	<p><b>NO, TOSS IT.</b> Items include dirty food trays, cooking oil containers, vending cups, vinyl and disposable foodware.</p>	

## Plastic Recycling

Not all plastics can be recycled



**What About Chasing Arrows?**

**This is a CLUE, not a directive!**

This triangle symbol with a number in the middle tells you what type of plastic – or resin – the item is made from; **it does NOT tell you if the item is recyclable.**

### CHASING ARROWS:

You've seen this symbol "♻️" - known as "chasing arrows" - on all sorts of plastic things. You may think it means something is recyclable...or is made from recyclable materials. Unfortunately, it's never that straightforward.

This symbol with a number in the middle tells you what type of resin - or plastic - the item is made out of. This means it can give you a CLUE as to whether or not it's recyclable. Some numbers - like #1 are often recyclable - especially when it's a bottle, jug, or tub. Other numbers, like #6 (eg. styrofoam cups) or #7 (eg. cell phone cases) are very difficult to process and therefore rarely accepted.

### PLASTIC RECYCLING:

- YES, RECYCLE! #1 and #2 plastics such as soda and water bottles, milk and juice jugs, shampoo and cleaning bottles.
- NO, TOSS IT. #3 and #7 plastics such as plastic wrap and food trays, cooking oil containers, vending cups, vinyl and in most cases, styrofoam products.
- MAYBE, ASK: #4 and #5 plastics such as yogurt containers, shopping and dry cleaning bags. And #7 Styrofoam MIGHT be accepted at a nearby facility (there is one in Gilford, NH)

### REMINDER:

1. When in doubt, throw it out - better than contaminating a recycling load!
2. If it's a #1 but NOT a bottle or jug, ASK before you recycle (those sneaky clamshell food containers are often NOT recyclable, even though they are a #1.)
3. Decreasing the amount of single-use plastic you use will always be better than recycling plastic. FIRST reduce/refuse, THEN reuse, FINAL option is to recycle.

\*\*How much plastic is recycled? Greenpeace article: 5-6% BUT that includes ALL types of plastics that are created. Plastic recycling for bottles, tubs, and jugs is nearly 30% (according to the most recent EPA #s) - so better, but we are always aiming for more.

# Plastics **Recycling** Realities



I HEARD **STYROFOAM** IS RECYCLABLE,  
WHY CAN'T I PUT IT WITH MY  
PLASTIC RECYCLING?



Made of 95% air, 5% polystyrene,  
styrofoam is **Hard** to process,  
**Expensive** to store and ship, and a  
common **Single-Stream Contaminant**.

WHY CAN'T I RECYCLE **PLASTIC BAGS**  
**OR FILM** AT MY TRANSFER STATION?



Plastic bags and film require a  
different type of processing.  
At a typical recycling plant,  
**this type of plastic can tangle and  
jam the processing equipment.**

Styrofoam and plastic bags **\*MIGHT\*** be recyclable in your area. Here's what to do:

## PLASTIC BAGS:

- Make sure they are **CLEAN** and **DRY**, you should be able to return them to a grocery store or other large store like Target or Walmart near you.

## STYROFOAM:

- A few communities in NH and VT have started recycling Styrofoam. A machine at the transfer station breaks down the styrofoam before melting it down into a tube that is shaped into a 50 pound block. Ask your local transfer station.

- Gilford, NH
- Lyndonville Recycling Center, VT



## Recycling in NH

- State law requires that, "Each town shall either provide a facility or assure access to another approved solid waste facility for its residents."
- 85% of communities in NH have their **own municipal recycling facility!** (many are small, rural communities)
- **SOLID WASTE IS EXPENSIVE** Waste reduction, like recycling and composting, is more financially valuable in NH because New England has the highest cost for trash disposal in the entire country.



## Waste Disposal Bans in NH

Things you CANNOT throw in a NH landfill or incinerator

- 
**Lithium-ion and Wet-Cell (car) Batteries**  
 Electric bikes & scooters, lawncare equipment and cordless power tools, toys, portable electronics (cell phones, cameras, etc.)
- 
**Electronic Devices**  
 TVs and monitors, computers, laptops, tablets, cell phones, speakers, printers, copiers, VCR/DVD players, keyboards, etc.
- 
**Food Waste for 1+ Ton/week generators**  
 located within 20 miles of a facility with the capacity to manage excess food through donation, composting, digestion, etc.
- 
**Leaf and Yard Waste**
- 
**Mercury-Added Products**  
 Button cell batteries, compact florescent lightbulbs, thermometers, old thermostats, tilt switches, florescent lamps, etc.



### Challenges Unique to NH:

- **SOLID WASTE IS EXPENSIVE** Waste reduction, like recycling and composting, is more financially valuable in NH because New England has the highest cost for trash disposal in the entire country.

- **OUT OF STATE WASTE**

Nearly 50% of waste disposed in NH comes from out of state, mostly from MA. The interstate commerce clause says that goods and services can freely move across state lines.

- **LACK OF STATE SUPPORT**

We lack the grants, technical assistance, and state-level policies that support recycling and solid waste management. This is why the NH Solid Waste Working Group was such an important creation at the state level.

- **LACK OF INFRASTRUCTURE**

We lack infrastructure such as a MRF (Materials Recovery Facility) or anaerobic digester that are often necessary to scale-up solid waste diversion.



# NH Recycling Processing

Materials Processed in New Hampshire



## Electronics

Processed in Hudson & Merrimack, NH

Electronics are sorted, dismantled, mechanically separated, and shredded. Valuable materials such as copper, glass, and aluminum are then recovered to be reused.



## Cardboard

Processed in Claremont, NH

Cardboard is made into large sheets of kraft paper for brown paper grocery bags, lawn bags, and packing material.

- Most vendors are based in NE, but not a lot recycling in NH.

- Some process and then send further afield

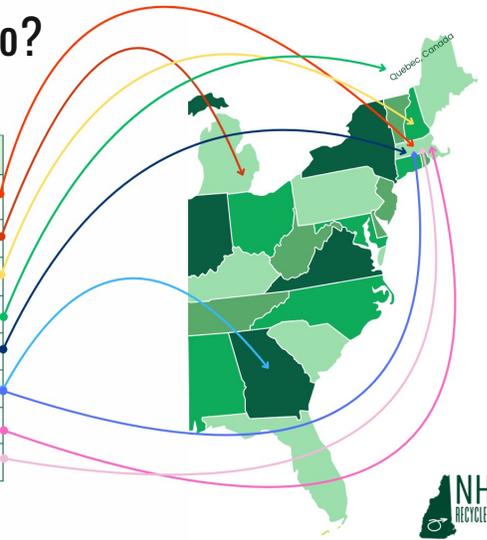
- Are we sending everything overseas? Generally, no.

It is a global market (eg scrap metal)

# Where does NH recycling go?

Keene, NH example

RECYCLABLE MATERIAL	2023 RECYCLED AMOUNTS	ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT! <small>Here is just one benefit of recycling materials, rather than manufacturing new products from virgin resources.</small>
ALUMINUM CANS	44,320 LBS	You saved enough energy to run a TV for 2,570,560 hours!
PLASTICS	263,486 LBS	You saved 13,845 gallons of gasoline!
ELECTRONICS	72,551 LBS	You saved enough energy to power 2,040 homes for 1 day!
GLASS	476,540 LBS	You saved about 2,853 trash bags from ending up in a landfill!
SCRAP METAL	591,145 LBS	You saved 880,806 pounds of iron ore!
PAPER &/OR CARDBOARD	4,884,894 LBS	You saved 41,522 trees!
STEEL CANS	90,740 LBS	You saved enough energy to swap 3,147 incandescent lightbulbs for LEDs!
TIRES	114,350 LBS	You saved 2,721 gallons of oil!



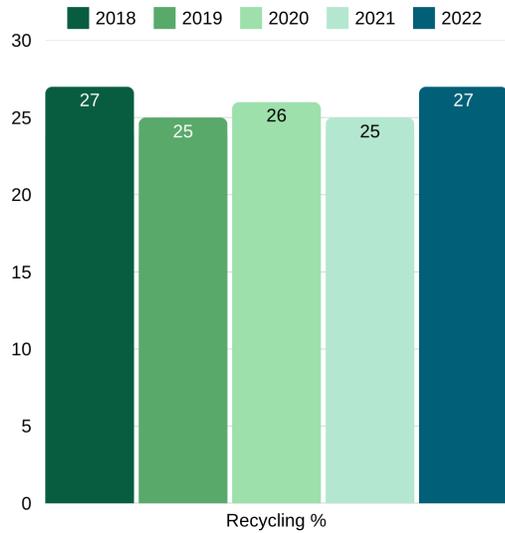
BUT WHERE IS MY RECYCLING GOING? Use Environmental Impact Report example from Keene:

- Aluminum – MA
- Plastics – Michigan
- Electronics – NH
- Glass – Quebec
- Scrap Metal – MA
- Paper – Georgia
- OCC – MA
- Steel Cans – MA
- Tires – MA

# What is the New Hampshire recycling rate?

Based on NHDES Biennial Solid Waste Reports

**26%**  
(5-year average)



Recycling Rate (how much is recycled) vs Participation Rate (how many people recycle)

This is a ROUGH estimate based on existing data. Other sources have it lower at 18-23%.



## Recycling Realities in NH

- 
**Solid Waste Disposal is Expensive**  
 New England has the **highest cost for trash disposal** in the entire country.
- 
**Lack of Infrastructure**  
 We lack infrastructure such as a MRF or anaerobic digester for solid waste diversion.
- 
**Minimal (but growing) State Support**  
 We lack the grants, technical assistance, and state-level policies that support recycling and solid waste management.
- 
**NH Solid Waste Working Group**  
 Formed in October 2022, SWWG looks at policy and regulatory changes to solid waste management in NH.



- **SOLID WASTE IS EXPENSIVE** Waste reduction, like recycling and composting, is more financially valuable in NH because New England has the highest cost for trash disposal in the entire country.

- **LACK OF STATE SUPPORT**

We lack the grants, technical assistance, and state-level policies that support recycling and solid waste management. This is why the NH Solid Waste Working Group was such an important creation at the state level.

- **LACK OF INFRASTRUCTURE**

We lack infrastructure such as a MRF (Materials Recovery Facility) or anaerobic digester that are often necessary to scale-up solid waste diversion.

- SWWG: looking at policy and regulatory changes
- Upcoming grants from NHDES for waste reduction and food diversion



## Recycling Next Steps



# Possible State Solutions

Options that have worked in other states



## Bottle Bill

Deposit-refund system incentivizes bottle recycling through a minimum refundable deposit



## Extended Producer Responsibility (EPR)

An environmental policy approach that shifts the responsibility for the full lifecycle of a product upstream toward the producer and away from municipalities.



## Waste Bans

Enacted on the state level (such as the NH Yard Waste Ban), waste bans restrict the type of items that can be disposed of within the state.



1. **Bottle Bill:** Requires a minimum refundable deposit on beer, soft drink and other beverage containers in order to ensure a high rate of recycling or reuse. The deposit-refund system was created by the beverage industry as a means of guaranteeing the return of their glass bottles to be washed, refilled and resold.

2. **Extended Producer Responsibility (EPR):** An environmental policy approach in which a producer's responsibility for a product is extended to the post-consumer stage of a product's life cycle. The shifting of responsibility (physically and/or economically; fully or partially) upstream toward the producer and away from municipalities; and The provision of incentives to producers to take into account environmental considerations when designing their products. While other policy instruments tend to target a single point in the chain, EPR seeks to integrate signals related to the environmental characteristics of products and production processes throughout the product chain.

(Additional info: EPRs place primary responsibility on the producer, or brand owner, who makes design and marketing decisions. It also creates a setting for markets to emerge that truly reflect the environmental impacts of a product, and to which producers and consumers respond.)

Examples from other states include:

- Paint Stewardship Program (ensures leftover paint is properly managed in a manner that is sustainably funded)
- Carpet Stewardship Program (ensures discarded carpet becomes a resource for new products)
- Mattress Stewardship Program (aims to reduce illegal dumping, increase recycling, and substantially reduce local gov. costs for end-of-use management of used mattresses)

3. **Waste Bans:** enacted on the state level (such as the yard waste ban). By cutting down on disposal, waste bans also help states capture valuable resources, save energy, reduce greenhouse gas emissions, and lessen reliance on landfills and incinerators.

# Town Tools to Improve Recycling

Pay As You Throw

Full Cost Accounting

Floor or Truck Scale

Construction &  
Demolition Debris  
Densification



# Pay As You Throw (PAYT)

**PAYT is a waste reduction model where residents pay for the trash they produce.**

PAYT is also known as "unit-based pricing."

**Customers (residents or visitors) pay for waste they generate**, versus a "flat rate" program where everyone pays the same amount no matter how much - or how little - waste they create.

*PAYT has been shown to decrease MSW and increase recycling, as residents do not have to pay to recycle.*



The basics of implementing a PAYT system:

## 1. PICK A PROGRAM

Bag Program, Punch-card system, Sticker or Tag system, Weight-based system, Cart or Can system.

2. EDUCATE: including your town officials (Select Board), town administrator, director of public works, and of course, your residents and other community members!

Folks need to know WHAT program you are implementing, HOW it works, and WHY it's important.

Education needs to start EARLY. Aim for at least 6 months to a year prior to program implementation.

3. BUDGET: prior to starting a new PAYT program, create a separate PAYT budget. This will help capture and track the costs and revenues specific to the program. You will also want to decide what costs your PAYT program will include and estimates for the total waste once PAYT is established, start-up and on-going costs, and an estimate for the per container price needed to meet program costs.

4. POLICY: How will you accommodate low-income, physically handicapped, and elderly residents? How will you accommodate residents of multi-family units?

5. PUT IT TO THE VOTERS: Create a warrant article for the annual meeting to adopt PAYT. This should be the final step and, once complete, you're ready to begin your new PAYT program!

# Full Cost Accounting

The **TRUE COST** of trash & recycling



Full Cost Accounting can help towns:



**EDUCATE**  
their residents



Make **DATA-DRIVEN**  
decisions and program  
changes



Used for **FINANCIAL**  
**PLANNING**, fee & rate  
setting, and vendor  
negotiations.



By creating a Full Cost Accounting model and accounting for everything, including MSW, recycling, composting, labor wages and benefits, disposal costs, administration costs, and utilities, a facility or town can determine what changes may need to be made to support the town's solid waste program.

FCA focuses on three major types of costs: up-front costs, operating costs, and back-end costs.

While initially setting up a Full Cost Accounting model for your town can take time, once it is complete, it is easy to update over time to look for areas of inefficiency and smooth out the peaks and valleys of expenses over time.



**FLOOR SCALE**



**TRUCK SCALE**

## The Benefit of a Scale

A scale is a necessary tool all transfer stations and recycling centers should consider.

Scales streamline weight-based pricing and provide towns, taxpayers, residents, and customers a **fair and accurate** way to charge for disposal of everything from MSW and common recyclables, to trickier items such as shingles and electronics.

Recommend all transfer stations and recycling centers have a floor scale.



### FLOOR SCALES

- Cost range: \$1000 - \$3000
- Can use town appropriations, a grant from NH the Beautiful, or a USDA community facility loan or grant to cover the purchase cost.
- All weather indoor scale life expectancy: 20+ years
- No license required to operate.
- Must be registered with the state and calibrated annually.
- Recommended for every facility, no matter how small the town or community is.

### TRUCK SCALES

- Cost range: \$50,000 - \$100,000+
- Requires town appropriations, bond, or a USDA community facility loan or grant to cover the purchase cost.
- Pit scale life expectancy: 40+ years (with no salt erosion)
- Ground scale life expectancy: 20+ years
- Requires a licensed public weighmaster to operate.
- Must be licensed, inspected, and tested annually.
- Choice to invest in a truck scale depends in large part on the quantity of materials that go through the facility and will differ from town to town.



# C&D Densification

Reduce bulk, Increase weight



## Backhoe

Often the easiest - using the town's backhoe to crush the C&D, can get up to 20% more weight in!



## Auger

Little more expensive and limitations on type of waste it can handle but can increase weight up to 40%.



## Precrusher

Pricier than an auger, but saves about 40% over an open top, can handle large items more easily.

### 1. Backhoe crush

### 2. Auger

- No large amounts of sheetrock, rugs, long boards, plywood

### 3. Precrusher

- Same container as MSW compactor

### 4. Shredder (not shown)

- Just in case you wanted to spend the big bucks...

- Add a conveyor with a magnet and you could save a lot!!

# Individual Action



Steps you can start taking TODAY (along with consistent recycling)



**REDUCE!  
REUSE!  
RECYCLE!**

Be Part of the Solution



**BUY SMART**

At Home and at Work

Look for the phrase, "post consumer recycled material."



**DIVERT**

Food Waste OUT

Find an alternative - compost at home, with a commercial composter, or farm.



**SIGN UP**

For Full of Scrap

NH Recycles' bi-weekly newsletter with recycling education, updates & events!

## What can you do at your own individual level to make a difference?

- Sign Up for FoS on the NH Recycles website
- Buy Recycled at Home and at Work. Look for post consumer recycled material to know that your recycling has been turned into a new product! At work, copy paper is a great recycled option.
- Stop Throwing Away Food Scraps – find an alternative

# When does recycling happen?

Hint: Probably not when you think!

Recycling doesn't happen when items are tossed in the recycling bin or dropped off at the transfer station. **Recycling happens when materials are turned back into products that people use.**



## # RECYCLING BASICS

Time to CLOSE the recycling loop

**IF YOU ARE NOT BUYING RECYCLED, THEN YOU AREN'T FULLY RECYCLING.**



(Before you buy, look for the words, "post-consumer recycled content")

Recycling doesn't happen when items are tossed in the recycling bin or dropped off at the transfer station. Recycling happens when materials are turned back into products that people use.

# Collective Action

Systemic change requires collective action!



## ADVOCATE

### For Legislation & Infrastructure

**FOLLOW** State and Local legislation and sign in or testify on bills and local matters related to solid waste and recycling.

**SUPPORT** increased recycling and waste diversion infrastructure such as composting or expanded recycling programs in your town.



## ORGANIZE

### At Work in Town

**JOIN** your city or town's recycling or waste reduction committee (or start a committee if there isn't one!)

**CREATE** a "Green Team" at work to tackle waste issues at work, including recycling, food waste diversion, waste reduction, and energy consumption.

**Individuals can't do it alone, so what can we do at a collective level? What systemic changes can be made?**

- Follow local legislation and sign in or testify on bills
- Join or create a municipal recycling or waste reduction committee
- Create a "green team" at work
- Take on other "green" projects like plastic film recycling or host a pop-up repair night!

## Don't Forget - Final Recycling **Takeaways**



- Did you know there's something more damaging - to your community, to the environment - than NOT recycling something?
- What's worse you might ask? Throwing something in the recycling bin that is NOT recyclable.
- Often referred to as "wishcycling" or "outthrows," these pieces of trash pretending to be recycling can contaminate - or ruin - an entire load of recyclables. Imagine, all that work done by all those people in your town ruined because of trash?
- Just because something has the chasing arrows symbol on it, DOES NOT mean the item is recyclable! When you throw something in the recycling bin it DOES NOT MAGICALLY BECOME RECYCLABLE! Instead, you have thrown trash into a recycling bin - contaminating actual recyclable materials.
- Items you wish-cycle can contaminate a load of recyclables or get stuck, tangled, or wrapped in the recycling processing machinery. This can cause expensive - and potentially dangerous - shutdowns in the recycling process.
- When in doubt, throw it out!

# Connect With Us

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