

RECYCLING AT THE KITTERY RESOURCE RECOVERY FACILITY

KITTERY DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC WORKS

WHAT IS RECYCLABLE?

Recycling is mandatory in the Town of Kittery. The staff at the Kittery Resource Recovery Facility asks that all recyclable material is clean and free of trash. Kittery currently partners with Casella for brokering recyclable materials on the open market to generate revenues that helps offset the

cost of disposal for household trash.

The materials recycled by the town

includes paper, cardboard, plastics, tin and aluminum cans, and glass.

Paper products are broken down into two categories. Those categories are Mixed Paper and Newsprint. Mixed Paper includes all single-ply food boxes, milk cartons, mail, office paper, and egg cartons. Newsprint includes newspapers, newspaper inserts, magazines, phone books, and paperback books.

Corrugated cardboard is separated from the two paper products mentioned above and is identified through ridges in the material. Plastics recently underwent some changes and are broken down into four categories. The categories are Number 1 PET plastic bottles and

jars, Number 2 HPDE Natural containers such as milk jugs, Number 2 HPDE

Colored containers such as detergent containers, and Number 5 plastics such as yogurt containers, butter tubs, and lids.

Tin and aluminum cans includes food cans, soup cans, and soda cans. The facility cannot process anything larger than one gallon in size. Glass includes bottles and jars. Any other types of metals and glass must go to the facility's resource recovery area on Wednesdays and Saturdays.

RECYCLING HELPS BUILD
SUSTAINABLE COMMUNITIES
AND OFFSETS DISPOSAL
COSTS BORNE BY TAXPAYERS

ACCEPTABLE PLASTICS

#1 PET – All plastic bottles and jars, any color.

#2 HPDE Natural – containers such as milk jugs, gallon sized water containers, and some juice containers.

#2 HPDE Colored – containers such as laundry detergent, shampoo containers, and white milk jugs.

#5 Plastics – containers such as yogurt cups, butter tubs, lids, caps, and takeout containers.

WE do not accept drinking cups, straws, anything black, and #1 PET not accepted above. These unacceptable materials can now go into household trash.

CHANGE IN PLASTICS RECYCLING

The Kittery Resource Recovery Facility, following recommendations from our recycling partner, Casella, made some changes recently to plastics recycling. This change was necessitated due to changes in the recycling market and to open a revenue stream the was underutilized.

The changes to plastics recycling centers around two products: #1 PET and #3-7 Plastics.

Prior to the changes, #1 PET was separated into two categories. The first was clear

drinking bottles which was baled and sold on the market. The second was incorporated into all other plastics and sent to a third party at a cost to the town.

Plastics #3-7 was also placed with all other plastics and sent to a third party at a cost to the town. The prices incurred by the town to dispose of these items rose to a price that exceeds the cost to dispose of household trash. The price increase is due to rising costs in the recycling industry and a current oversupply of materials.

To maximize revenue and provide the lowest possible impact on taxpayers, the town decided to follow the recommendations of Casella to implement a new recycling stream for plastics and to accept a larger array of materials into PET#1.

The new plastics recycling categories are #1 PET Plastic bottles and jars, #2 HPDE Natural, #2 HPDE Colored, and #5 Plastics. All other plastics can now go into household trash where it is sent to a trash to energy facility and burned to produce electricity.