



March 2021

Trash Talk

Town of North Yarmouth Maine

Reduce—Reuse—Recycle How We Started—Where We Are Now

The history of community commitment to recycling goes back 36 years in North Yarmouth. In 1985, the town joined the newly formed ecomaine. Initially called Regional Waste Systems, the group led by Cape Elizabeth, Portland, Scarborough and South Portland was formed in response to a new state law that called for the closing of private landfills. This group purchased 240 acres in Scarborough/South Portland to create a compliant landfill. In 1988, a trash-to-energy plant was built. This gave the fledgling group income, as the electricity produced was sold. More importantly the trash volume was reduced by 90%, thus lengthening the life of the landfill by many years.

Soon, ecomaine started to offer selective recycling, where residents were taught to separate their trash from the materials that should be recycled.

In 2006, it switched to the single sort recycling option.

Single-stream or single-sort recycling is a system where all recycled materials are co-mingled and deposited in the same truck. Sorting takes place at the ecomaine facility.

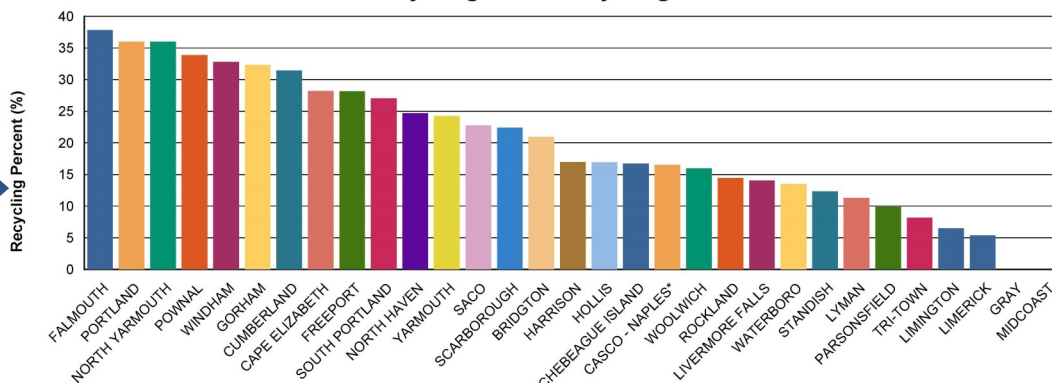
By joining ecomaine, North Yarmouth along with other towns, was able to recycle it's trash instead of dumping it in the town landfill. The non-profit now includes 70 towns and cities.

Locally, 1988 was the year that the landfill on West Pownal Road was closed. During the next year the first Recycling Committee was appointed by the Select Board.

In 2007, the Pay As You Throw (PAYT) Committee began their work. This committee recommended PAYT in an effort to reduce the amount of waste dumped and to address equity, in that those who create more trash should pay more. The program which required residents to purchase garbage bags for their non-recyclable waste, was the result of their work. Those bags are available at Hannaford, Shaw's NY Variety, Stone's Café & Bakery, and the Town Office.

March 2008, the town adopted
"Pay As You Throw".

Recycling Data Collected
July 2020—February 2021



The Commitment to Recycle is not just for Residents.

Public Works Facility In the early '90's, the town purchased a waste oil furnace and installed it at the Public Works building. Since then, petroleum-based waste oil has helped warm the building. The waste oil comes from the town's fleet, repair shops, contractors and the public. Disposal of waste oil is expensive, so this use solves two problems. "By encouraging residents to use us to dispose of oil, it is a good way to keep our town clean as the residents can get rid of waste oil for free vs dumping outside beside the lawn or on the edge of the woods", according to Public Works Director Clark Baston. Using waste oil saves the town, as the "free" oil generally lasts until mid-March.

Town Office In addition to recycling paper waste, all bottles and cans are collected and donated to the Bottle Barn at the Fire Rescue Department. These donations help support the community activities of the Fire Company. The town office parking lot is fitted with light timers to conserve electricity. Heat pumps have been installed in the Town Office and in the PWD Office.

Wescustogo Hall & North Yarmouth Community Center This solar-powered building built in 2019-2020, is the pride of the town. The solar panels installed here, generate sufficient electricity to power all municipal properties. In 2020, two vehicle recharging stations were installed. When the town celebrated the opening of the new WH&CC in 2019, compostable plates, cups, and utensils were used by all food vendors. Garbage to Garden took it all.

Local Neighborhoods Residents of Mountfort Road have a long-standing Thanksgiving Day tradition of walking the road, picking up litter. Discarded bottles and cans are recycled at the Bottle Barn at the Fire Rescue Department.

Rob Wood, Founding Member 2007 PAYT Committee

Recycling Percent by Origin

North Yarmouth Curbside Collections

Residents **MUST** have their household waste (in orange bags) and recycling at the curb by **7:00am** on the day of curbside collections.

Reasons why...

These could affect your normal collection time.

- ◆ Number of trucks on that day.
- ◆ Weather !!!
- ◆ Mechanical issues with a truck.

**But the
truck always
goes by at
2pm....**

**DID
YOU
KNOW**

- ◆ Casella Waste Systems picks up on all holidays except Thanksgiving and Christmas.
- ◆ Casella Waste Systems rarely cancels pickup due to bad weather, though your collection time may be delayed.
- ◆ **If Casella Waste Systems must cancel or delay, the Town Office will be notified and staff will post this information on the Town website, northyarmouth.org and social media accounts (Facebook, Instagram & Twitter).**
- ◆ If you have questions contact Casella Waste Systems at (207) 883-9777.

- Household waste must be placed in orange, PAYT bags or it **will not be collected**.
- The trash bags are available in 2 sizes (15 gal. & 33 gal.) for at the Town Office, NY Variety, Stone's Café & Bakery, Hannaford and Shaws grocery stores.
- The maximum weight is 40 pounds. Bags exceeding 40 pounds **will not be collected**.
- Sharps (i.e. needles, blades, etc.) must be placed in a hard container and disposed with household waste - not in the recycling bin.
- Bulky waste, construction or demolition debris **will not be collected**.
- Use separate containers for trash and recycling. Do not set trash on top of recycling.



BANNED FROM THE BIN



1. Batteries (all types)
2. Bubble Wrap, Padded Mailers, Shrink Wrap
3. Food/ Yard Waste
4. CDs, DVDs & VHS Tapes
5. Clothing/Textiles
6. Electronic Waste (cellphones, laptops, printers)
7. Plastic Bags & Wrap
8. Scrap Metal (wire hangers, pipes, auto parts)
9. Styrofoam (all types, this includes foam sheeting)
10. Tanglers (cords, ropes, garden hose, wires)

Have Recycling Questions?

We have answers
... just clicks away!

Download our
**NEW FREE
RECYCLOPEDIA
app today!**



or visit ecomaine.org/recyclopeda



Garbage to Garden

garbagetogarden.org

"If it Grows, it Goes!"

In 2016, the town partnered with the Portland-based program Garbage to Garden. This new program gave residents a nearby location where organic waste could be taken. In return, the compost which that waste created, was made available for local gardens. For townspeople who could not have a compost pile on their own property, but wanted to compost organic waste, this was an exciting opportunity that they embraced it eagerly.

For 2019, the monthly average was 2.46 tons of compostables per month with a total of 29.58 tons for the year.

In 2020, North Yarmouth collected approximately 1.83 tons per month for a total of 21.92 tons for the year. The pandemic affected this, too. Looking at the previous few months, it looks like that usage has returned to pre-Covid levels. 2021 data is trending toward the 2019 numbers.

That's a huge amount of waste that didn't go to landfills!

Reminder: the drop off kiosk is located behind the Fire Rescue Station, across from the Bottle Barn.



Recycling pays off – BIG TIME!

In 2009, two trucks were needed to collect the town's trash. Our population was 3210 people. The costs to the town was \$289,710 during that fiscal year. When the single-sort system began, only one truck was needed, with declining costs as a result. Of course, a truck off the road provided an environmental win, as well, of course.

By 2014, those costs had been further reduced to \$148,067 annually. Population that year was 3692. Since then, there has been a steady decline in town costs. Last year, in 2020, due to the recycling efforts of North Yarmouth citizens and the efficient waste management strategies employed by ecomaine, the net cost to North Yarmouth had reduced to \$80,188. This reduction came even as the population grew to 3770. More people, less cost!

Looking through a different lens, in 2009, the cost of trash disposal for each person through town taxes in town was \$90.25. In 2020, the cost was \$21.27. During this time fees charged by ecomaine also decreased.

During the last 7 months, from July 2020 through February 2021, the town recycled 36% of trash collected. This rate is topped only by Falmouth (36.7%) and is on par with Portland, also at 36%. Could we ever surpass Falmouth?

With each ton of trash removed from the trash stream, North Yarmouth taxpayers save money.

And contribute to a better place for all to live.

Donna Palmer, Living Well in North Yarmouth Committee



Household hazardous waste items can be brought to:
Riverside Recycling Facility,
910 Riverside Street,
Portland, ME, 04104
(207) 797-6200

<http://riversiderecycles.com/hazardous-waste>. Please check their website for hours, a complete list of acceptable items and how to prepare them for drop off.



ELECTRONIC
RECYCLING



RECYCLE
USED OIL

Goodwill Industries will accept donations of computers, phones, gaming consoles, printers and related equipment in any condition. To find a location near you log on to goodwillnne.org

Used motor oil can be brought to the **Public Works Facility** at 19 Public Works Way off from Parsonage Road. You may leave containers anytime near the entrance of the Garage. FMI (207) 829-3274.

North Yarmouth Annual Cleanup Day
Saturday, June 26th
8:00am to 1:00pm
Public Works Facility - Parsonage RD

Perfect time to clean out your garage or basement. This is the day you can dispose of items that you can not leave out for curbside collections. Examples are furniture, appliances, toys, brush, and construction scrap. There is a fee to dispose of some items. Information on Cleanup Day is found on the Town website and will also be posted on our social media pages.

Don't want to wait for Cleanup Day...

You can bring items to:

Freeport Recycling Facility
100 Hedgehog Mountain Road
Freeport, ME 04032
(207) 865-3740
freeportmaine.com/recycling-facility

Riverside Recycling Facility
910 Riverside Street
Portland, ME 04103
(207) 797-6200
<http://riversiderecycles.com/>



RECYCLE YOUR RIDE CONTEST!

#recycleyourrideny



A virtual contest to see who can create the best car, boat, train, plane, bus spaceship...you name it!

Rules are simple:

1. Must be a mode of transportation
2. MUST be made from recycled materials ONLY
3. Does NOT have to be operational
4. Upload photos of your finished creation to Facebook or Instagram using the hashtag **#recycleyourrideny** by April 21st to be eligible for PRIZES!



Prizes will be awarded for Best Use of Recycled Materials and Most Original.

Go to ecomaine.org for a complete list of recyclable materials.

FMI contact Lisa at (207) 829-5555 or ltompson@northyarmouth.org

Thank you to our contest sponsor



ESTABLISHED 1975



North Yarmouth ME 04097

Resident

PRSR
US Postage
PAID
Permit #55
North Yarmouth
Maine 04097
ECRWSS

Town of North Yarmouth
10 Village Square Road
North Yarmouth, ME 04097