



Eric D. Batista
City Manager

CITY OF WORCESTER

cm2023may17022742

Attachment for Item #

8.8 B

May 23, 2023

TO THE WORCESTER CITY COUNCIL

COUNCILORS:

Starting October 1, 2022, any bags containing recycling material or bins containing unacceptable material were left at the curb. A robust public educational campaign to spread the word, was developed in collaboration with the City's communication team, Casella Waste Systems, Inc., the Green Corps, the Department of Sustainability and Resilience, and Customer Service.

A recent audit of the recyclable material collected in the City of Worcester in March at the Auburn Materials Recovery Facility have shown dramatic results. The results showed that the efforts and participation by City residents has been successful, dropping the combined contamination from about 20% to less than 10%. This is a reduction of more than 1,000 tons of contaminated material from the City of Worcester's processed recycling.

By achieving a lower level of contamination, Casella charges a lower price for processing. In an average year, the City processes over 10,000 tons of recycling, so this can result in savings of over \$100,000 in FY24 for the processing costs and savings of \$110,000 from the reduced tonnage overall; a potential combined annual savings of \$210,000. The City of Worcester was chosen to receive the 2023 Casella Sustainability Leadership Award. The award is given to those partners that demonstrate leadership in sustainability. It is a testament to a top-down commitment to sustainability, driven by the City Manager and his administration, the Mayor and City Council, the Department of Public Works and Parks, and the Department of Sustainability and Resilience. Driven by cost considerations, the goal was to reduce waste and contamination in the recycling stream.

The Administration is committed to continue the educational campaign as it recognizes that this is good for the environment as well as promotes fiscal responsibility.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Eric D. Batista". The signature is stylized with large, overlapping loops and a prominent "E" at the beginning.

Eric D. Batista
City Manager



To: Eric D. Batista, City Manager
From: Jay J. Fink, P.E., Commissioner of Public Works and Parks
Date: May 23, 2023
Re: Transmitting informational communication relative to recycling

Starting October 1, 2022, any bags containing recycling material or bins containing unacceptable material were left at the curb. A robust public educational campaign to spread the word, was developed in collaboration with the City's communication team, Casella Waste Systems, Inc., the Green Corps, the Department of Sustainability and Resilience, and Customer Service.

The goal of this collaborative effort was to reduce the level of contamination in the materials that are collected at the curb which then get transported to the facility that processes the materials. The City pays a processing fee which is directly attributable to the percentage of contamination in the materials collected. In order to determine the percentage of contamination, periodic audits are performed to evaluate the purity of our recycled materials, as processing contamination materials is more costly.

A recent audit of the recyclable material collected in the City of Worcester in March at the Auburn Materials Recovery Facility have shown dramatic results. The results showed that the efforts and participation by City residents has been successful, dropping the combined contamination from about 20% to less than 10%. This is a reduction of more than 1,000 tons of contaminated material from the City of Worcester's processing recycling.

In addition to improving the quality of the City's recycling overall, this also equates in savings to the City's bottom line. By achieving a lower level of contamination, Casella charges a lower price for processing from \$120 per ton to \$110 per ton: a saving of \$10 per ton. In an average year, the City processes over 10,000 tons of recycling, so this can result in savings of over \$100,000 in FY24 for the processing costs and savings of \$110,000 from the reduced tonnage overall; a potential combined annual savings of \$210,000.

The actual amount of measured contamination found in the collected material varies throughout the City. The Monday collection area did the best with only a five percent contamination rate while the Wednesday collection area still needs more aggressive messaging and education as contamination levels were at fifteen percent.

On the basis of these successes, the City of Worcester was chosen to receive the 2023 Casella Sustainability Leadership Award. The award is given to those partners that

demonstrate leadership in sustainability. It is a testament to a top-down commitment to sustainability, driven by the City Manager and his administration, the Mayor and City Council, the Department of Public Works and Parks, and the Department of Sustainability and Resilience. Driven by cost considerations, the goal was to reduce waste and contamination in the recycling stream. The City delivered new recycling bins to residents as a catalyst and implemented an outreach and educational campaign around proper recycling.

The Administration is committed to continue the educational campaign as it recognizes that this is good for the environment as well as promotes fiscal responsibility.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Jay J. Fink". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a prominent initial "J" and "F".

Jay J. Fink, P.E.
Commissioner, Department of Public Works & Parks

Attachment

YOUR GUIDE TO EFFECTIVE TRASH AND RECYCLING MANAGEMENT AT HOME

Recycling

The City of Worcester is committed to becoming more eco-friendly and we need your help. As a resident, it's crucial to pay attention to what you're putting in your recycling bin. To improve Worcester's Recycling program, we advise against recycling single-use or disposable items like plastic bags, plastic film, pizza boxes, and packaging within delivery boxes as these items are prohibited.

Visit WorcesterMA.gov/Recycling for a comprehensive list of acceptable and unacceptable items, plus the Recyclopedia tool to help you recycle and dispose of items correctly. Additional bins can be purchased for \$12 each.

Trash

Residents can dispose of household waste via our pay-as-you-throw **Yellow Trash Bag program** by purchasing official City of Worcester trash bags at various local retailers throughout the City. Only official bags will be collected at the curb.

Textiles

Worcester has teamed up with HELPSY to provide a convenient and complimentary home pickup service for residents who want to get rid of their used or unwanted clothing, footwear, accessories and linens. To schedule a pickup, visit www.HELPSY.co/WorcesterMA or call 800-244-6350, bag up your items, and leave them on your front steps – HELPSY will take care of the rest. Please ensure that the items you are disposing of are clean, dry, and odorless by the time they are picked up.

Yard Waste

For resident convenience, DPW&P manages three drop-off sites for yard waste (i.e., grass clippings, leaves, branches, twigs, and other organic materials that come from your yard or garden). The drop-off sites, which can be found at the following locations, operate from April to November:

- 1065 Millbury Street - Residential drop-off center, next to the VFW Post.
 - This drop-off site includes the disposal of bulk waste items where most items cost \$5. For more information on making an appointment and rates visit tinyurl.com/bwdWorcester
- 300 Chandler Street- In the parking lot across from Foley Stadium.
- 299 Clark Street- Near the East Mountain Street intersection.

Household Hazardous Waste

The next Household Hazardous Waste Collection date is Saturday, June 24, 2023, from 9am - 12pm located at 1065 Millbury Street. To make an appointment visit www.tinyurl.com/hhwcWorcester



LEARN MORE



SU GUÍA PARA MANEJAR EFECTIVAMENTE LA BASURA Y RECICLAJE EN EL HOGAR

Reciclaje

La Ciudad de Worcester se compromete a ser más respetuosa del medio ambiente y necesitamos su ayuda. Como residente, es importante prestar atención a lo que está poniendo en su contenedor de reciclaje. Para mejorar el programa de reciclaje de Worcester, **aconsejamos no reciclar artículos desechables de un solo uso como bolsas de plástico, cintas de plástico, cajas de pizza y materiales de empaques dentro de cajas de entrega ya que estos artículos están prohibidos.**

Visite WorcesterMA.gov/Recycling para obtener una lista completa de artículos aceptables e inaceptables, además la herramienta Recyclopedia para ayudar a reciclar y deshacerse de los artículos correctamente. **Se puede comprar contenedores adicionales por \$12 cada uno.**

Basura

Los residentes pueden deshacerse de los desperdicios del hogar a través de nuestro "pay-as-you-throw" **Programa de Bolsas de Basura Amarillas** comprando las bolsas de basura oficiales de la Ciudad de Worcester en varias tiendas locales en toda la ciudad. **Solo se recogerán las bolsas oficiales que estan en la acera.**

Textiles

La Ciudad de Worcester se ha asociado con HELPSY para proveer un **servicio de recogida a domicilio** gratuito y conveniente para residentes que quieren deshacerse de su ropa, zapatos, accesorios y ropa de cama usados o no deseados. Para hacer una cita de colección, **visite www.HELPSY.co/WorcesterMA o llame al 800-244-6350**, empaque sus artículos en una bolsa y dejelos en las gradas de su casa - HELPSY se encargará del resto. Por favor asegúrese de que los artículos que está desechando estén limpios, secos y libres de olores cuando sean recogidos.

Residuos de Jardín

Para la conveniencia de los residentes, DPW&P maneja tres sitios de entrega para los desechos del jardín (es decir, recortes de césped, hojas, ramas, ramitas y otros materiales orgánicos que vienen de su patio o jardín). **Los sitios de entrega**, que se encuentran en los siguientes lugares, operan de Abril a Noviembre:

- 1065 Millbury Street - Centro de entrega residencial, al lado del Poste VFW.
 - Este sitio de entrega incluye la disposición de artículos de desechos grandes donde la mayoría de los artículos cuestan \$5. Para obtener más información sobre cómo hacer una cita y las tarifas, **visite tinyurl.com/bwdWorcester**
- 300 Chandler Street - En el estacionamiento frente al Estadio Foley.
- 299 Clark Street - Cerca de la intersección de East Mountain Street.

Residuos Peligrosos del Hogar

La próxima fecha de recogida de desechos peligrosos del hogar es **el sábado 24 de junio de 2023, de 9am a 12pm**, en 1065 Millbury Street. Para hacer una cita visite www.tinyurl.com/hhwcWorcester.



The City of
WORCESTER

