

## Andover Residents Welcome at Household Hazardous Waste Collection Days

### Press release

On Saturday, August 3, household hazardous waste collection sites in Bristol, Laconia, Moultonborough, and Ossipee will be open from 8:30 AM to noon. Residents and property owners in Andover and 23 other participating communities may each bring up to 10 gallons or 50 pounds of household hazardous products for safe disposal.

Household hazardous waste is all around us. Look under your kitchen or bathroom sink, at the basement workbench, in the garage or garden shed – wherever you store cleaning products, home and vehicle maintenance items, or garden chemicals. If a product label says “Danger,” “Warning,” “Poison,” or “Caution,” the product contains ingredients that are flammable, poisonous, will burn the skin and eyes, or react violently with other chemicals. These items, if disposed of improperly, are a very real threat to our natural environment.

Municipal treatment plants and leachfields are incapable of processing these chemicals. Landfill disposal poses the same risks, and the result is the eventual contamination of our groundwater upon which everyone is dependent.

Every year since 1986, the Lakes Region Planning Commission has

helped coordinate annual household hazardous waste collections for communities throughout the region interested in participating in the shared collection program.

It is never too early to start gathering waste for the collection; when opening up a summer camp, preparing to move to a new house, or just cleaning out the garage. Here's what to gather for Household Hazardous Waste Collection days:

- From the house: drain cleaners, oven cleaners, metal polish, arts and craft supplies, photo chemicals, floor cleaners, dry cleaning fluids, broken fluorescent light bulbs.
- From the yard and garden: pesticides, herbicides, insect sprays, rodent killers, pool chemicals, muriatic acid, pest control strips, cesspool cleaners.
- From the workbench: rust preventatives, wood preservatives and strippers, oil-based paint, paint thinner, solvents, sealants, old chemistry kits.
- From the garage: used motor oil, radiator cleaners, antifreeze, brake fluid, old car batteries, engine and radiator flushes, gasoline, degreasers, transmission fluid.

For more information, visit [TinyURL.com/AndoverHHW](http://tinyurl.com/AndoverHHW) or call 279-8171. 



**Early Saturday morning, July 13, Andover taxpayer Ron Evans dumps glass bottles into the small, Bobcat-friendly container for glass recycling, while Transfer Station employee Deb Guinard checks the level of mixed recyclables in the big orange container.**

Photo: Charlie Darling

### Recycling from page 1

“They didn’t even have to go into the Recycling Building. They put the recyclable glass in one container, all the other recycling in the other, and they were done.”

#### Life Without Balers

The Selectmen authorized the sudden switch in order to put an end to the incessant praying over (and occasional cursing at) the two ancient balers in the Recycling Building at the Transfer Station. Each has been on the verge of collapse for some time; repair would have been expensive and probably not a great investment for machines of that age. But the loss of either one could have crippled our former recycling scheme, which relied heavily on our ability to bale the cardboard, aluminum, and plastic #1 after each had been sorted and separated.

Andover’s new recycling scheme, dubbed “Single Stream, with Glass on the Side” (SSGS) offers most of the major benefit of single-stream recycling: because there’s (little) separating involved, it’s easier for Transfer Station “customers” to recycle. Other towns have found that when recycling is easier, less goes in the trash hopper, and tipping fees (for Andover, \$64 per ton at Penacook) go down.

At this point, of course, it’s not clear how much we’ll save on tipping fees – that depends on how much recycling people throw into the big orange SSGS container (and the little glass container) instead of into the hopper. And it’s not as though there aren’t costs associated with SSGS – there are, as well as lost revenues that the former recycling arrangement used to bring in.

But at this point, it’s too early to know how the bottom line will work out. It will take a few months of running and tweaking the new system to get a clear picture of the financial impacts. But at this point, we can at least talk about the different factors in play.

#### Things that help the bottom line:

- We don’t have to repair either of the two failing balers, nor pay someone to run them.
- A recycled ton avoids the \$64 tipping fee at Penacook and helps keep

trips to Penacook to a minimum.

- We no longer have to pay to have the mixed-paper part of our former recycling program hauled and recycled.
- We can stockpile electronics in the Recycling Building rather than renting a trailer to stockpile them in.

• The glass collected “on the side” will be crushed, ground up, and used as road-building material by the Andover Road Agent.

#### Things that hurt the bottom line:

- An SSGS recycled ton costs \$28 to tip at the Belmont single-stream recycling plant, plus we have to pay to have it hauled there.
- We no longer get revenue from the cardboard, aluminum, steel, and plastic #1 we used to bale and sell.

No one knows at this point what other factors will come into play, nor how the finances will shake out over the long haul.

#### That Yellow Piece of Paper

If you haven’t seen the yellow piece of paper they’ve been passing out at the Transfer Station, here’s what you need to know about the new SSGS recycling scheme:

**Glass** goes in the small glass container only.

**All other recyclables** go in the big orange container.

#### Acceptable Recyclables

**Boxes (broken down):** corrugated, cereal, pasta, shoe, juice, egg cartons.

**Paper:** newspapers, junk mail (window envelopes OK), office paper, envelopes, catalogs, paperback books, telephone books, brown bags, magazines and inserts, folders

**Plastic Containers:** #1 through #7, including milk jugs, bleach and detergent jugs, shampoo bottles, laundry baskets, buckets

**Household Metal:** foil, aluminum cans, steel cans, empty aerosol cans, pie plates, trays

#### Unacceptable Recyclables

Garbage, Food, Potato Chip Bags, Vinyl Siding, Bubble Wrap, Window Glass, Mirrors, Light Bulbs, Pyrex or ceramic dishes, Foam Packaging, Styrofoam, Plastic Bags, Waste, Paint, Hazardous Waste, Oils, Diapers, Propane Tanks, Needles or Sharp Objects, Pesticide Containers



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