

Going Green in Londonderry

Recycling Just Got Easier: Single Stream

A change has come to Londonderry recycling and it's called "single stream." Waste processors are building material recovery plants that take all manner of household recyclables and separate them mechanically into their respective types: metal, glass, plastic, paper, etc. In the past, paper items were accepted and processed separately from all other items.

How does this affect us? Londonderry--which was the first town in New Hampshire to establish a curbside recycling program-- had a "dual stream" system for close to 30 years. Residents have been recycling paper products into one bin or bag, and containers (glass, metal, plastic) into a second bin or bag. These items were formerly kept separate in the recycling truck.

However, because our hauler now takes our recyclables to a single stream recycling plant, he is now mixing all of our curbside recyclables together in his truck. Hence, there is no need for residents to continue to distinguish paper from containers. Now, it's important to remember there is no change to what can or cannot be recycled. Only the method of sorting changed.

As of July 2016 we are collecting recyclables the way we already collected our trash: via standard carts with wheels and trucks with automated pick up arms. Not only is this an easy way to recycle, but it helps keep our costs down while reducing the instances of papers being blown off uncovered bins.

We hope this change makes it even easier to recycle in Londonderry, enabling us to decrease the amount of trash we generate and thereby decrease what we pay for disposal costs. If you have any questions, please call Londonderry's Public Works Department at 432-1100 ext. 137 or 193.

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Londonderry Solid Waste and Environment Committee