

SOLID WASTE AND ENVIRONMENT COMMITTEE ANNUAL REPORT FOR 2017

Our committee consists of ordinary citizens like you who want to make a difference in their community. At \$1.9 million, solid waste is the 4th largest line item in the Town budget. The Committee assists the Environmental Services Division of the Public Works Department in managing Londonderry's solid waste while seeking to enhance Londonderry's public landscape. By establishing many user-friendly programs over the years, we have helped residents minimize our municipal waste, reduce our tax burden, and protect and beautify our local environment.

For information on waste and recycling programs, see the homepage of this Committee as well as that of the Department of Public Works. Our Beautify Londonderry subcommittee has its own homepage, and all are available at londonderry.org.

Our main activities in 2017:

- We are proud to announce that the Town's recycling diversion rate (based on tonnage) has increased from 20% to 24% over the past year, reflecting in large measure the impact of our recent transition to single stream, automated recycling collection. Now that virtually all residents have their own recycling cart to put out at the curb, everyone in Londonderry is contributing to the higher recycling rate. This reduces our trash tonnage and therefore our solid waste expenses.
- We have formed a partnership with the Conservation Commission to take turns writing monthly columns in the *Londonderry Times* starting in January 2018. The purpose of the pieces will be to inform and educate the community about local conservation, solid waste and environmental issues on a regular basis. Look for the columns under the banners of "Going Green in Londonderry" and "Conservation Matters."
- Supporting and publicizing the DPW installation of a medical sharps waste dropbox at Town Hall on the second floor. We also recruited the 5 pharmacies in Londonderry to publicize the new sharps kiosk to their customers.
- Continuing our door to door outreach to small businesses in town to educate them about how to safely recycle fluorescent lights so as to keep them out of dumpsters and the environment as a whole. Small businesses can now access the Drop Off Center from April to November for this purpose at a nominal cost. In addition, Benson Lumber & Hardware accepts all types of fluorescent lamps from residents daily at no charge, and Home Depot accepts compact fluorescent bulbs (CFLs).
- Supporting the annual Household Hazardous Waste Day events in Londonderry and Derry, our Used Oil Recycling Program at the Central Fire Station offered monthly (except for January and July) on Saturday mornings, and the Drop-Off Center services on West Road (available Saturdays April – November). We have also newly partnered with Tisdell Transmissions, which now accepts used motor oil from residents on weekdays at their shop at 27 Ash St.
- Managing the Town's 5 Welcome to Londonderry sign plots.
- Advising the volunteers of our Beautify Londonderry subcommittee.

We are grateful to Shady Hill Greenhouses and Nursery, Aprea Painting LLC and Artisan Landscapes for maintaining our Welcome to Londonderry sign plots. And we thank the *Londonderry Times* for hosting our "Going Green in Londonderry" columns.

Plans for 2018:

- Complete our outreach to small businesses across town to inform them of the Fluorescent Recycling Program for small businesses at the Drop-Off Center and alternative lighting options.
- Produce a Public Service Announcement video to promote use of the new Medical Sharps kiosk at Town hall.
- Plan a “face lift” for the Drop Off Center with new signage and other ideas to enhance its image and productivity.
- Evaluate producing additional videos of town solid waste programs.
- Identify new ways to reduce or prevent municipal waste and maximize recycling, especially in light of the new restrictions China has placed on the recyclables market.

Anyone who is interested in working on ways to reduce municipal waste and enhance the local environment is encouraged to join us at our meetings on the 2nd Monday of the month, from 7:00 to 8:30 PM, in the Woodmont conference room at Town Hall.

Respectfully submitted,

Paul Margolin, Chair
Duane Himes, Secretary
Gary Stewart
Joy Muller
Lynn Wiles
Rick Darveau

DPW Liaison:
Robert Kerry, Environmental Engineer