

LONDONDERRY SOLID WASTE AND ENVIRONMENT COMMITTEE

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. 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 and Beautify Londonderry, visit the Committee's homepage at londonderrynh.org.

Our main activities in 2015:

- Established new programs for recycling fluorescent lamps. For the very first time, small businesses can access the Drop Off Center from April to November for this purpose at a very nominal cost. In addition, Benson Lumber & Hardware now accepts fluorescent lamps from residents at no charge. The committee presented the programs to both the Londonderry Rotary and the Greater Derry Londonderry Chamber of Commerce.
- Worked with Vinnie Curro to complete and begin running new videos on the Town's Household Hazardous Waste Days, Waste Oil Collection, and the Drop Off Center. These can be viewed periodically or seasonally on the Londonderry municipal cable channel. We also thank Erin Brodman at the Londonderry Access Center for preparing the videos under Vinnie's direction.
- Communicated the rollout of single stream recycling to residents. Members visited the Casella single stream plant in Charlestown, MA and gained a new appreciation for collecting and processing recyclable material. The Committee also supported the DPW's request for proposal and plans for transitioning the current curbside recycling program to an automated pickup system, with standard carts—larger than those used for garbage—and potentially a biweekly collection schedule (pick up every other week) with onset of the new contract in 2016. Environmental Engineer Bob Kerry also visited the Waste Management materials recovery plant in Billerica, MA.
- Supported the annual Household Hazardous Waste Day events in Londonderry and Derry, the Town's Used Oil Recycling Program at the LFD on Saturday mornings, and the Drop-Off Center services.
- Managed the Town's 5 Welcome to Londonderry sign plots and relocated the sign at exit 4 on route 102 to a more appropriate site 120 yards further west. We also investigated the possibility of installing a Welcome sign at the entrance to Pettengill Road by Ray Wiczorek Drive airport access road, at the Town Manager's request.
- Prepared periodic columns for the public's benefit in our *Going Green in Londonderry* column in the Londonderry Times, in partnership with the NH Dept. of Environmental Services. Topics included: 1. Tips to avoid Food Waste; 2. New Fluorescent Lamp Recycling programs; 3. Mercury in the Environment and Safe Fish Consumption Levels; 4. What not to flush down the toilet; 5. Single Stream Recycling rollout.
- Advised the volunteers of our Beautify Londonderry subcommittee.

We want to thank Republic Services for offering three annual \$500 scholarships to our graduating seniors. We are grateful to Shady Hill Greenhouses and Nursery, who landscapes two of our five Welcome to Londonderry sign sites, and to Trimmers Landscaping, Independence Lawn, and Aprea Painting LLC (new this year), for landscaping the other three sites. Thanks also to KC Signs for moving our Welcome sign at exit 4 on route 102 down the road a piece.

The Town's recycling diversion rate (based on tonnage) increased from 14% to 20% over the past 6 years, reflecting the impact of our Limited Waste program featuring automated trash collection and standard-sized carts. We are hopeful that rate will increase further as we transition to automated recycling collection starting in July 2016.

Plans for 2016:

- Visit small businesses across town to inform them of the new Fluorescent Recycling Program at the Drop-Off Center. We will also speak at several networking meetings in the Londonderry area.
- Partner with the DPW and meet with residents at the 2016 Old Home Day to spread the word about our new recycling programs and automated recycling collection.
- Partner with the Police Dept. to promote the debut of their 24/7 drug drop off program in 2016.
- Work with Vinnie Curro to prepare some additional videos of Londonderry's solid waste programs, and add them to our homepage on the Town website in an *on demand* format.
- Potentially install a new Welcome to Londonderry sign at the western entrance to Pettengill Road, the site of substantial new industrial development.
- Identify additional ways to reduce municipal waste and increase our diversion rate.

We want to thank member Marty Srugis for his contributions over the last several years. Marty is retiring from the Committee in December, but plans to continue volunteering at the monthly LFD Used Oil Collection on Saturday mornings.

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

Respectfully submitted,

Paul Margolin, Chair
Duane Himes, Secretary
Gary Stewart
Marty Srugis

DPW Liaison:
Robert Kerry, Environmental Engineer