

LONDONDERRY SOLID WASTE AND ENVIRONMENT COMMITTEE

The mission of the Solid Waste and Environment Committee is to educate, inform, and lead the community on recycling, solid waste disposal, and other environmental initiatives and issues to improve the quality of life in Londonderry.

The Solid Waste and Environment Committee was formed in 1988 to address citizen concerns with the impact of solid waste disposal on the quality of life in Londonderry. At over \$2 million annually, solid waste is the fourth largest line item in the Town budget. The Committee assists the Environmental Services Division of the Public Works Department in promoting and managing Londonderry's solid waste recycling and disposal programs.

The many user-friendly programs implemented and/or supported by the Committee over the years have helped residents utilize methods to minimize their waste, reduce their tax burden, and protect and beautify their local environment. The Committee also partners with Beautify Londonderry, an all-volunteer effort focused on reducing litter along town roads and undertaking general landscaping and beautification projects on town owned properties.

The committee's main activities in 2020 included:

- The committee fielded questions from the public about the Town's solid waste and recycling programs. The Town's recycling diversion rate (based on tonnage) is averaging 25%, reflecting in large measure the impact of our single stream, automated recycling collection. Residents have their own blue recycling cart to put out at the curb, which contributes to the higher recycling rates, which in turn lowers taxes.
- The committee supported the annual Household Hazardous Waste Day events in Londonderry and Derry, and Drop-Off Center services on West Road (open Saturdays April – November, and Wednesday afternoons from early May – mid November).
- The committee had to scale back the Waste Oil Reclamation Program at the Central Fire Station to address COVID-19 protocols. Until such time that this program resumes on a regular basis, Tisdell Transmission on 27 Ash Street has stepped up to serve as the primary waste oil disposal location in town (please call first for an appointment).
- The committee expanded its use of social media to disseminate solid waste and recycling news and information.
- The committee continued our partnership with Londonderry Trailways and the Conservation Commission to take turns writing monthly columns in the Londonderry Times. These pieces 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".
- The committee managed the Town's five "Welcome to Londonderry" sign plots.
- The committee advised the volunteers of the "Beautify Londonderry" subcommittee.

Plans for 2021:

- Continue leveraging Social Media to provide timely solid waste and environmental information to Londonderry citizens.

- Work to assure that timely and effective solid waste and environmental information is available on the town website.
- Continue working to increase residents' awareness of plastic film / bag waste issues, including how to recycle them at grocery stores, and the unseen impacts of putting plastic bags and films in their blue carts.
- Work with local businesses that are interested in implementing "Green" employee engagement projects.
- Identify new ways to reduce or prevent municipal waste and maximize recycling, especially in light of the global restrictions placed on the recyclables market. Focus areas will be:
 - Keeping plastic bags and film out of residents' recycling carts and working with Waste Management to educate residents on recycling this material.
 - Keeping other inappropriate (non-recyclable) material out of residents' recycling carts and increasing the resident's awareness of the increased costs that this contamination causes.
- Continue collaboration with other solid waste or sustainability committees in the region on projects of mutual interest.

The committee thanks the following local businesses for their continued support:

- Tisdell Transmissions, 27 Ash Street, for accepting used motor oil from residents.
- Three local landscaping companies maintain the "Welcome to Londonderry" signs located at five gateway entrances to town. Shady Hill Greenhouses and Nursery (with the signs on route 102 at the Flea Market and on Rockingham Road near Backyard Brewery), Artisan Landscapes (at Exit 4 in front of Wendy's restaurant), and Groundhog Landscaping (at the corner of Mammoth Road and Chase Road, and on Rockingham Road near the Derry town line).
- Londonderry Times newspaper for hosting our "Going Green in Londonderry" columns.

For more information on waste and recycling programs, go to londonderrynh.org and visit the committee's homepage and the Department of Public Works homepage. The Beautify Londonderry subcommittee also has its own homepage at londonderrynh.org.

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

Respectfully submitted,

Chair: Lynn Wiles

DPW Liaison: Robert Kerry, Environmental Engineer

Secretary: Duane Himes

Gary Stewart

Joy Muller

John Mahon