

Chasing Arrows

the RIRRC newsletter for
Rhode Island's municipal
recycling officials

March 2016 Edition

IMPORTANT DATES

Eco-Depot



March 12

Barrington



March 19

RIRRC

March 26

Providence

April 2

Lincoln

April 9

Coventry



April 9:

RIRRC

April 16

Middletown




April 23


Foster

April 30

Cumberland



 = e-waste

 = foam

2016 Eco-Depot Schedule

*****Updated 3/7/16*****

The Quarterly Municipal Meeting originally scheduled for March 16 has been moved to May 3.



*The loader operator gets ready to scoop recyclables up into the drum feeder.
The MRF tip floor is a busy place!*

Safety First

At RIRRC, we take pride in and strive to provide a helpful and safe workplace for all employees, customers and contractors. It starts at the front gate with helpful banners to prompt to obey the speed limit, wear vests and more. We urge everyone to come here safely, work safely and go home safely. We furthered our commitment to safety by training a staff member who serves as a Certified Safety & Health Officer.

Wherever you are on site, here are some safety reminders to pass along to your drivers & haulers:

- Wear reflective, high visibility clothing at all times on site
- Wear eye protection when on the MRF tipping floor or the landfill working face
- Remain within 6 feet of their truck at all times on MRF tipping floor or the landfill working face
- No cell phone use while driving, reversing or operating hoisting equipment
- Trucks must have all safety equipment in working condition, e.g., flashing beacon, lights, back-up alarm or a reversing camera
- Obey the speed limit of 15 mph, and heed direction from RIRRC personnel

As a reminder, our agreements with the cities and towns includes the "Rhode Island Resource Recovery Corporation Facility Rules" which states "All customers will be required to wear high visibility vests at all times on site. Any customer not wearing a high visibility vest will not be allowed to use the RIRRC facility." Because of our commitment to safety, this rule may be enforced more regularly if drivers are exiting their vehicle while not wearing the required reflective, high visibility outerwear. Please help us to help you stay safe.

Grant Applications Due 4/1

RI municipalities can again apply for a grant from RIRRC, up to \$5,000, with a dollar-for-dollar match from the city/town. Some examples of approved use of grant funds: **expand** current drop-off programs, resident mailing to promote recycling/waste reduction, promoting backyard composting, event or public space recycling bins, and more. Email [Kristin Littlefield](mailto:Kristin.Littlefield@rirc.org) for a copy of the grant guidelines, with questions, or with your completed grant applications.



In case you missed it...

Waste Characterization Study Meeting

On February 23, municipal officials gathered in our Boardroom to hear Mike McGonagle share the results of the 2015 Waste Characterization Study. The main takeaway was that 62% of the material we studied from municipal accounts could have been diverted from the landfill. Of that 62%, 14% could have been recycled at the MRF, 16% could have been recycled through drop-off programs and 32% could have been composted in backyard bins. That left 2% that could have been composted in a large scale facility (large stumps, protein food waste) and the remaining 34% was trash with no other current diversion outlet. We can't recycle our way out of the problem, but we do need to do long range planning around solid waste.

Katherine is working on summary documents to share the results with residents. [Email her](#) if you'd like to give any feedback on what the general population of RI should know!



We're ready to go on the tour! From back to front: Donna McMahon & Steve Coutu from East Providence, Vanny Mey & Mike Debroisse from Woonsocket, Mo McManus from Newport and Andrea Hall from Burrillville

Phase VI Tour with Inga

After the Waste Characterization Study meeting, we hopped on the MaxBus to take a tour of Phase VI and our whole site, led by RIRRC's Senior Engineer, Inga Lermontov-Hoit. Inga shared in-depth information on the construction of Phase VI such as complex layering system in place that makes the landfill like a giant, leak-proof plastic bag, the drainage of rain water, construction of new cells, and groundwater requirements. We also drove around the rest of our site and learned about how RIRRC is bound to strict regulatory requirements. Inga also pointed out that much of the work we are required to do by law and the other projects we do are very time and money intensive. Finally, Inga talked about the Leachate Pre-treatment facility, which processes 400,000 gallons of leachate per day, before it's flushed out to the Narragansett Bay sewer system.

Want to know more facts & tidbits about RIRRC? [Download the recently updated Guide to RIRRC.](#)

Catch up:

Projo Articles

Sarah Kite-Reeves: "Trash Tutorials"

- ⇒ [Containers should always be empty](#)
- ⇒ [No extra steps needed to recycle cardboard boxes](#)
- ⇒ [Frozen food bags are often recyclable](#)
- ⇒ [What to do with old albums, trophies](#)
- ⇒ [Coated cardboard products can't be recycled - yet](#)

Krystal Noiseux: "5 Things"

- ⇒ [5 reusables that cut down on waste](#)
- ⇒ [5 things to know about recycling plastics in R.I.](#)
- ⇒ [5 tips for recycling your Valentine gifts](#)
- ⇒ [5 R.I. recycling tips inspired by Presidents' Day](#)
- ⇒ [5 items to dispose of every once in a while](#)

Columns can be accessed online for free, for 30 days following original publication.

Katherine's Corner

#RecyclingRight, Myth-busting and everything in between

From the rules of thumb of recycling to composting 101, February's social media focus was all about #RecyclingRight.

We kicked the month off with a bang, launching our new Instagram account (@RIRRC, are you following us yet?). March's focus: Myth-busting! We've all heard urban legends (the landfill being the highest point in Rhode Island is a personal favorite), and this month we're tackling common misconceptions head on! [Check out this post](#) on not having to separate trash from recycling. Heard any interesting (read: outlandish) myths recently? [Email me](#) and I'll feature it (and your city/town) this month!

Stay connected,
Katherine

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Upcoming Webinars:

- 3/10: Moving Towards Zero Waste In Office Settings
- 3/29: CRTs: What Can Be Done?
- 3/31: Changes in the Waste Stream— the Future of the Curbside Material Mix

Upcoming Conferences:

- March 10: RI Compost Conference – see below
- March 29: MassRecycle's annual R3 Recycling & Organics Conference & Trade Show, Quincy, MA
- May 16-17: Northeast Resource Recovery Association's 35th Anniversary Annual Conference, Nashua, NH

How to respond to attacks on recycling

News Bits from Rhode Island

- ⇒ Middletown Officials: It's Time to Talk Trash
- ⇒ Providence, We Have a Recycling Problem
- ⇒ ecoRI: Global Trends and Bad Local Behavior Limit Recycling's Profitability
- ⇒ Trash costs going up for haulers, residents in Westerly
- ⇒ Editorial: Landfill Buck Stops Here
- ⇒ Rain, Recycling and Compost Bins Available to Portsmouth Residents
- ⇒ Portsmouth Makes Recycling Push
- ⇒ Newport: Bulky Waste Under Review
- ⇒ Recycling Meeting Answers Questions in West Warwick
- ⇒ Residents' recycling decisions continue to disappoint
- ⇒ RIRRC promises streamlined recycling rules, standardized labels
- ⇒ Expert: Failing to recycle is against the law
- ⇒ Tiverton: New Blue Recycling Totes Selling Fast

2016 Compost Conference

Sponsored by the Environment Council of RI and the Rhode Island College Office of Sustainability. It will be held at RIC, and it's just \$35 to register for the day, including lunch.

Mike McGonagle will be presenting on the Waste Characterization Study during the afternoon's panel. RIRRC will also have a table in the exhibitor area— come visit us!



DO YOU ROGO? *

* RECYCLE ON THE GO

Keep America Beautiful (KAB) provides 10 tips for designing public space recycling programs in their 12-page guide. Consider it a resource, whether you have public space recycling or not. It includes great tips and study results to make effective recycling programs, such as clearly labeling recycling bins. As you know, RIRRC is working on partnership with Recycle Across America to standardize recycling bin labels across the RI. The EPA also has "Recycle on the Go" resources— check out their website. KAB's Alec Cooley also wrote an article in Resource Recycling magazine that touches on the same sentiments as KAB's public space recycling guide.



Credit: E. Vergano

Above Right: Narragansett's carts display the Recycle Across America stickers, and can be found in the public spaces schools' cafeterias and sports fields throughout the town.

At the beginning of February, WPRI ran two stories on the 5 o'clock and 6 o'clock news broadcasts. WPRI's Shannon Hegy spent some time with Mike OConnell, RIRRC's Executive Director, who talked about our options when the Central Landfill fills up.

Check out **both** videos on the main news story and the accompanying interactive piece.



Trash Troubles