

# Chasing Arrows

the RIRRC newsletter for  
Rhode Island's municipal  
recycling officials

May/June 2016 Edition

## IMPORTANT DATES

**June 4**

Eco-Depot  
Warren



**Reminder:** RIRRC closes at 1pm

**June 11**

Eco-Depot  
West Warwick



**June 11**

Eco-Depot  
Block Island



**June 15**

Municipal Meeting  
**Rescheduled to Aug. or Sept.**

**June 18**

Eco-Depot  
Portsmouth



**June 18**

Eco-Depot  
Johnston



**June 25**

Eco-Depot  
South Kingstown



**Ongoing:** E-waste  
recycling events  
by Indie Cycle



**Visit our Upcoming Events page  
for the latest updates!**

**2016 Eco-Depot Schedule**

## Earth Day 2016

### RIRRC Tip Fee Waiver Program



**East Providence**



**West Greenwich**

**16 communities - 46 areas**

**76.18 tons = \$4,114 value\***

*\*based on \$54/ton, which is the average price paid per ton*



**Cranston**

**Edgewood Waterfront Preservation Assn.**



**Burrillville**



**Smithfield**



**Providence/WaterFire**

credit: Jen Bonin



All Volunteers  
Receive Free  
Clean & Green  
Shades

**Newport**





# Bye Bye Mattress

RI launched the Mattress Recycling Council's Bye Bye Mattress recycling program on May 3, with the official handoff on May 1. Although there are no hard numbers to share yet, Justine Fallon, MRC's Northeast Program Coordinator, said the response so far has been great from everyone involved.

The press conference on May 3 sparked a lot of great press coverage such as [WPRI](#), [the Narragansett Times](#), [the Warwick Beacon](#) (and again), and the press release

ran in multiple news outlets such as the Cranston Herald and Johnston Sunrise, and was featured in both Sarah's and Krystal's Projo columns.

Photo by Joe Giblin



RIRRC's Sarah Reeves hands off the mattress program to MRC's Mike O'Donnell

Justine also reported that the program's start saw an influx in mattresses, from people not knowing it was an ongoing program, or just because people finally were able to rid their houses of unwanted legacy mattresses, free of charge. The mattress stream should level soon. She also reminds everyone to stack the mattresses, especially in the trailers, so they can be filled efficiently and to their capacity.

## ?? Mattress FAQs ??

**Q: What do we do when a resident has a non-recyclable mattress, i.e. it's infested with bed bugs, severely damaged/twisted, wet, frozen or soiled?**

A: If you are a recycling center, you can turn the resident away and send them directly to RIRRC, where they will incur the \$50 per unit fee. Or, if you have a transfer station, you can choose to take that non-recyclable mattress at \$50 each (or send them directly to RIRRC). Non-recyclable mattresses can be loaded in with your trash and you will be billed accordingly at \$50/unit.

**Q: What do we do with non-program items like fold-out sofa beds, air mattresses, futons/furniture, crib mattresses, water beds, car beds, bedding and loose mattress toppers?**

A: These items aren't defined as a mattress or subject to the \$10 recycling fee at time of purchase, and would be billed at the MSW rate of \$32/ton.

**Q: What about Sleep Number beds and foam mattresses like Tempurpedic?**

A: These items ARE defined as a mattress, subject to the \$10 recycling fee at time of purchase and CAN be recycled under MRC's program.

**Q: A private institution/business in my city/town has mattresses in a quantity that I can't take, what can they do?**

A: They can make arrangements with [Justine Fallon](#) at 860-904-0981.

Catch up:

## Projo Articles

Sarah Kite-Reeves: "Trash Tutorials"

- ⇒ [Getting rid of bottle caps and paint cans](#)
- ⇒ [R.I. sites for recycling used cooking oil](#)
- ⇒ [Recycle textiles in clothing bins](#)
- ⇒ [Small broken plastic appliances belong in trash](#)
- ⇒ [Program eases recycling of mattresses, box springs](#)

Krystal Noiseux: "5 Things"

- ⇒ [A laundry list of cleaning products you can recycle](#)
- ⇒ [5 tips for recycling running-related items](#)
- ⇒ [R.I. first state to adopt recycling labels](#)
- ⇒ [Recycling flowers, pots and vases](#)
- ⇒ [5 tips for garden recycling](#)
- ⇒ [Mattress program covers the cost of disposal](#)
- ⇒ [Garden compost for sale by RIRRC](#)
- ⇒ [Retire those Memorial Day decorations properly](#)

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

## Katherine's Corner

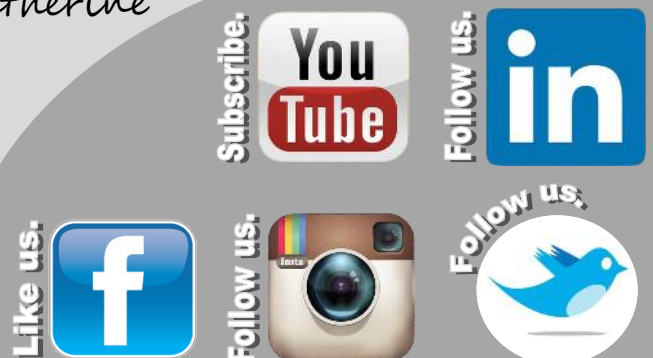
### Spring Cleaning Social Media Accounts

It was touch and go for a while, but spring has finally sprung. Here are a few tips to brush the dust off of your social media accounts:

- 1) Update your Facebook/Twitter/YouTube cover photos! Think flowers, blooming trees and lush green grass.
- 2) Keep it short. Time is money folks and during the warmer months, people are less likely to read long posts. Try to keep posts under 300 characters when possible!
- 3) Embrace vanity. Vanity URLs that is. When you set up your page, Facebook assigns you a long URL with random letters and numbers, however once your Facebook page reaches 25 likes, you can claim a custom vanity URL. You can google "Facebook Vanity URL" for step-by-step instructions or follow this [link](#).

As always send your comments, questions and feedback my way, or give me a call at 401-228-3255!

Stay connected,  
Katherine



# Congratulations!

The Board approved the following grant applications:

**Barrington (\$2,500)**, **East Providence (\$5,000)**, **Warwick (\$5,000)**, to fund containers to collect e-waste from residents  
**Portsmouth (\$5,000)**, to fund recycling bins at parks and beaches  
**Smithfield (\$667.50)**, to increase recycling in recreational fields by displaying banners and signage  
**Westerly (\$5,000)**, to implement a two-part educational campaign:  
1) create recycling kiosks to encourage proper recycling  
2) conduct a mailing to all Westerly & Hopkinton residents  
**Woonsocket (\$5,000)**, to fund a container to collect e-waste from residents, and to extend the public litter volunteer campaign called the "Trash Mob" from seniors to city-wide

**DUE AUGUST 1:**  
**PROFIT SHARE REPORTS**  
**VARIANCE REQUESTS**  
**CONTRACT ADDENDUMS**

## Rigid Plastic Acceptance Criteria

With RIRRC's ability to accept less rigid plastic due to materials specs from our vendor and the problems some of the large rigid plastics cause in our baler, RI cities and towns may consider looking elsewhere to prevent rejected rigid plastic loads here at RIRRC. To the best of our knowledge, there is only one other vendor in RI: Full Circle Recycling on Green Hill Ave. in Johnston. They can accept more and don't have any size restrictions. Reach out to [Full Circle](#) directly for more info.

### Upcoming Conferences & Trainings:

- June 20-24: [Maine Compost School](#): This comes highly recommended by RIRRC for those cities & towns who manage or may start a compost site!
- June 28-29: [Reduce and Recover: Save Food for People](#), Harvard

Monthly  
Tidbits

### Upcoming Webinars:

- 6/8: [Tips for a Waste-Free Kitchen](#) from Dana Gunders
- 6/9: [Recycling & Waste Reduction in College Residence Halls](#)
- 6/14: [Exploring the Circular Economy and How EPR Fits in](#)

### News Bits from Rhode Island & New England

- [Newport Considering Plastic Bag Ban](#)
- [Tire Disposal Pesky and Becoming More Expensive](#)
- [Pawtucket expands recycling program for businesses](#)
- [Notes from the Curb: Showing how communication can solve contamination](#)
- [Study: Lidless recycling bins are major sources of litter in Portland, ME](#)

## FLOORED: Phase VI

In just 6 short months, the bottom of the first cell in Phase VI has been floored, meaning the entire bottom layer has been filled with trash. We have also stopped accepting trash in Phase V. We will begin preparation for its final capping while the trash settles and compacts.

Your drivers may notice an increase of time on site of about 30% because of the setup in Phase VI.

## Keep America Beautiful Bin Grant Available

This Park Recycling Infrastructure Grant from KAB is due on Friday, June 10 and offers bins for parks, beaches, waterfront locations, nature trails and outdoor public recreational facilities. The grant provides specific bins as the grant award, rather than funds to purchase bins. [Check out their website for more details and to apply.](#)

## EPA: VOLUME-TO-WEIGHT CONVERSION FACTORS

**UPDATED 4/16**

The EPA posted this updated document to their website. Here at RIRRC, we trust and use these conversion factors for things like the yearly municipal data and other uses. Please save this in a safe spot for future reference!

**Foam Update**

Rhode Islanders coming to drop off Styrofoam can now mix their food service foam and rigid packing foam in the same clear bag! This good news comes from DART Container, RIRRC's foam recycling partner. They were so impressed with the quality of the foam (thanks RI!) that it doesn't have to be bagged separately anymore!



# The MRF Corner

Facts & happenings at the MRF!

DYK? Rain = wet material = decreased production

## MRF Floor Replacement

Beginning in late June, the MRF will undergo a construction project to replace approximately 30% of the concrete tipping floor and door entrance ramps. For the duration of the project, we are anticipating reduced access to the tipping floor, a reduced material storage area and a decrease in processing throughput for the duration of the 90 day project. Please be aware that all of these factors will contribute to longer wait times to access the MRF tipping area for material deliveries. We will do our best to expedite the delivery process for all trucks keeping safety a priority at all times.

We appreciate your anticipated patience in working with us while we conduct this much needed repair project. Please reach out to Brian Dubis with any questions or concerns.

## Caution: Fire in the MRF



Twice in one week in April, batteries from a handheld device such as a phone or tablet caught fire on the MRF tipping floor. Both were run over by a loader, which sparked a fire (left).



Above: For reference, here's what a battery that hasn't caught fire looks like.

## History Repeating

It's spring cleanup time, which means we're seeing more problem materials in the MRF over the past 2 months. This also means we're seeing an increase in shut downs to remove problem materials from the screens, and production efficiency slips due to the increase in contamination.

Some of the problem items we've been seeing an increase of:

- Propane tanks (small and large)
- Things that wrap: garden hoses, rope, dog run cable, tarps
- Televisions
- Paint

We even received a couch from a transfer station community... yikes!

We appreciate your continued efforts to communicate keeping these problem items out of recycling bins and carts.

Thank you!



Above: a couch came into the MRF

Left: a large tarp covers the MRF floor