

RECYCLING AND WASTE REDUCTION EDUCATION AND COMPLIANCE
STRATEGY & NARRATIVE FOR WOODBRIDGE TOWNSHIP

Waste and recycling collection is performed under the jurisdiction of the Department of Public Works in Woodbridge Township.

Woodbridge Township began the conversion to the Automated Trash Collection Program and Single Stream Recycling in 2009 and it was fully completed by the end of 2010. Single stream recycling provides a much more efficient collection system because it gives us the ability to collect all recyclables every week. This helps tremendously to improve resident participation because residents do not have to wait every other week to put either their paper or commingled out according to schedule. Very simple...everything goes out once every week in one container.

In 2010 there was a noticeable increase in the amount of material collected. The total tonnage increase from 2009 to 2010 showed an additional 1,154 tons collected for an approximate 13% increase under a partially automated and single stream collection system. By 2011 we were fully automated and single stream township-wide. Our tonnage in 2011 compared to 2009 showed there was an increase of an additional 2,891 total tons collected equating to an increase of 33% from 2009. By 2012, the program reached a total of 12,000 tons of material recycled from the curb for an increase of nearly 3,400 tons of additional recyclables equating to nearly a 38% increase in the amount of recycling by going to a single stream system.

In 2017 9,485.7 tons of residential materials were recycled, and in 2020 9,388.3 tons of residential materials were recycled. The percent change associated with a 1% decrease from 2017 to 2020 is likely attributed to the covid-19 pandemic, as the convenience center hours were reduced with regard to following state mandates, and residential trepidations / stay at home orders may have affected the normalcy of the recycling stream.

Curbside & Yard

(residential) 2020

Single Stream (all figures in
tons)

Aluminum 387.16

Glass 1161.49

Mixed Office
Paper 2587.7

Newspaper 1037.93

Other paper 3103.19

Other plastic 71.17

(rigid)

Plastic Containers	645.28
Steel Cans	388.19
<hr/> E-Waste	6.2
<hr/> TOTALS	9388.31

Reduction of our waste stream through recycling contributes to significant reduction in carbon emissions. By removing 9,388.31 tons from the waste stream, the Township was able to realize a savings of 27,601.63 in avoided landfill carbon emissions.

Our Municipal Recycling Coordinator, who works in the Department of Public Works, is responsible for inspecting curbside and business recycling collection. The Coordinator's office staff works with our sanitation drivers to identify problem households or businesses. Additionally, the office staff responds to all inquiries from the general public.

Woodbridge changed the annual Spring Clean-Up & Bulk Waste curbside collection program in 2017, and instead of the complicated curbside pick-up schedule that ran from April through June, we're now offering every residential household a one-time per year bulk waste pick-up. The revised bulk waste collection system is more convenient for resident homeowners and allows the Department of Public Works to better manage bulk waste collection. Bulk waste items that we will collect at the scheduled curbside pick-up include: Furniture, Mattresses, Carpeting, Appliances, Electronics (computers, TV's, etc.) and Mixed Metals. (No Hazardous Waste, Tires, Paint, or Chemicals will be accepted.)

Additionally, if a resident has 3 items or less, the Sanitation Division will collect them for FREE (up to four times a year, but they need to call for the service.) If you have large amount of bulk waste, you can schedule a paid pick-up (\$50.00 per pick-up with limitations on the size and amount of the bulk waste).

Plastic gloves and masks were an issue with regard to nonpoint source pollution during the onset of the Covid-19 pandemic. Some residents tried recycling them while they should be thrown in the solid waste collection, and others unfortunately let them fall to the ground, likely out of fear associated with the disease. To combat this, the Township did extensive outreach within our 2021 calendar, online, and through announcements made using our code red system. Decreases with regard to violations have been visually observed, and pre-pandemic compliance is expected to resume into 2022.

Woodbridge is extremely pleased with its single stream recycling and current solid waste schedule and policy. It has been a win for both the township and our residents. All Township schools food waste and community center food waste is now recycled!

To be successful, Woodbridge has been diligent in our marketing outreach and education of the policy. When the single stream recycling policy was first enacted, the Mayor and staff held community meetings to fully discuss the program and schedule in all 10 towns in Woodbridge. Since then, Woodbridge has developed a recycling calendar that is both mailed to all households and available online. This document highlights all relevant information regarding pickups, dos and don'ts, and important phone numbers.

Other avenues where Woodbridge disperses information is on TV 35, the Woodbridge News, the Woodbridge ENews, and at public events such as the farmers market, earth day, summer concert series, and composting and grass-cycling events at our local libraries.

Even amid the covid-19 pandemic, recycling inspections were conducted, and in a safe manner following all state mandates and CDC protocols. If residents or businesses did not comply, the Municipal Recycling Coordinator asks her staff to follow up with warnings and potential fines.

244 Apartments inspected. Carts and dumpsters inspected.

6 Businesses inspected; 2 inspections were inside along with carts and dumpster inspections. The other 4 businesses were outside inspections of carts and dumpsters.

44 Schools inspected which included inside and outside.

Residents carts were inspected when complaints were received from Sanitation or when a violation is visible to inspectors. Business inspections were done when a complaint was received.

Woodbridge realizes that education is essential and is working on new ways to educate the public on changing policies. The Woodbridge Green Team will be utilized more in the future to help with information sharing as well as to develop new ideas to make solid waste and recycling collection in Woodbridge the best it can be.

Information is also posted on our website: <http://www.twp.woodbridge.nj.us/239/Public-Works>