

# Hollis Solid Waste News

February 2008

This news paper has been prepared by the Selectmen's office to provide information about solid waste.

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## Why are we picking up recyclables at curbside?

*a \$40,000.00 reduction in the  
solid waste budget this year*

The management at ecomaine, through their engineers and planners came up with an efficient & economical way to mechanically separate the recycled materials from one another. They called the new process, single sort. This system makes the collection of recycled materials much easier, since they can be mixed together for collection. Ecomaine made the member Towns and the public aware of this new development. In November of 2006 the Town of Hollis voted to change the way we handle our household waste, to take advantage of the single sort process. It was the will of the people that our household trash and recyclable materials would be picked up at curbside. That vote led to the creation of a Solid Waste Committee, which led to the creation of a Solid Waste Ordinance. Public Hearings were held, and in June of 2007 the citizens of the Town of Hollis voted in support of the Ordinance. The ordinance may be viewed on line at [www.hollismaine.org](http://www.hollismaine.org), or at the Town Office.

The Selectmen solicited pricing from a number of waste haulers, as well as considering purchasing our own trash truck. Eventually, a contract was negotiated with R.W. Herrick to provide curbside pick-up and transportation of these materials to ecomaine, in Portland. The savings to the citizens of the Town have been impressive. Instead of all of us driving to the Town office with our recycling, it gets picked up by one vehicle the same day as our household trash at curbside. At three plus dollars per gallon for gas, we all save. We have also increased our recycle rate from 6% to 24%. This means that less material is being sent in through the waste stream, saving us another \$88.00 per ton. The Town saw a \$40,000.00 reduction in the solid waste budget this year, by going to curbside recycling.

## What does the truck look like?

R.W. Herrick proposed (and later purchased) a truck that would be driven from the ditch side of the road. The driver would stand, like the old home delivery milk trucks. This truck was designed and manufactured specifically to suit the needs of the Town of Hollis. This type of truck provides long-term financial savings by eliminating the need for a slinger, the driver does it all. The driver pulls up to the driveway or wherever the trash and recyclables are located, stops the truck, steps out and places the materials in the appropriate hopper behind the cab of the truck.

The driver gets back behind the wheel and continues to the next stop. The driver's work area is like that of a well designed kitchen, it is a triangle. For this reason and for the safety of the driver, he picks up one side of the road at a time. The truck may pick up trash on one side of a road the first thing in the morning; and in some cases, doesn't pick up the other side of the road until the afternoon. It is because the route has been designed to keep the truck moving with as little back tracking as possible.



R.W. Herrick has made a substantial investment in our community. In order for us, the citizens of the Town of Hollis, to fully take advantage of this new vehicle, the Selectmen have put together this news letter. We have tried to clarify the questions you have asked us and put this information in a format that is helpful to you. If you have questions or need further information after looking through this news letter, please contact us at 929-8552. We thank you for your co-operation and patience. For anyone that doesn't have access to a computer at home or at work, we recommend you go to the local libraries to view the web sites referenced in this publication.

## How does this truck transport recyclables & household trash?



This body is divided into two separate compartments; it is called a 40/60 split. On this particular body the 40% side is located closest to the ditch side of the road. This happens to be the recycle side of the truck. The driver picks up the container with the recyclables that you have placed at curbside. See page two, Truck

## Truck

*Continued from page 1*

He then dumps the contents of that container into the hopper closest to him, just under the gate or separator between the two compartments. If you have a large amount of recycle, the driver may have to set your container down while the pusher cycles-forcing the recyclables into the body. While that is happening he may choose to throw your bagged household trash into the further compartment where it will be forced back into the body by the auto cycling pusher. Once the recycle hopper is clear the driver continues to dump the rest of your recycle container. The size of the recycle hopper is quite small, approximately 22" X 18" by 36"long. Because of the limited size of the hopper, cardboard boxes need to be cut down to a size no larger than **18"by 24"**.



As the two pictures indicate, uncut boxes do not compact well, they sometimes work their way out of the hopper. For this reason we ask that you cut your cardboard down to the size requested, **18"by 24"**.



## Why can't I put my recyclables in a bag or a cardboard box?

Our recyclables go to ecomaine in Portland. There is no equipment in the line to open bags or boxes. That is why we have asked you to place them loose in a container marked "**recycle**". If your recycle is in a cardboard box or bag, there are no handles for the driver to grip while he dumps it into the hopper. If materials get crushed inside the box or bag when compacted inside the truck, they may not get separated properly at ecomaine. It would also be very time consuming to have the R.W. Herrick driver open every bag or box to see if it has recyclables inside.

## What is recyclable?

While we can't list every item, ecomaine has provided us with some guidelines.

### Paper products

|                              |                              |
|------------------------------|------------------------------|
| Cardboard / all boxes        | Newspaper                    |
| Shoe boxes/ cereal boxes     | Magazines / catalogs         |
| Phone books                  | File folders                 |
| Gift boxes / wrap            | Shopping bags                |
| Aseptic milk & juice cartons | Junk mail / window envelopes |
| All books                    |                              |

### Plastic, Metal & Glass

|                                 |             |
|---------------------------------|-------------|
| All plastics labeled #1-7       | Foil        |
| Cans                            | Pots & pans |
| Empty aerosol cans              | Jars        |
| Empty bottles (any color glass) |             |

Plastic food containers such as the ones shown to the right typically have the recycle triangle molded into the bottom of the container, with a number 1



through 7 in the center of the triangle. If you don't find the recycle triangle with the number, then that item is not recyclable at this time. Some plastic wrapping on things that we purchase will have the recycle triangle and the number printed on them, if that number is a 1 through 7 then that material is recyclable.

## What are the most common mistakes made in recycling?

The single biggest problem for the driver is the size of the containers that people use. Small is fine as long as the material fits loose in the container and it is marked "**recycling**". Big is not good, it might be convenient for you to put all your recyclables in that 90 gallon container, but the driver can't lift it. As previously described, the driver has to dump the container into a relatively small opening. R. W. Herrick has requested that the container and the contents together weigh no more than **35 lbs.**

**Styrofoam is not recyclable**, it is household waste. Styrofoam is usually white in color and comes as part of the packaging in consumer electronics. It is also used as coffee cups, meat trays and containers to keep food warm etc.

We have found that people have put clothing, shoes, boots, hats, etc. in with their recyclables. While these items may in fact be used again by someone else, they are not recyclable for the purposes of ecomaine.

If the driver feels the recyclables are too heavy or too contaminated, he or she may leave the container.

## What is household trash?

Household trash would include, discarded bedding, but not the bed frame or mattress. Clothing, shoes and boots are household trash. Food waste is considered household waste, but we encourage you to compost those items if possible. Food wrapping materials, that can't be recycled, are household trash. Any type of Styrofoam is trash.

## What is not household trash?

We have provided a fairly comprehensive list of items that are not household trash on the Town of Hollis web site, at [www.hollismaine.org](http://www.hollismaine.org). The list has been printed in the local newspapers, it is available at the Town office, or you may call Judy Romano in the Selectmen's office if you have a specific question. If it hasn't been described in this paper as recyclable, household trash or animal waste, then it probably won't be picked up by R.W. Herrick.

## If I have domestic pets, can I dispose of the waste in my trash?

We have received specific instructions from R.W. Herrick on how to dispose of animal waste and products like kitty litter. Do **not** mix animal waste or kitty litter with your household trash. Herrick's instructions are to take a five gallon pail, with a handle, and put a plastic bag inside the pail. As you pick up your pets waste and or kitty litter, you should place those materials in another plastic bag and tie or seal it. Then place that bag inside the bag in the pail. On trash day, tie or seal the bag that is inside the five gallon pail and set the pail and contents out at curbside. The pail and contents must weigh less than **35 lbs**. If it's too heavy they won't empty it. This is the short term procedure; we are looking for a long term solution to animal waste disposal.

## The trash guy didn't take my trash!

Was your trash and recycling at curbside at **6:00 AM**? That's the most common problem, failure to have your trash at curbside as requested. While you may see the truck come by your residence at a fairly consistent time each week, you should not assume that you can put your trash out later in the day.

On a heavy trash week, such as Christmas, there have been two trucks picking up trash and recyclables. This is a new truck, but breakdowns can effect how and when the route is picked up.

Household trash needs to be in plastic bags weighing no more than **35 lbs**. If the bags are too heavy the driver will leave them. We have had people put their household trash in refrigerator boxes, washer or dryer boxes and hot water heater boxes. The driver can't lift them, so he will leave them.

It isn't the driver's responsibility to sort your trash. If the driver finds non-household items in with your household trash, (construction demolition, electronics, appliances, etc.) they will leave it.

## Where do we dispose of those items that are not household waste?

The Selectmen recommend using the Waterboro Transfer Station for what we call bulky waste. This would include; construction debris, furniture, electronics, appliances, etc. For directions and hours of operation go to [www.waterboro-me.gov](http://www.waterboro-me.gov). There is a ~~\$10.00~~ annual fee for the first sticker and a ~~\$5.00~~ fee for the second (in case you want stickers on more than one vehicle). Stickers may be purchased at the Hollis Town Office or at the Waterboro Transfer Facility when you take your materials there. There is also a modest disposal charge for any items that you bring. We recommend this because we get a monthly report showing the kind and the amount of materials our residents bring to their facility. The Town of Hollis then can claim these amounts in our yearly totals of recycled materials.

There is another collection facility in Gorham; it's called Plan-it Recycling. You don't have to pay an annual fee, but the Town of Hollis doesn't get credit for the items that are disposed of there either. As with Waterboro, they charge a fee for the; Items that are brought there. Plan-it has a web site at [www.planitrecycling.com](http://www.planitrecycling.com), where you can find a detailed list of the items they take. They also list links to other sites for your information.

The last site is Commercial Paving in Scarborough. You should go to their web site at [www.cprcgroupp.com](http://www.cprcgroupp.com) for a complete list of items that they accept. They also charge you for the items you take to them. There is no annual fee, and the Town receives no credit for items taken there.

Many electronic wastes are regulated as hazardous waste when generated by businesses. TV's and computer monitors generated as waste by households must be managed in accordance with Maine's E-Waste Law which establishes a system in which consumers, municipalities, and manufacturers share responsibility for ensuring that these items are properly recycled to reclaim all useable materials and prevent the release of toxins to the environment. For more information on toxics in your home go to [www.Maine.gov/dep/rwm/homeowner/index.htm](http://www.Maine.gov/dep/rwm/homeowner/index.htm). For information on the Maine E-Waste Law go to <http://www.maine.gov/dep/rwm/ewaste/>

## What about those people who put their trash and or recycling in a shed or container in their driveway?

R.W. Herrick has notified us that their driver will not be opening these containers or transporting materials from them to the truck. Trash recyclables need to be left at curbside (at the edge of the road). This would add time to those stops, and puts the driver outside the designated work triangle. Any materials left in these type of containers will not be picked up. These containers include plastic buildings, wooden boxes, dumpsters etc.



TOWN OF HOLLIS  
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## **Thank you from the Selectmen's office!**

There are a number of parties to thank for the success of curbside trash and recycling pickup. We are especially grateful to ecomaine for their foresight in developing single sort at the Portland, facility. This concept has made recycling on a large scale both convenient and practical. The profits (anything over and above the costs involved) are used to reduce the debt service of the member Towns.

In the Town of Hollis we are pleased to thank the volunteers that were the Recycling Committee. These people met on a regular basis to discuss options to improve the Town's recycling rate. Their concept was to pick up recycling and trash at curbside. The Recycling Committee went on, at the request of the Selectmen, to be the Solid Waste Committee. This group collected a great deal of information and eventually, put it in the form of an Ordinance.

We are very pleased with R.W. Herrick for spending the time they have spent with us planning this venture. The result of all that planning was a long term contract that provides stability and savings to the Town. Herrick has invested nearly a quarter of a million dollars in the new trash truck they use here. That shows us the commitment they have made, and are continuing to make, in the Town of Hollis.

Last, but not least, we would like to thank you, the Hollis citizens, for your support in reducing the amount of household waste we send to ecomaine. Your efforts, along with your neighbors, have put us on a much greener path than we have ever been on before. We live in a throw away-world, but where we throw it will make a difference to us, our children and future generations.

Sincerely; the Selectmen

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