

# Single Stream Recycling

Also Known as  
“Zero-Sort,” “Co-Mingled”  
or  
“Single-Sort” Recycling

# What is it ???

- Program by which the task of separating materials is transferred from the resident to a service provider.
  - Simplifies the process for the resident, in most cases generating more recyclable material
  - Reduces trash and therefore the costs associated with disposal
  - Reduces the safety hazards to employees involved in handling materials
  - Reduces the operating costs associated with local processing

# The Single Stream Process

- Residents deliver mixed recyclable materials and deposit them in a dedicated compactor
- Employees will continue to process non-Single Stream materials
- Employees will provide guidance as needed
- Material is hauled to Material Recovery Facilities (MRF) for sorting

**FROM THIS.....**



TO THIS.....



AND THEN.....

**AND THIS.....**





**AUTOMATED SORTING**

**WAITING TO BALE**



# Benefits

(from Maine State Planning Office)

- Reduces the cost of collecting and aggregating materials
- More convenience should increase the number of participants- *"more people recycling more stuff"*
- Longer list of items to be recycled
- Less handling/local processing beyond initial collection
  - Workload, staffing costs, health and safety
- Revenue/cost stability

# Acceptable Materials

- Current Harpswell
  - Cardboard
  - Newspaper
  - Mixed paper
  
  - Glass
    - (CURRENTLY BURIED AT TRANSFER STATION)
  - Tin Cans/Aluminum
  - Plastic #1 and #2
- Single Stream
  - Cardboard
  - Newspaper
  - Mixed Paper
    - Milk and juice cartons
  - Glass
    - (WILL BE RECYCLED i.e. road bed material, play sand, etc)
  - Tin Cans/Aluminum
  - Plastic #1 and #2
  - Plastic #3-7

Currently #3-7 Plastics are being burned at waste to energy plant-  
Under Single Stream recycling they will be processed for more environmentally  
friendly post-consumer uses

# Implementation Plan

- Transition August 1, 2013
- Designate Compactor System for Trash
- Designate Compactor System for Recycling
- Post signs providing guidance
- Keep Bottle Deposit Slot Open
- Keep Battery Slot open
- Monitor use of other slots
  - Metal, Wood, Rags

# Remaining Operations After Single Stream

- Waste Oil Collection
- Universal Waste Collection, inventory, and cash handling
  - TV
  - Electronics
  - Mercury Light Bulbs
  - Mercury devices
- Deposit Bottle/Can counting & packaging
- Sorting, packaging rechargeable batteries
- Education and Interaction with Public
- Snow removal, salt / sand maintenance

**NOTHING WILL CHANGE**

**AT THE TRANSFER  
STATION**

