

Taxpayers, Landlords & Renters Responsibilities

The Towns Recycling Center and Transfer Station facility is located on the Mountain Road for Harpswell taxpayer and renters use. Town ordinances along with DEP & EPA regulations govern the day to day operation of the facility.

Recycling is mandatory in Harpswell and has been for decades. The Town adopted Zero-sort recycling in 2013, bringing simplicity and efficiency to the overall process. The Towns Recycling Guide is a good resource to start with, the guide includes days/hours of operation, how items should be sorted, where to take them, etc. The Recycling Guide is available to everyone at the Town Office, Recycling Center and posted on the Town of Harpswell website. When visiting the Recycling Center descriptive signs help to further guide you through the process. The staff is always available to assist you and to answer any questions.

Landlords should be aware that renters whether long term or short term need to know how to properly utilize the facility. Residents and renters are encouraged to start the sorting process at home having separate bins for compost, zero-sort recycling, returnables and any trash. A lack of information can lead to inconvenience, aggravation and confusion for renters and residents alike.

Recycling includes: cardboard, paper, cans, glass, and plastics (#1-#7). Zero-sort makes it easy with all recycling going in one hopper, no plastic bags or Styrofoam please.

Compostable material includes most household food waste including meat, vegetables, bones, shells etc. There is a comprehensive chart available online and at the Recycling Center. Compost collection bins are located between the wall slots and the Trash & Recycle hoppers.

Trash includes normal day to day non-recyclable household trash and packaging. Items include plastic bags, Styrofoam, alkaline batteries, non-compostable material and small unwanted waste. This does not include construction materials, yard debris, house clean outs, metal, wood, fabrics, rugs, furniture, appliances, etc. These items go to the Transfer Station for disposal.

Harpswell's trash is sent to a waste to energy plant. The incineration of this material helps to offset and extend the life of landfills, becomes a fuel source for generating electricity and helps to protect residents' personal information and privacy.

The Town of Harpswell has been a recycling leader in Maine for close to 40 years. Taxpayers and renters can help reduce the costs to the town by separating and maximizing their recycled and compostable material this in turn reduces the amount of trash. It costs the Town of Harpswell more than twice as much to dispose of trash as it does recyclable material.

Thank you for composting & recycling!!!