



CITY OF WATERTOWN
DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC WORKS
124 ORCHARD STREET
WATERTOWN MA 02472

Gregory M. St. Louis, PE
Superintendent of Public Works

TO: Watertown Residents
FROM: Gregory St. Louis, PE – Superintendent of Public Works
SUBJECT: Citywide Recycling and Disposal Policy Changes
DATE: August 30, 2022

The City of Watertown recently ratified the Massachusetts Department of Environmental Protection 2030 Solid Waste Master Plan. This plan establishes the goal of a 30% statewide reduction in disposal tonnage between now and 2030. The Watertown Department of Public Works is implementing new programmatic changes that will allow Watertown to achieve the 30% reduction in our disposal tonnage based on a 2019 baseline. New programs and policies have been created to increase diversion of materials away from disposal through reduced consumption, reuse of existing items, and expansion of recycling programs. Thank you to all Watertown residents for your support and patience as we transition into these new policy changes.

All new policy changes will be effective as of Monday, September 12th, 2022.

76 Stanley Ave. Recycle Center: Open Tuesday, Friday, & Saturday 9AM-4PM to Watertown residents.

- Open hours are transitioning to **3 days a week starting Monday, September 12th, 2022.**
- Materials collected: Cardboard, single stream recycling, yard waste, e-waste, batteries, textiles (clothing, shoes, bedding), scrap metal items, hard plastics (outside furniture, toys, etc.), compost collection.
- **New addition to Recycle Center:** Compost collection.

Food Scraps/ Compostable Materials: Watertown is partnering with Black Earth Compost to provide free food waste collection.

- Residents that would like to participate in the curbside collection program must register at: blackearthcompost.com/watertown

- Curbside collection pilot available for residents in buildings with 4 units or fewer.
- **Compost drop off will also be available at the Recycle Center for all residents.**
 - All food scraps must be emptied into communal totes directly. **NO** bags of any kind.
 - **Acceptable items:** Meat, bones, dairy, vegetables, leftovers, coffee grounds and filters, eggs, eggshells, seafood and seafood shells, napkins.
 - Complete list of items that are allowed into the bins:
<https://blackearthcompost.com/media/uploads/2019/09/26/BlackEarthCompostGuide.pdf>
- Food waste collection will begin at Watertown Public Schools for the 2022-2023 school year.

Bulk items: Burnable items (excluding mattresses) will now have to be **scheduled and paid** for curbside pickup by phone at **844-737-8254** through Republic Services. These items will be collected curbside on **Wednesdays**. Please consider donating, selling, or gifting furniture and items that are in workable condition. This keeps large items out of disposal and decreases the need to create and transport new items. **Changes will begin the week of September 12th, 2022.**

- All burnable bulk items will now need to be scheduled for pickup. Schedule and pay for a pickup by phone at **844-737-8254** through Republic Services. Residents may also use an outside vendor if preferred.
- Items placed on the curb that have not been scheduled through Republic Services will not be collected and will be considered illegal dumping, which can result in a fine.
- Places to donate or sell include Facebook Marketplace, Buy Nothing-Watertown Facebook page, craigslist.org...etc.
- Each household can schedule collection for **two** burnable items per week.
- **Prices for bulk item collection will depend on the item, size, and shape.** Small/medium items will be capped at \$25/per item, and large items such as couches will be capped at \$50/per item.

TVs/ White Goods: These items cannot go into the trash and must be recycled properly. White Goods refers to household appliances like stoves, fridges, dehumidifiers, ovens, and microwaves...etc. **Changes will begin the week of September 12th, 2022.**

- TVs/White goods will require payment and scheduling through Republic Services.
- Schedule and pay for a pickup by phone at **844-737-8254** through Republic Services.
- Collections will occur every **Thursday**.
- **Prices for White Goods/ TV collection will depend on the item, size, and shape.** Small/medium items will be capped at \$25/per item, and large items will be capped at \$50/per item.
- MassSave provides zero cost appliance pickup and recycling. Consider scheduling a collection with them. To learn more, visit:
www.masssave.com/shop/recycling/refrigerator-and-freezer-recycling

Mattress Recycling: Per MassDEP laws going into effect November, 2022 mattresses and box springs will become waste ban items. This means **they cannot be thrown away and must be recycled**. Watertown is partnering with HandUp, a mattress recycler. Schedule a curbside pickup by phone **(617-378-7619)** or at www.handupmattress.com/curbside-pickup. Click the “Schedule town pickup” button to sign up. **Changes will begin the week of September 12th, 2022.**

- Website to learn more: www.handupmattress.com
- The City of Watertown has negotiated a price of \$46 per item. HandUp accepts both mattresses and box springs.
- Watertown will have curbside collection one day per month.
- Mattresses left on the curb that have not been scheduled for a pickup with HandUp will be considered illegal dumping, which can result in a fine.
- Republic Services will not be collecting mattresses at all.

The City of Watertown offers a set price of \$20/ item for those customers who meet certain income based criteria. If you are a Watertown resident in an owner occupied property and receive a Section 17D or Section 41C real estate exemption, you qualify for this set price. If you are a Watertown resident and receive fuel assistance, you qualify for this set price. Please email a letter of interest and appropriate documentation of fuel assistance or real estate exemption to the Recycling Division, at recycle@watertown-ma.gov.

For questions and further information, please visit www.watertown-ma.gov/trash or email the Watertown Recycling Coordinator, Anya Pforzheimer at recycle@watertown-ma.gov