



Charles C. Kokoros, Mayor

IMPORTANT CHANGES IN RECYCLING

At one time recyclables from the U.S. were in demand and there were markets, in various countries, to purchase them. However, over the past several years, recycling containers have become full of the wrong materials, and that has caused contamination and filth, rendering the recycling materials unusable for use in making new products.

The end result is that cities and towns no longer earn money from recyclables, but have to pay to have them processed and disposed of. This has generated a cost factor that is significant, across the country, because in addition to paying for processing, any contamination over 10% of a truckload results in extremely high penalties of \$225.00 per ton for the extra handling and transportation to have materials sent to another facility to be disposed of as trash. The end result is that municipalities are having to raise trash fees or increase taxes to cover the additional cost.

Multiple avenues of outreach to the public have been implemented as a guide for "Recycling Right", for many years...to little avail. Please remember that when in doubt about whether an item is recyclable or not, simply throw it out rather than contaminate the recycling. Recycling symbols and numbers on the bottom of products do not mean that item is recyclable at the curb, but that it is recyclable by mail back, by bringing to a specific location, etc. **One of the changes is that recyclables now need to be placed loosely into the recycling cart, not in any type of bag. Once you empty items out of a brown paper bag, the bag can be tossed in, free of contents.**

The MA Department of Environmental Protection has issued additional items that are banned from recycling, and is monitoring communities at the Transfer Station when trucks unload. Braintree has a program of curbside inspection to check for the wrong items in recycle carts and to leave information for residents, sometimes resulting in non-collection notices at some addresses. This can mean Sunrise Scavenger can no longer collect recycling at that location.

To see if a specific item is recyclable go to Recyclesmart.org and type in the item. You will be advised if it belongs in the recycling cart or not. You were also mailed a replacement information label to be applied to your recycling cart (in May, 2019) with the new guidelines. If you need another one, simply call 781-794-8088 and request it. It will be mailed to you. You may also go to www.braintreema.gov/recycling for information regarding Trash, Recycling Household Hazardous Waste Drop-off events and Curbside Yardwaste Collection, the Plain Street Compost Site plus the Recycling Center on Ivory Street. The Trash & Recycling Office can be contacted at 781-794-8088 and is located at 74 Pond Street. If you leave a message, you will receive a return call within the next business day.