



Essex-Windsor Solid Waste Authority

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May 1, 2020

Dear Municipal Partner,

Subject: “NO PLASTIC BAGS...Period!” – A RECYCLING PROGRAM BAN-JUNE 1, 2020

The Essex-Windsor Solid Waste Authority (EWSWA) would like to thank you for all your years of dedication to making recycling a priority in Essex-Windsor. We know that there are many challenges to recycling at municipal facilities; therefore, we applaud you for all your efforts.

We are sending this letter to inform you that our regional recycling program will no longer be collecting recycling that contains plastic bags. While plastic bags has never been an accepted material in our recycling program, it may have been picked up during recycling curbside collection in the past. As of June 1, 2020, the EWSWA recycling collectors will be supporting this plastic bag ban by not collecting recycling that contains plastic bags. Placing plastic bags in recycling receptacles adds cost to the taxpayer and results in substantial issues at our local recycling plants and end markets. As such, we are asking for your continued cooperation through this recycling program update and have provided you support and information in this mail-out to do so.



What is happening with recycling collection on June 1, 2020?

On June 1, 2020, if your recycling collector observes any plastic bags in a recycling cart or box, it will not get collected. We ask that you educate your janitorial staff, employees, and other users on our recycling “Do’s and Don’ts” listed below to ensure that your recycling continues to receive collection without interruption.

ITEM	DO’s	DON’Ts
Acceptable EWSWA Recycling Receptacles	Use EWSWA approved recycling carts or boxes. Visit ewswa.org for information.	Never set out recycling in plastic bags.
Moving Recyclables from workstations/or recycling depots within your facilities to Curbside Recycling Receptacles	Bring recycling from workstations/recycling depots directly to curbside recycling receptacles by using a container/reusable bag and empty loose recyclables in the right (i.e., paper versus container) recycling receptacle.	Never bring recycling from each workstation or recycling depots in a plastic bag and place this bag full of recyclables in a recycling receptacle.
Plastic Bag Disposal	Once you are done using plastic bags, they go in the garbage.	Never put plastic bags loose in a recycling cart/box.
Plastic Bags Noted as “Recyclable” through Symbols or Text	Reuse these bags for storage or garbage liners and place small bags in the garbage.	Never put these bags in for recycling, even if they say they are recyclable.

“Bye, Bye Plastic Bag” Information Resource

To ensure your success, the EWSWA and its municipal partners have created a “Bye, Bye Plastic Bags!” resource and have included it in this mail-out as a guide. This is a valuable resource to answer questions that you and your staff may have, so we ask that you take a few minutes to review it. To better assist users of your recycling program, we recommend that you send this out electronically to all staff and/or post this resource in public areas (e.g., lunchrooms, near photocopiers, staff bulletin boards, and near recycling areas) throughout your facilities. This resource is free and available for you to distribute to every employee and post throughout your facilities to support the June 1, 2020 ban date. The EWSWA will distribute flyers upon request to any municipality who is willing to post and distribute them.