



Town of Bourne

Department of Public Works



www.townofbourne.com



24 Perry Ave, Bourne, MA 02532

Memo

*To: Select Board Members
Marlene McCollum, Town Administrator*

From: Shawn Patterson, DPW Director

RE: Curbside collection of recyclables

Date: April 24, 2023

In recent months, there has been some confusion in the Bourne community regarding how recyclables are collected at the curbside by the DPW and whether or not they are being mixed in with the trash.

I can assure you that the DPW staff complies with the mandatory recycling bylaw and that we segregate collection of recyclables. There are two factors that may have led to some confusion by residents when they observe our staff loading trucks.

First, our trucks, with the exception of one small white packer, are all yellow and are used for **both** trash and recyclables collection interchangeably depending on route conditions, maintenance issues or other logistical matters. We use magnetic signage we use to distinguish what is being collected, however because we don't have separate, dedicated recycling trucks, this is our best option.

Second, we replaced a chassis of one truck with an innovative, split-body design that allows for both trash and recyclables to be collected into separate compartments on the same truck for efficient collection. Viewed from the side, it may appear that everything is being thrown into one compartment, however this not the case.

To clarify this issue and to show the residents what is being done, we have added the following question and answer information to the "Recycling in Bourne" webpage. This should help residents better understand our operations and give them confidence that the DPW is ensuring that their recycling efforts are supported by the DPW.

Information posted on the “Recycling in Bourne” webpage

Q. Does the DPW put recyclables in the trash at the curbside?

A. **Absolutely not!** DPW has dedicated staff that pick-up **both** household trash and single stream recyclables that are put out in the separate 96-gallon blue carts.

Yellow DPW trucks are used for trash **or** recyclables depending on the route that day, breakdowns or other reasons. The DPW has magnetic signs they put on the trucks to show what they are collecting. All recyclables are diverted for recycling.

A new type of truck

One new truck, R4, has a “split body” to make collection more efficient. This allows both carts to be collected by the same truck and may be the model for future trucks too. However, **the materials are split into two separate compartments** and it can appear from the side that everything is being thrown into one compartment. The “trash” side is dumped in the landfill and the “recycle” side is brought to a recyclables transfer station at ISWM where they are then transferred to a processor for recycling.

Below are some pictures to clarify how R4 works.

HOPPER FOR EACH TYPE OF CART



HOPPER FOR EACH TYPE OF CART



VIEW OF THE TOP OF THE TRUCK WHERE THE HOPPER IS DUMPED



VIEW FROM THE REAR OF THE TRUCK SHOWING SEPARATE COMPARTMENTS

