



ZERO WASTE
ARLINGTON



Recycling IQ: The Blue Bin Contamination Challenge

4:00-5:00 PM

Wednesday, March 3, 2021



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Director,
A Better City



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Town of Arlington



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Zero Waste Arlington



Webinar Engagement

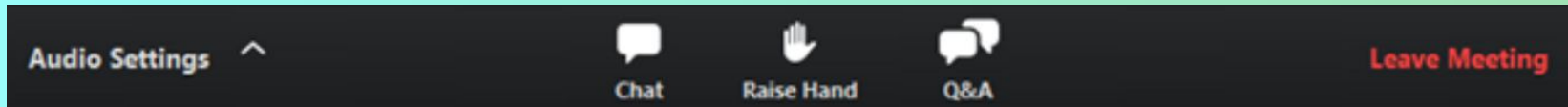
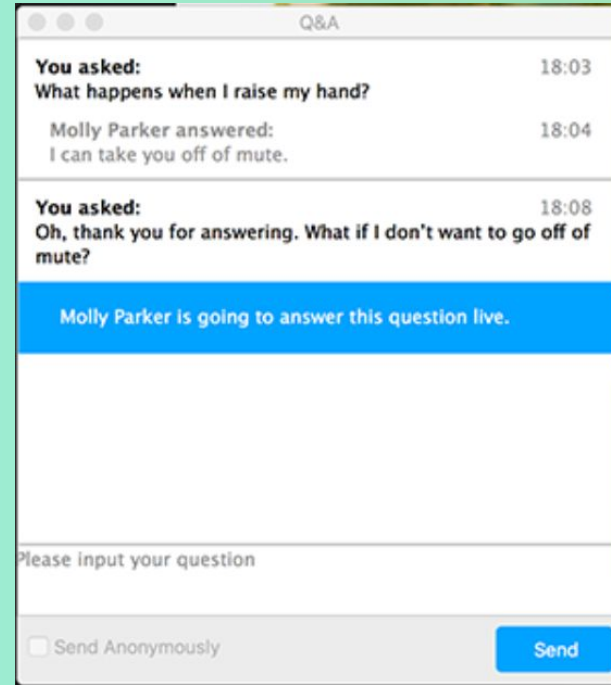
Audio Settings: can't hear us? Make sure your audio settings are correct.

Q&A: Please use Q&A for all questions to the panelists (be sure to click “send”). We will either:

- reply back to you via text in the Q&A window or
- answer your question live

You can also like or comment on other attendee's questions.

Chat: Feel free to use chat to add general comments or to communicate with other participants.



Land Acknowledgement

We acknowledge that the Town of Arlington is located on the ancestral lands of the Massachusetts Tribe, the tribe of Indigenous peoples from whom the Colony, Province, and Commonwealth have taken their names.

We pay our respects to the ancestral bloodline of the Massachusetts Tribe and their descendants who still inhabit historic Massachusetts territories today.

The Cost

In Boston, it now costs \$140 a ton to process recyclables, compared to \$5 a ton in 2017.

This fiscal year, the city had to budget \$4.8 million for recycling.

WGBH March 9, 2020

MRF - Materials Recycling Facility

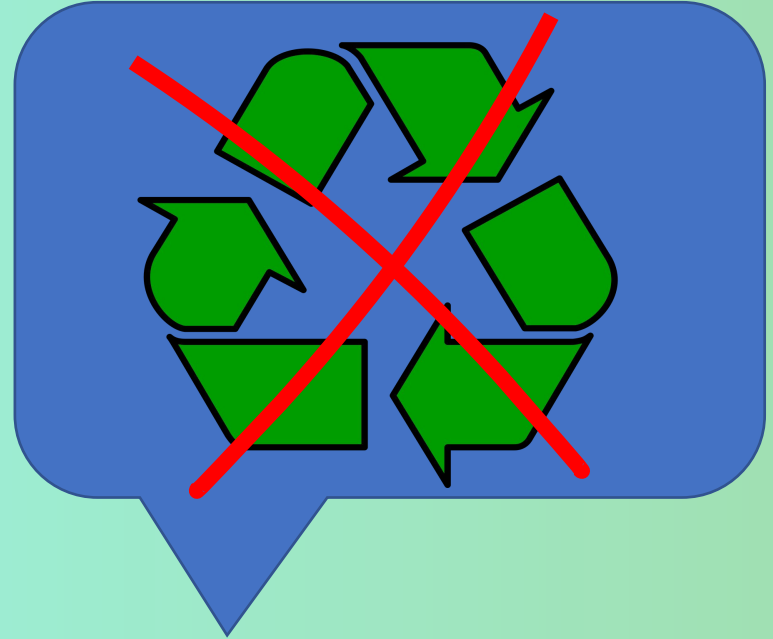
<https://vimeo.com/519133165>



Stop Listening To Your Packaging !!

Plastic is ***only*** recyclable if

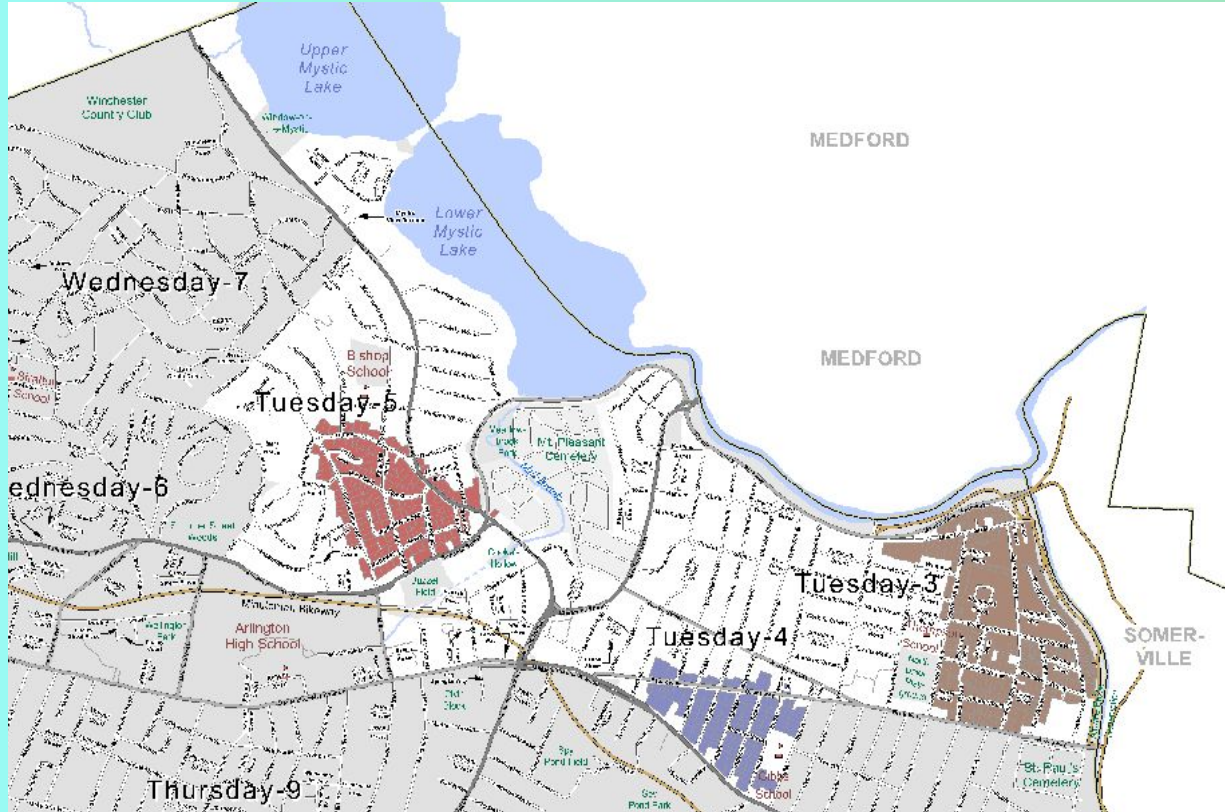
- It is a rigid container
- A bottle, jar, jug, or tub
- From kitchen, bathroom, or laundry products



Recycling IQ Program Goals

- Improve **quality of the recycling** in targeted neighborhoods
- Increase **collaboration** with MRF and hauler for remainder of contract
- Amplify **public conversation** about recycling and contamination through this targeted outreach campaign

Recycling IQ Program - Target Areas



Recycling IQ Program - Implementation Plan

- 2600 Households
- Fifteen Routes (3 a day M-F)
- Inspected weekly for 8 weeks
- Oops stickers left to ID contamination
- Zero tolerance level (practically) of acceptance for contamination
- Rejection = recycling not picked up



Recycling IQ Program Results

- **55% improvement** in recycling quality in most heavily contaminated neighborhoods
- Improved recycling communication and educational for residents
- Identified future targets for recycling quality improvement



Recycling IQ Program Recommendations

- Increase outreach to our multifamily dwellings
- Conduct additional research and auditing to best position town for the contract bid process
- Clarify curbside recycling program rules on Town's website





Please leave these items out of your recycling cart!



Do Not Bag Recyclables
(no garbage)



No Plastic Bags or Plastic Wrap
(return to retail)



No Food or Liquid
(empty all containers)



No Clothing or Linens
(drop-off only)



No Tangles
(cords, hoses, chains or electronics)



No Hazardous or Big Items
(wood, metal, Styrofoam, batteries or sharps)

CORRECT THIS AND WE WILL COLLECT NEXT TIME.

NOTES

www.arlingtonma.gov/recycle

Questions about your curbside recycling service?

(781) 316-3108

REMOVE TO EXPOSE ADHESIVE
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REMOVE TO EXPOSE ADHESIVE
REMOVE TO EXPOSE ADHESIVE
REMOVE TO EXPOSE ADHESIVE

NO PLASTIC BAGS! DO NOT BAG Recyclables



Collecting recyclables in a bag?
Empty the contents into the cart.



Return plastic bags to retailers.



Recycle
Smart

Thank you for recycling. Funded in part by MassDEP.
Min. 30% recycled paper.



**EARTH TO
ARLINGTON...**
LET'S TALK TRASH

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Recycle Smart



Metal



Food and Beverage Cans

empty and rinse



Plastic



Bottles, Jars, Jugs and Tubs

empty and replace cap



Glass



Bottles and Jars

empty and rinse



Paper & Cardboard



Mixed Paper, Newspaper, Magazines, Boxes

empty and flatten

NO!



**Do Not Bag Recyclables
No Garbage**



**No Plastic Bags
or Plastic Wrap**
(return to retail)



No Food or Liquid
(empty all containers)



No Clothing or Linens
(use donation programs)



No Tangles
(no hoses, wires,
chains or electronics)

(781) 316-3108

Arlington Department of Public Works

www.arlingtonma.gov/recycle

RecycleSmartMA.org



An initiative of MassDEP



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Resources

zerowastearlington@gmail.com

Town Recycling Page

www.bit.ly/Arlingtonrecycles

ZWA Facebook
Zero Waste Arlington



Recycle Smart MA & Recyclopeda

<https://recyclesmartma.org/>

