

RECYCLING AND SOLID WASTE COMMITTEE

Greetings, fellow recyclers, and congratulations! Town recyclers have increased the amount of recycling that the MA Department of Environmental Protection tracks, and we are taking positive steps towards our townwide goal of 40% recyclable materials. Let's Keep it Up!

A Year of Progress and Savings

In Calendar Year 2025, Shutesbury residents generated **485.61 tons** of total waste.

Thanks to strong participation in our recycling program, residents recycled **156.00 tons** of recyclable material: **73.28 tons of bottles & containers and 82.72 tons of paper**.

Recycled materials as percent of total waste stream, **32.12% of the total waste stream** – (increase of **0.45% from CY2024**).

Financial Impact

By recycling instead of sending all materials to disposal, Shutesbury residents helped the Town avoid **\$15,097.94 in trash disposal costs** in 2025 - money we **didn't have to spend**.

Every properly sorted newspaper, cardboard box, bottle, and can contribute to measurable environmental and financial benefits for our community.

Please remember that if you aren't sure whether something is recyclable, or how to properly dispose of an item that isn't recyclable, the first place to check is the Shutesbury Recycling and Solid Waste Committee webpage: shutesbury.org/recycling/. Click on the links for the Recycling Encyclopedia and Beyond the Bin to get your answers.

There is plenty of current information on the website, so check out details about composting, battery disposal, schedules for trash pickup and bag distribution, and more.

Pizza Boxes & Paper Recycling: What You Need to Know

YES - Most Pizza Boxes are Recyclable, but only if they are mostly **Clean and Dry**.

How to Recycle Pizza Boxes the Correct Way

1. Remove leftover pizza and liners.
2. Tear off and discard heavily greasy sections (usually the bottom).
3. Recycle clean portions (like the lid or sides).
4. If the whole box is soaked with grease or stuck with cheese - put it in the trash or compost – **when in doubt, throw it out** (helps us prevent contaminated loads).

Proper Disposal of Household Batteries

The Town of Shutesbury runs a free battery recycling and disposal program for Shutesbury residents (for details see shutesbury.org/battery). In the basement of Shutesbury Town Hall, labeled five-gallon buckets accept rechargeable and other recyclable batteries.

Batteries can release mercury, cadmium, or other heavy metals into the air and water, ultimately entering the food chain and posing health threats to people and the environment.

Alkaline batteries are the most common household batteries. These batteries, and Carbon Zinc and Zinc Chloride batteries may be thrown in the trash.

Rechargeable batteries are found in electronics and appliances that can be recharged, such as cell phones; cordless phones; laptop computers; tablets/iPads; power tools; some toys; digital cameras; and rechargeable toothbrushes, razors, flashlights, and handheld vacuum cleaners.

Rechargeable batteries and cell phones contain heavy metals and should never be thrown away; they should always be recycled.

The specific batteries accepted in the Town Hall buckets are:

- Nickel-cadmium (Ni-Cad)*, Nickel Metal Hydride (Ni-MH)*, Nickel Zinc (Ni-Zn)*,
 - Lithium Ion batteries (Li-Ion)*, and
 - Small Sealed Lead (Pb)*.
 - Rechargeable AA, AAA, 9V (including alkaline)
 - Button batteries, including small "hearing aid" style batteries
- * *These abbreviations are printed on rechargeable batteries.*

Rechargeable and Alkaline 9V batteries have exposed positive and negative terminals right next to each other. They can short-circuit, heat up quickly, and start a fire in a trash truck or recycling facility. Therefore, **both terminals must be taped over with non-conductive electrical tape and disposed of at Town Hall**.

Please segregate **Used non-alkaline Batteries** and drop them off at the basement of the Town Hall during regular business hours for safe recycling.

Before dropping off: Tape battery terminals (especially lithium and 9-volt). Black, non-conductive, electrical tape is provided next to the plastic disposal containers in the basement of Town Hall.

Keep batteries dry. Store in a non-metal container. Proper battery recycling protects workers, equipment, and our community.

Mary Glavin, RSWC Chair, and Meryl Mandell, Recycling Coordinator

SHUTESBURY CURBSIDE TRASH & RECYCLING SURVEY

The Recycling and Solid Waste Committee is seeking feedback on the current curbside Pay-As-You-Throw (PAYT) trash and recycling program. Your input will help guide future decisions. When the Town contract expires in 2028 we most likely will need to switch to an automated cart system. Your answers below will help the Town better plan for the transition from bags to carts.

- **ONE SURVEY PER HOUSEHOLD PLEASE RESPOND BY MAY 20TH.**
- **COMPLETE THIS SURVEY ONLINE AT [SHUTESBURY.ORG/RECYCLING](https://shutesbury.org/recycling)**
OR DROP OFF PAPER COPIES IN THE BLACK DROP BOX IN FRONT OF THE TOWN HALL



1. Do you participate in Shutesbury's curbside PAYT program?
 Yes No Seasonal resident only
2. How many people live in your household (including yourself)?
 1-2 3 - 4 5 or more
3. How satisfied are you with the current curbside PAYT service?
 Very satisfied Somewhat satisfied Somewhat dissatisfied Very dissatisfied
4. Do you ever use more than one trash bag in a week?
If yes, approximately how many weeks per year does this occur?
 No, never 1-12 12 or more Mostly after a holiday
5. How convenient is the current curbside pickup schedule?
 Very convenient Somewhat convenient Somewhat inconvenient Very inconvenient
6. Have you experienced service issues in the past year?
 No issues Occasionally missed pickup Frequent missed pickup Communication issues
7. The program includes 50 trash bags per household per year. Are you satisfied with this amount?
 Yes, enough Mostly enough Not enough Far too few
8. Do you purchase additional PAYT trash bags beyond the 50 included per year?
 Yes No Occasionally
9. If Yes, approximately how many additional bags do you purchase per year?
 10 (1 pack) 20 (2 packs) 30 (3 packs) 40+ (4 or more packs)
10. Do you purchase a sticker for the Leverett Transfer Station?
 Yes No
11. If yes, how often do you visit the Leverett Transfer Station?
 1-4 times per month Every other month A few times per year Bought but never used
12. Would getting the cart to the end of your driveway present a physical challenge?
 Yes Somewhat No Not sure Only in the winter
13. If cart service were offered, what size would you prefer? (*Note: our current trash bags hold 33 gallons*)
For Trash Small (35 gallon) Large (64 gallon)
For Recycling Small (35 gallon) Large (64 gallon)
14. How would you feel about replacing the town-wide curbside service with individually paid private trash service?
 Strongly support Somewhat support Somewhat opposed Strongly opposed
15. Do you bring used household batteries to Town Hall for disposal?
 Yes, regularly Yes, occasionally No, never I was not aware of this option
16. Have you utilized the Textile collection bin located at the Highway Dept. parking lot?
 Yes, regularly Yes, occasionally No, never I was not aware of this option
17. Have you utilized household hazardous waste collection days in Amherst?
 Yes, regularly Yes, occasionally No I was not aware of this option
18. Do you feel confident about what can and cannot be placed in the recycling bin?
 Very confident Somewhat Not very confident Not confident at all
19. Do you use the "Recyclopedia" or "Beyond the Bin" link on the Town Recycling webpage to check disposal guidance?
 Yes, regularly Yes, occasionally No I was not aware of this option

Town Recycling Webpage – shutesbury.org/recycling
Recyclopedia – recyclesmartma.org/results-materials/
Beyond the Bin – recyclesmartma.org/beyond-the-bin-search/

Additional comments: