

EASTHAM RECYCLES

Focus on "Trash"



Transfer Station Hours

- Saturday through Wednesday
 - 7:30am to 3pm
- **Summer Hours**
 - Also open Fridays
 - Jul 3 - Sep 11
- **Closed**
 - Memorial Day
 - Juneteenth

Swap Shop

- Saturday, Sunday, Wednesday
- 10am to 1pm

Household Hazardous Waste Day

- May 16 9am to Noon
- Eastham Transfer Station
- loveyourlocalwater.org



What is Solid Waste aka Trash?

In Eastham, solid waste refers to what we throw into the large dumpsters located just beyond the recycling area at the Transfer Station. This is the trash that cannot be reused, recycled, or composted—and it adds up quickly. In Eastham, trash disposal has risen sharply—jumping from about 2,100 tons in 2023 to 3,612 tons in 2025—highlighting a growing solid waste problem.

Where does our trash go?

Disposing of this waste comes at a significant cost. The Town pays approximately \$140 per ton to transport and process this material at the SEMASS Waste-to-Energy Facility. There, the trash is handled using "shred-and-burn" technology, meaning it is shredded and then incinerated to produce electricity. While this process recovers energy, it is still the most expensive and least sustainable option compared to reducing, reusing, recycling, and composting.



May Focus: Household Hazardous Waste

Household Hazardous Waste Pop Quiz:

Q: Which of these items is NOT considered household hazardous waste?

- A. Oil-based paint
- B. Lithium-ion batteries
- C. Latex (water-based) paint
- D. Pesticides

Answer from last month's quiz

What percentage of household waste could be composted instead of trashed?

- D. At least 25%!

Resident Challenge: Reduce Your Trash by 25%

Small changes can make a big impact! Start by paying attention to what you throw away each week, then look for easy opportunities to cut back—separate food scraps for composting, recycle correctly, and keep textiles out of the trash.

Easy first steps are to stop putting cardboard in the trash. Cardboard has many more lives left in it, plus we get paid for the cardboard we recycle instead of paying to burn it!

Try simple swaps like reusable bags, bottles, and containers, and choose products with less packaging when you shop. Even reducing just one bag of trash a week can add up quickly.

If enough households participate, Eastham could significantly lower disposal costs and reduce the amount of waste sent to the SEMASS Waste-to-Energy Facility—saving money and protecting our local environment at the same time.

Volunteers wanted

The Eastham Waste Reduction & Recycling Committee is looking for new members as well as community volunteer to help strengthen our waste reduction efforts. Even if you're not ready to join the committee formally, you can still make a big difference by lending a hand on upcoming projects, including:

- Creating updated signage for the Recycling Center
- Developing a display about plastic contamination in food-waste compost
- Writing the monthly newsletter
- Assisting with a traveling compost-education workshop around town
- Working a shift at an info booth at a town event or the transfer station
- Planning future initiatives
- And more!

Whether you have an hour to spare or want to take on a small project, we'd love your help. Reach out to recyclingcommittee@eastham-ma.gov and get involved!



Contact Us

The Waste Reduction & Recycling Committee is always looking for volunteers as well as members. Contact us via the Eastham Town webpage at: <https://www.eastham-ma.gov/611/Recycling-Committee>

For More Information

Check out these resources for more information.

- **RecycleSmartMA**
recyclesmartma.org
- **Eastham Transfer Station**
<https://www.eastham-ma.gov/384/Solid-Waste->
- **Eastham Recycles**
eastham-recycles.org

In the News

- Read the ECAC's [Catch the Wave 4](#)
- Watch the Eastham Dark Skies Presentation
 - <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=g9FEIk6wFWE>
- Mass. bottle deposit system continues nosedive, hitting new low last year
 - <https://commonwealthbeacon.org/environment/mass-bottle-deposit-system-continues-nosedive-hitting-new-low-last-year/>

Upcoming events

- **2026-2027 Beach & Transfer Station Stickers**
 - Mail in Applications will start being processed April 1st
 - Online Sticker sales will begin on May 1st
 - Sticker Office Windows for in-person sales will open June 4th
- Apr 24 @ 11am-2pm : Regional Health & Environment Fair in Harwich
 - <https://www.capecod.gov/event/regional-health-environment-fair/>
- May 4 @ 4pm : Eastham Town Meeting
- May 16 @ 9am-12pm : Hazardous Waste Day
 - Eastham Transfer Station
 - www.loveyourlocalwater.org
- May 26 @ 5pm : Waste Reduction & Recycling Committee Meeting (Eastham Town Hall)
 - The agenda is available on the town website.
- May 30 @ 10am-2pm : Eastham Community Tag Sale
 - Windmill Green
 - Bring a friend, shop local, and enjoy a fun community day!
- Jul 31 : Last day for Boat Shrink Wrap Collection
- Aug 1 @ 9am-1pm : Cape Cod Latex Paint Take-Back Day
 - www.townofbourne.com/paint
 - Tony Kent Arena, 8 South Gage's Way, Dennis
- Sep 19 : Household Hazardous Waste Collection in Orleans