

EASTHAM RECYCLES

Focus on "Plastic"



Transfer Station Hours

- Saturday through Wednesday
 - 7:30am to 3pm
- **Summer Hours**
 - Also open Fridays
 - Jul 3 - Sep 11
- **Closed**
 - July 4th

Swap Shop

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

Eastham Farmers Market

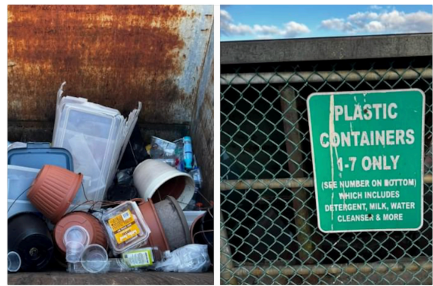
- June 19 - Oct 9
- 9am-12pm
- T-Time site, 4790 US-6, Eastham



Plastic — the Problem that Won't Go Away

From "Plastic pollution: facts & figures" by Surfers Against Sewage (sas.org.uk):

- Over 1 in 3 fish caught for human consumption now contains plastic.
- Producing 1 ton of plastic generates 2.5 tons of CO₂.
- The world produces 400 million tons of plastic every year, a figure likely to triple by 2060.
- Only 9% of all plastic ever produced has been recycled.
- 11 million tons of plastic enter the ocean annually—equivalent to 2,000 garbage trucks dumped every day.
- By 2050, there could be more plastic than fish in the oceans.
- Plastic kills over 100,000 marine mammals and 1 million sea birds each year.



What not to recycle!

July Focus: Refuse, Reduce, Reuse

Refuse, Reduce, Reuse Pop Quiz:

Q: Put these in order from most effective to least effective for reducing waste:

- ___ Reuse
- ___ Refuse
- ___ Reduce

Answer from last month's quiz

Which of these belongs in the plastics recycling dumpster at the Transfer Station?

- C. Plastic bottle

Plastic bans

Eastham bans

- Single-use take out containers & plastic utensils must be 100% recyclable or compostable in a natural setting.
- Single-use plastic shopping bags
- Single use plastic bottles
- Plastic straws
- Polystyrene
- Balloons

Town-by-town bans

lowercapenews.org/plastics

What Happens to Plastics in Eastham?

When plastic is thrown in the trash, Eastham pays to transport and dispose of the items at SEMASS.

When the plastic item is recycled, a vendor picks up the plastic at the transfer station at no cost to the Town.

What's Accepted in Eastham?

The Town of Eastham accepts Plastics 1 - 7 for recycling at the Transfer Station. The Plastic code number can be found within the triangle on the item.

Your well-rinsed #1 & #2 plastics dropped off at the Eastham Transfer Station Recycling container are almost always recycled!

From the article "[A Tale of Two Recycling Systems](#)" in the *Provincetown Independent* on April 23, 2025:

The idea that plastic recycling is pointless is a myth, though, (Kari) Parcell said. Once you narrow a stream down to recyclable plastics, she said, about 80 percent of the material is reused.

What's Not Accepted in Eastham?

- **Plastic bags, plastic wrap** can be taken to the grocery store.
- **Rigid plastics** such as laundry baskets, lawn chairs, toys, plastic bins).
- **Black plastic food service trays** should be placed in the trash because they are missed by optical sorters at recycling sorting facilities and will either end up in the trash or contaminating other materials.
- **Plant pots & trays (plastic)** are made from a variety of plastic resins and are often dark colors, so put them in the trash. White pots also go in the trash. There is such a wide variety of sizes and resin types with pots that they likely will NOT be recycled. Some garden stores will take the trays back. The pots may be welcome at the Swap Shop, depending on current inventory.
- **Clear plastic cups.** Colored plastic cups go in the trash.
- **Styrofoam** (chunks or pellets) can be reused by local shipping stores.



Volunteers Wanted

We are looking for new members as well as community volunteer to help strengthen our waste reduction efforts.

Lend a hand at local events, assist with a workshop, help plan future initiatives.

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!

Helpful Links

[Plastic Free July
plasticfreejuly.org](http://plasticfreejuly.org)

[Use Less Plastic Cape Cod
uselessplasticcapecod.org](http://uselessplasticcapecod.org)

[Bring Your Own Cup
uselessplasticcapecod.org/byoc](http://uselessplasticcapecod.org/byoc)



Plastic Free July

Plastic Free July is a global movement that encourages people to reduce single-use plastics through simple everyday choices. Eastham residents can participate by using reusable shopping bags, water bottles, coffee cups, and food containers, or by saying “no thanks” to items like plastic straws, utensils, and produce bags when they are not needed.

Plastic Free July isn't about being perfect—it's about making small changes that add up over time. Even swapping one habit for the month can help reduce waste and create lasting impact.

2026 Recycling Survey

Help guide Eastham's waste reduction, recycling, and reuse efforts.

The Eastham Waste Reduction & Recycling Committee is gathering community input to improve programs and set priorities for the year ahead.

Whether you use the Transfer Station often or not, your feedback matters. This quick survey takes just a few minutes and will help make Eastham's programs more effective for everyone.

Thank you for sharing your thoughts!

Link to survey <https://s.surveyplanet.com/5byu8qlu>.



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 6](#)
- [Breaking up with Single-Use Plastics](#)
- [Cape Cod, MA Boat Shrink Wrap Recycling Program Continues Regional Impact](#)

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
- June 26 - Oct 9 @ 9am-12pm : Eastham Farmer's Market
 - Food waste composting with Scrappy!
 - Friday mornings
 - T-Time site, 4790 US-6, Eastham
- Jul 13 @ 5pm : Energy and Climate Action Committee Meeting (Eastham Town Hall)
- July 21 @ 5pm : Waste Reduction & Recycling Committee Meeting (Eastham Town Hall)
 - The agenda is available on the town website.
- 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
- Aug 18 @ 5pm : Waste Reduction & Recycling Committee Meeting (Eastham Town Hall)
 - The agenda is available on the town website.
- Sep 12-13: Windmill Weekend
- Sep 19 : Household Hazardous Waste Collection in Orleans
 - Orleans Transfer Station
 - www.loveyourlocalwater.org