# EASTHAM RECYCLES

## Focus on the Holidays

### Transfer Station Hours

- Saturday through Wednesday
  - 7:30am to 3pm

### Swap Shop

- Saturday, Sunday, Wednesday
- 10am to 1pm
- Donations accepted10am to 12:30pm
- Nov 25: Open 9-11:15



***Between Thanksgiving and New Year's there is about a 25% increase in volume or about 1,000 pounds of extra waste per household***

Some tips on recycling that excess:

- Reuse cardboard and paper boxes for gifts.
- Use plain wrapping paper (sans glitter and embellishments) and plain paper gift bags.
- Use holiday cards and envelopes that don't have embellishments, like glitter and glued-on decorations.
- Sticky gift tags are not recyclable by themselves, but they are acceptable if affixed to an envelope or wrapping paper.
- Hard plastic containers and jugs for eggnog and cream are recyclable.
- Ask guests to bring their own containers so you can divvy up any leftovers.



## December Focus: Aluminum and Cans

**"Tin Cans" Pop Quiz:**

What should you do with tin and aluminum cans before bringing them to the Transfer Station?

A. Crush them flat
B. Give them a quick rinse
C. Remove the labels
D. Put them in a plastic bag

**Answer from last month's quiz**

Q: After the holidays, what's the best way to dispose of your shiny or glittery wrapping paper in Eastham?

B. Reuse it for crafts or gift tags; it is NOT recyclable.

Q: What should you do with broken holiday lights?

C. Bring them to the Transfer Station's special "string light" recycling bin

## *Holidays at the Swap Shop*

- Due to storage limitations, please bring unwanted holiday decorations before the holidays, not following.
- The swap shop would love those **extra calendars** you get as freebies.

## *Broken String Lights*

**Did you know there is a special place to drop off broken string lights at the Eastham Transfer Station?**

While this quote is from an older article, this initiative is running again this year, until the end of January. "Recycle Broken or Unwanted Holiday Lights at All Cape Cod Transfer Stations":

"This time of the year, countless strands of holiday lights are thrown away because a single bulb goes out or breaks," said Kari Parcell, Cape Cod Cooperative Extension's Municipal Assistance Coordinator. "With this free collection drive, Barnstable County can divert all holiday lights from the landfill, as recycled goods. This helps save the environment by reducing the amount of waste entering our landfills."

**Holiday lights that are accepted:**

- Rope and garland lights
- C7 and C9 bulbs
- Mini lights
- LED holiday lights
- Lights attached to trees cannot be accepted.
- Other light fixtures, such as lighted angels, stars, or other lighted items cannot be accepted.

## *Christmas Tree Composting*

Live Christmas trees can be dropped off at the yard-waste area of the Transfer Station once the holidays are over. Please remember to remove all lights, ornaments, tinsel, and other decorations before bringing your tree.

## 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

Check out these resources:

- **Holiday Trash or Treasure? A Guide to Cleaning Up Cape Cod's Festive Fallout.**
  - https://www.capecod.gov/2024/12/19/trash-or-recycle-what-to-do-with-your-holiday-waste/
- **Pact Collective** for cosmetic container recycling
  - pactcollective.org
- Free recycling programs from **Terracycle**
  - terracycle.com
- **How to get rid of almost everything** from BlueDot
  - https://bluedotliving.com/bluedots-guide-to-getting-rid-of-almost-everything/
- **Simplify the Holidays**
  - https://simplifytheholidays.org/winter-holidays-1

## *Food Compost at the Holidays*

This holiday season, remember to drop off your food scraps at the Transfer Station's compost bins. Turkey bones, veggie trimmings, peels, and plate scrapings are all accepted. Composting keeps valuable material out of the trash.

- Please do not put plastic bags of any kind into the food compost bins at the Eastham Transfer Station.
- Only certified compostable bags (labeled with BPI, TÜV, or CMA logos) are allowed.

**Massachusetts diverted an estimated 380,000 tons of food from the trash in 2025, which is 100,000 tons more than in 2018 (MassDEP).**



## *Recycling Committee News*

In October, Scrappy made another appearance at the Farmers Market and joined us for an "Ask Me" pop-up table at the Transfer Station, where residents could stop by with their recycling, composting, and waste-reduction questions. It's been great getting out into the community and talking with people about what we can all do to reduce waste in Eastham.

In November, we took a tour of the Eastham Transfer Station to learn more about where everything goes, what works well, and what might benefit from improvement and communications.

We were also excited to welcome Mike Greer as an alternate to the committee.




## 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 8
- How much food will go to waste this Thanksgiving? About $550 million worth.
- Why Do Stores Throw Away So Many Perfectly Good Products? I Went Dumpster Diving to Find Out.
- This mindset shift can help you get better at using up your leftovers

## *Upcoming events*

- Dec 14 @ 5pm : Energy and Climate Action Committee Meeting (Eastham Town Hall)
- Dec 15 @ 5pm : Waste Reduction & Recycling Committee Meeting (Eastham Town Hall)
  - The agenda is available on the town website.
- Dec 17 @ 3pm : Updates to the Board of Health Regulations, Public Comment Session
  - Town Hall, Earle Mountain Room
  - Proposed changes cover a range of topics, including septic and wastewater systems, drinking water and private wells, groundwater protection, rental properties, nuisances, **recycling and waste disposal**, tobacco regulations, and a new regulation regarding kratom.
- Jan 19 @ 5pm : Waste Reduction & Recycling Committee Meeting (Eastham Town Hall)

