



Kingston Joins Mass Recycles Paper! Campaign

Statewide Effort to Recycle More Paper Offers Economic & Environmental Benefits

Town Administrator Kevin R. Donovan announced that the Kingston Selectmen have voted unanimously to join the Mass Recycles Paper campaign, a public/private partnership to reduce the 1.5 million tons of paper that is being thrown away annually in the Commonwealth at a cost of more than \$100 million.

“Recycling paper saves money and reduces global warming. That is why the Town of Kingston has joined the [Mass Recycles Paper!](http://MassRecyclesPaper.org) campaign. Together, with municipalities all across the state, we have pledged to do our part to recycle more paper,” said Mr. Donovan.

The **Mass Recycles Paper!** campaign is a public/private partnership of MassRecycle, MassDEP, the US Environmental Protection Agency – New England, state and local officials, business leaders and concerned citizens. MassRecycle is a broad-based coalition with a 20-year history of advocating for and educating the public and policy makers about recycling.

“We thank the town of Kingston for joining the **Mass Recycles Paper!** campaign,” said **Mass Recycles Paper!** Campaign Chairwoman Claire Sullivan. “By resolving to do all that it can to help stop more than a million tons of paper from going to waste in the Commonwealth each year, Kingston will be saving money and the planet.”

MassDEP estimates that 20 percent of the trash that is thrown away in Massachusetts is paper that could be recycled. Weighing in at 1.5 million tons, the amount of paper could fill all of Fenway Park and reach as high as the Prudential Center.

“Many people are under the false impression that it doesn’t cost anything to throw away their trash, but in fact their tax dollars pay to dispose of waste,” said MassDEP Acting Commissioner Arleen O’Donnell. “Imagine the savings each city or town could realize if they got paper out of the waste stream by recycling it instead. This could make a major impact on a community’s annual budget.”

"Encouraging people to recycle paper and other materials is a smart way to save money for our communities, while doing the right thing for a cleaner environment," said Robert

Varney, regional administrator of EPA's New England office. "Everybody plays a part in protecting our environment, and the Mass Recycles Paper campaign is helping to provide recycling options to more Massachusetts citizens."

According to Town Administrator Kevin R Donovan Kingston paid \$149,000 in 2007 to dispose of 5,010 tons of trash. At \$29.67 per ton disposal fee, the town has the potential to save at least \$22,000 in addition to the \$9,000 it already saves by recycling paper and cardboard that is currently disposed. Paper and cardboard comprise at least 20 percent of the town's trash.

According to the town's Recycling Committee Chairman Gene Wyatt, almost any paper product, except for tissue paper, paper plates, towels and cups, and food-soiled paper can be recycled. Residents can recycle magazines, catalogs, mail (even with window envelopes), shredded paper, phone books, flat and corrugated cardboard, even spiral-bound, paper clipped or stapled reports. "Materials recovery facilities have the technology to sort and remove all the staples and paper clips, making it easy and convenient for us to recycle," he said. For a list of recyclable paper visit <http://www.massrecyclespaper.org>

In addition to saving money, recycling could generate much-needed income for the town. Recycled paper is a valuable commodity, in demand by paper mills around the world. Much of the mixed paper that is recovered from Massachusetts's municipalities goes to mills owned and operated by The Newark Group in Fitchburg and Haverhill. These mills convert the paper into paperboard, used for products such as book covers – including the new Harry Potter book, cereal and game boxes, aluminum foil boxes and pizza boxes.

According to MassDEP, the recycling industry bolsters the Massachusetts economy. Approximately 1,500 recycling businesses employ a total of 19,500 people, have a combined annual payroll of \$600 million and produce annual revenues of \$3.6 billion.

Recycling paper has vast environmental benefits. Recycling reduces greenhouse gas emissions and saves energy. According to MassDEP, in 2005, Massachusetts prevented the disposal of 9.6 million tons of waste through a combination of recycling, composting and other waste reduction. In addition to saving landfill space, waste reduction slows global warming by conserving natural resources, saving energy, and preventing pollution. In 2005, Massachusetts is estimated to have:

- Reduced greenhouse gas emissions by more than 2.6 million tons of carbon equivalent per year.
- Saved nearly 102 trillion BTUs of energy, equivalent to the annual energy consumption of 18 million barrels of oil, or nearly 820 million gallons of gasoline.
- Saved nearly 1.8 tons of iron ore, coal, and limestone and nearly 19 million trees.

For more information about recycling in Kingston or to obtain information about receiving a free paper recycling bins visit our website. (While supplies last)