

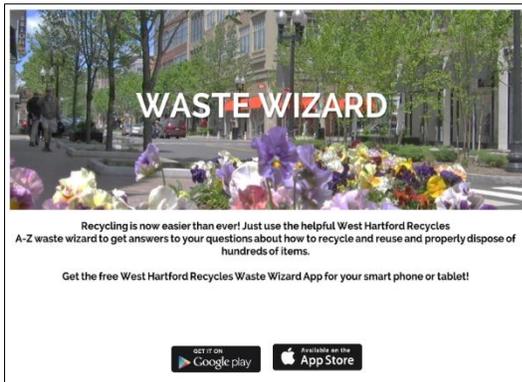
FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Recycling: An Essential Service during the pandemic

WEST HARTFORD, CT (April 15, 2020) – West Hartford Department of Public Works reminds residents that solid waste hauling and recycling are essential services under Governor Lamont’s Executive Order No. 7H.

According to Connecticut Department of Energy and Environmental Protection, “The materials Connecticut residents and businesses recycle, especially cardboard, are essential feedstocks for new materials. The manufacturers of products such as boxes, tissue and paper towels rely on these materials.”

“Effective recycling starts with all of us,” said Katherine Bruns, Recycling Coordinator, Town of West Hartford. “It is up to us to continue to divert allowable material into our recycle bins so that manufacturers have access to these materials at this critical time. Please continue to take care when recycling and place ONLY that is allowable in Blue Barrels and keep contaminants out, such as plastic bags, Styrofoam, bubble wrap and food scraps,” she continued.



If you are not sure if an item can be recycled? Try our Waste Wizard. Download the “West Hartford Recycles” app on your smart phone and then type the item in the search box.

You can also access the Waste Wizard on the Department of Public Works web site -

https://www.westhartfordct.gov/gov/departments/pw/waste_wizard.asp.

(more)

COVID-19 Related Recycling Updates:

- **Plastic film recycling** has temporarily been suspended. If possible please save this material for when the program can safely be restarted and help divert this recyclable material from trash.
- **Bottle Bill redemption** services are a fundamental part of recycling industry and are deemed essential. However, through April 30, 2020 retailers are permitted discretion in continuing the service. Call retailers and bottle redemption centers ahead of time to ensure they are collecting. Again, please save material for recycling, where possible, if you cannot find a location to return, DEEP maintains a list of redemption centers on its website: <https://portal.ct.gov/DEEP/Reduce-Reuse-Recycle/Bottles/Connecticut-Redemption-Centers>
- **Reusable Bags:** according to a 3/27 DEEP press release, customers who use their own bags are encouraged to pack their own bags and wash frequently.
- **Simple Recycling “Pink Bag”** collection has been temporarily suspended until further notice. Please do not put on curb but keep in a dry location.

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