



Darien Recycling & Refuse Center
126 Ledge Road

Drop-off locations:

- Appliances
- Batteries
- Construction & Demolition Debris
- Electronics
- Food Scraps
- Lawn & Garden Debris
- Light Bulbs
- Mattresses
- Oversized Plastic
- Paint
- Reusable items – Swap Shop
- Scrap Metal
- Single Stream Recycling
- Smoke Alarms
- Textiles
- Tires
- Waste Oil (motor oil only)





The Darien Swap Shop

A temporary structure was piloted in January 2010 to reduce MSW and introduce the idea of sustainability; a Waste Reduction Grant from DEEP enabled the construction of a permanent 25' x 25' structure in June 2017 made from corrugated metal with a foundation, electricity, skylights and an overhead fan

The Darien Swap Shop



Staffed by volunteers



Residents can drop off (and/or take) an array of household goods, books, sports equipment, toys and other hard-to-recycle items

Swap Shop

The Swap Shop is a great place for unwanted but usable items that are not accepted by other donation sites: open board games, partially used crayons and markers, and other used items.

We ask residents to consider the following question before dropping items off: “Is this something that someone else might want or use?”



WELCOME TO
THE SWAP SHOP

Hours: 7:00am - 2:00pm

USABLE ITEMS only

RUN BY VOLUNTEERS

**PLEASE HELP PLACE
ITEMS INSIDE THE TENT**

ITEMS NOT ACCEPTED

NO TV's: Place in E-Waste

NO Mattresses: Recycle with Mattresses

NO Paints: Recycle with Paints

NO Car Seats: Recycle with large plastics

**NO Large Appliances: See Attendant at
the Scale House**

NO Clothing: Place in Textile Bins

NO Broken Items: Not for the Shop

Swap Shop

Not everything can be dropped at the Swap Shop. Signage makes clear which materials are not accepted and where they can be recycled

Appliances

A \$15 Freon recovery fee is required for:

- Refrigerators,
- Freezers,
- Air Conditioners,
- Dehumidifiers

Freon-free appliances (washers, dryers, oven, stoves) require no fee and are recycled with Scrap Metal





Leaf Compost

Approximately 50 percent of leaves brought to the Darien Recycling Center are composted on site. Leaf compost provides a small revenue stream to the town; it is available to residents for free.

Lawn & Garden Debris

In this area of the facility, there are drop-offs for:

- LEAVES (shown here);
- BRUSH (branches, twigs, stumps, vegetation);
- GRASS CLIPPINGS.

LOGS can be dropped off in a separate area.

Hauling costs of leaves, logs and grass average \$200,000/year.



Single Stream Stats (in tons):

- FY16 - 2,861
- FY17 - 2,802
- FY18 - 2,673
- FY19 - 2,536

The global market for recyclables has been volatile the past few years, leading to the elimination of certain materials in single stream recycling that either caused contamination of other recyclables, problems at sorting facilities, or simply cannot be sold.





Single Stream

City Carting reports that Darien has relatively low levels of contamination in its single stream recycling, but there is always room for improvement. We periodically take photos to post on social media, pointing out materials that do not belong in single stream. In this photo, the product overwrap is highlighted as not accepted in single stream.



Scrap Metal

Provides a revenue stream for the town:

FY16 - \$30,719

FY17 - 20,572

FY18 - 45,468

FY19 - 35,000

Oversized Plastics

Plastics too large for the recycling bin (patio furniture, play toys, floral pots, laundry baskets, etc.)





Mattresses

85 tons of mattresses and box springs have been diverted from MSW over the past four Fiscal Years (FY 16 – 19) through another product stewardship program. They are recycled through Bye Bye Mattress, a program of the Mattress Recycling Council.

Tires



There is no additional charge for residents to drop off tires and they are expensive to recycle (an average of nearly \$12,000 for each of the past 4 years)

Electronics

“Covered Electronic Devices (CED)” were banned from disposal in CT January 1, 2011 and include TVs, desktop and portable computers, computer monitors and printers, e-readers, tablets, most cell phones.

These items contain materials that are toxic if improperly disposed of and valuable if recycled.

Municipalities are relieved of the cost of recycling due to a product stewardship program that requires manufacturers to assume it.





Transfer Station Building

- TRASH
- Recycling drop-offs for TEXTILES, PAINT, BATTERIES, LIGHTBULBS, SMOKE DETECTORS

Textile Recycling



you drop it | we ship it | let's use it again
For more information, contact the Department of Law at 718-810-2527
Usagain is a for-profit clothes collection company.
Deposits are not tax deductible.

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A total of 127 tons of clothing, footwear, linens and accessories were collected in Fiscal Years 16, 17, 18, 19

Transfer Station Building

Municipal Solid Waste (MSW)
stats (in tons):

FY16 - 2,861

FY17 - 2,802

FY18 - 2,673

FY19 - 2,536





Transfer Station Building

- Smoke Detectors
- Lightbulbs – all types
- Batteries (not shown in photo) – all types

Transfer Station Building: PAINT

Connecticut has a paint stewardship program that requires manufacturers to assume the costs of managing unwanted paints. It is funded by a small fee paid by the consumer when paint is purchased.

Darien's paints are collected and recycled through PaintCare, a nonprofit organization that administers similar programs in other states. Since Darien's collection began in July 2015, more than 165 tons of paint and paint products have been collected and recycled.

Cost savings are provided to municipalities primarily through reduced costs associated with Household Hazardous Waste (HHW) collection programs. Darien's HHW collections were reduced by approximately \$15,000 the first year this program was established.



Food Scrap Drop-Off

-
- Launched October 15, 2018;
 - More than 40 tons of food scraps have been diverted from MSW as of December 31, 2019





DARIEN RECYCLES FOOD SCRAPS!



Collect. Bring. Drop.

Because What You've Got is Not Waste.

recycle@darienct.org

Sale of Food Scrap Recycling kits at the Darien Recycling Center, October & November 2018

Resident Food Scrap Recycling Kits

Kits consist of:

- 2 gallon kitchen collection bin;
 - 6 gallon storage/transport bin
 - 1 roll of 25 compostable bags
 - a Food Scrap Recycling Guide
- Kits are sold at cost: \$25
 - Additional rolls of compostable bags available for \$2/roll
 - A kit is not required to participate in the Food Scrap Recycling Program



Working with Peer Communities

Several neighboring communities are interested in our Food Scrap Recycling Program and have inquired about how it was started and how it works.

Representatives from Greenwich toured our facility in March 2019; their program is expected to launch Spring 2020.

Representatives from Wilton, Weston, & Westport have also visited.





Quantum Biopower

Darien's food scraps are hauled by Curbside Compost to one of three commercial composting facilities:

- New England Compost
- New Milford Farms
- Quantum Biopower

In April 2019 we toured Quantum Biopower with members of the Darien Pollinator Pathway



Compost Giveaway

In early June 2019 the Town purchased 20 cubic yards of compost from New Milford Farms and allowed residents to take home a bucket (or a few!) to use in their gardens and around their yards.

This program is expected to continue to thank residents for recycling food scraps and to encourage those who are not yet doing so.

Darien applied
for certification
through
Sustainable CT
August 2019

Announcement was made
in late October that Darien
had been approved at the
Bronze level!



Craig Flaherty, Chairman of ACS, confers with Kendra Beaver and Chadwick Schroeder, our two Sustainable CT Fellows

Members of the Darien Advisory Committee on Sustainability:

- Craig Flaherty – Chairman
- Carolyn Bayne
- Dan Dolcetti
- Kathy Finnegan
- Christine LaJaunie
- Pam Sparkman
- Clifford van Voorhees

Advisory Committee on Sustainability

(Previously the Transfer Station Advisory Committee, Recycling Center Advisory Committee and the Energy & Recycling Advisory Committee)

1. Continue and monitor a public education program emphasizing single stream recycling, identifying items that can be recycled but are not single stream, and tracking progress in increasing recycling volume.
2. Continue to examine the business model of the transfer station as well as the impact of the single stream and permit fee changes that were implemented in 2013/2014.
3. Continue to evaluate other recycling initiatives to increase general awareness and handling of other wastes.
4. Plan and execute a public event around Earth Day to highlight recycling resources and initiatives.
5. Work with the Middlesex Middle School to strengthen their transition to Single Stream Recycling.
6. Facilitate coordination between DPW and the swap shop to continue the successful operation of the swap shop.
7. Recommend actions to assist the Town in reducing the quantity of municipal solid waste disposed of at the transfer station and increase the quantity of recycled and repurposed materials in the Town of Darien.
8. Look for opportunities to implement single stream recycling in local businesses.
9. To serve as the Town of Darien's Clean Energy Task Force.

Assist with coordination of the Town of Darien's participation in SustainableCT and serve as the Town's Sustainability Team.

