

#### 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?"



# 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





# 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

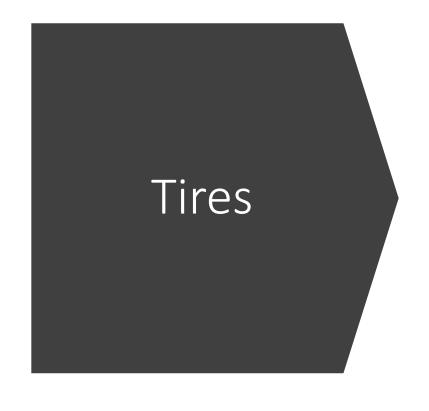
Plastics too large for the recycling bin (patio furniture, play toys, floral pots, laundry baskets, etc.





#### 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.





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, ereaders, 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



# Transfer Station Building

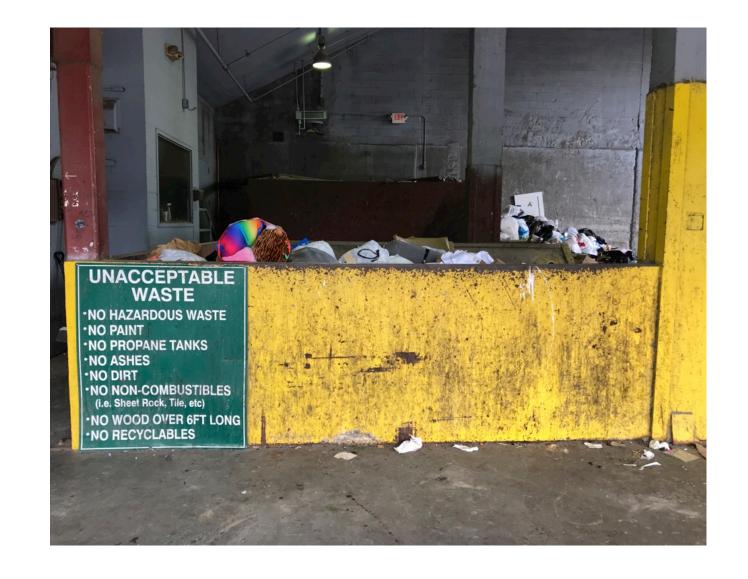
Municipal Solid Waste (MSW) stats (in tons):

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





# 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)

- 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.
- 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.
- Continue to evaluate other recycling initiatives to increase general awareness and handling of other wastes.
- Plan and execute a public event around Earth Day to highlight recycling resources and initiatives.
- Work with the Middlesex Middle School to strengthen their transition to Single Stream Recycling.
- Facilitate coordination between DPW and the swap shop to continue the successful operation of the swap shop.
- 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 rve as the Town's Sustainability Team.