**Recycling Changes Take Effect July 1**

The Springfield Materials Recycling Facility (MRF) accepts, sorts, bales, and sells recyclable material from 65 member communities in western Massachusetts. The MRF is the only recycling facility in Massachusetts that is owned by the Commonwealth. It is operated by a private company, Waste Management Recycle America. A 15-member municipal advisory board discusses and reviews its operations, provides recycling education to the public, and acts as a liaison between member communities, the MRF operator and the Massachusetts Department of Environmental Protection.

A new contract with the operator will go into effect on July 1, 2020. The new contract adds two items to the list of acceptable materials and removes two items. Details are provided below.

Shredded paper and aerosol cans will no longer be accepted

As of July 1st, *shredded paper will no longer be accepted* in our town’s paper recycling program. After July 1st residents can bring confidential documents to area businesses (e.g. copy shops, office supply, shipping stores, and local banks) for secure shredding. Many local banks sponsor free spring and fall shredding events. The material generated from commercial shredding operations is taken directly to local paper mills. The alternative to shredding through a business or event, is disposal as trash.

On July 1st, *aerosol cans will no longer be accepted* in your town’s container recycling program. After July 1st all aerosol cans must be disposed of in the trash.

Clear plastic cups and egg cartons will be considered acceptable.

As of July 1st, *clear plastic cups will be accepted* in your town’s container recycling program. Lids and straws must be removed and placed in the trash. Other plastic cups, such as polystyrene (#6 plastic), colored “keg” cups, and opaque (cloudy) plastic cups, are not accepted for recycling and must go in the trash. If a clear cup is labeled “compostable,” it should not go in with recyclables because it is not accepted at the MRF.

As of July 1st, *clear plastic egg cartons will be accepted* in your town’s container recycling program. Paper and Styrofoam™ egg cartons are not accepted at the MRF.