



**TOWN OF ARLINGTON
DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC WORKS**

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May 6, 2015

Memo To: Mike Rademacher

From: Charlotte Milan, Recycling Coordinator

Re: New at DPW: Arlington Recycling Center

Dan Warren, Teresa DeBenedictis and I have worked out a plan to establish a year-long trial of a Recycling Center in the DPW yard area, near the gate and dumpster.

I will staff it for three hours, one Saturday morning per month, offsetting my weekday time. As the Center becomes established, we may be able to staff it with a volunteer or with DPW staff. We will know more about the reception of the Recycling Center once we have a few months of operations behind us.

Should the Center become a huge success, we can reconvene to discuss opening it weekly on Thursday evenings as well, when we already have administrative staff working.

Why a Recycling Center for Arlington?

There are three specific reasons to be opening a Recycling Center at this time. First, we hope that this center will reduce pressure on the twice-annual Community Collection Days, which have gotten very busy. Second, we can collect information about the demand for this service by the public. Finally, we will qualify to receive Recycling Dividends from the MA Department of Environmental Protection. These dividends are a cash payment intended to reward communities for recycling activities, as well as provide direct funding to continue to expand recycling options for our residents. The expected dividend for the coming year will be \$18,000, which will be paid to the Town by the end of CY 2015. Dividends are paid by the MA DEP annually, but the baseline activities to qualify will likely be a moving target. I expect Arlington will use the dividend funding to continue to meet that baseline and surpass it.

About Arlington's NEW Recycling Center

Initially the Center will collect foam, rigid plastic, electronic waste, books and textiles. We will weigh the collected material to be able to measure our impact on waste reduction. We will also have these additional weekend hours of access and interaction by the public, at which questions and concerns about waste and waste reduction can be addressed.

Operations and Costs

I have all the collection details worked out, and the anticipated expenses are minimal, under \$100 a month.

Opening Day

We will begin advertising the Recycling Center at Community Collection Day on Saturday, May 9. The first Saturday of operation will be June 20, 2015. The additional monthly dates will be publicized in the *2015-2016 Recycling and Trash Guide*. I will prepare a press release for the media outlets and create a Recycling Center page on the Town's website.