

Did you know that in Massachusetts 230,000 tons of textiles are disposed annually in landfills and Waste-to –Energy plants? This equals to 81 pounds per person that are thrown away every year. Examples of textiles are: clothing, shoes, handbags, sheets, towels and draperies. All of these items are highly recyclable-20% of what is donated goes to thrift stores/charities, and the other 80% to brokers, of which 45% is sold overseas as useable clothing, 30% is made into wiping rags, 20% is shredded into carpet backing and insulation and 5% is unusable. Donating unwanted textiles is not only good for the environment, but helps support many industries in Massachusetts and around the world!

The Massachusetts Department of Environmental Protection is aggressively promoting the reuse and recycling of post-consumer textiles to help meet their Solid Waste Master Plan of reducing waste by 200 million tons/year by 2020. All textiles can be donated as long as they are dry (mold can contaminate a whole container) and clean (may be torn, permanently stained, or missing its mate or buttons).

Here is a list of textiles that can be donated:

http://www.smartasn.org/consumers/SMARTList_textiles_that_can_be_recycled.pdf

Belmont residents have the opportunity to recycle textiles at DPW Recycle Days, held in May and October. The next DPW Day is schedule for May 14th. Information will be available on the Town's website.

<http://www.belmont-ma.gov/dpw-highway-division/pages/recycle-events>

Residents can also donate their textiles by calling for a pick-up at your home from your favorite local charity.

Or drop textiles in boxes located around town:

St. Vincent de Paul boxes behind St. Joseph's Church via Orchard St.

Planet Aid boxes are located on Lexington St. at Thayer Rd. or Mill St. at Concord Ave.

Remember to mark your calendars for Belmont DPW Recycle Day, May 14th.

Any questions or suggestions, please contact Mary Beth Calnan/Belmont Recycling Coordinator at mcalan@belmont-ma.gov or 617-993-2689.