

Waste Watch May 2015

The third DPW Recycle Day was held this past May 9th. Thanks to the volunteers from Belmont High School community service group, several 8th graders, residents, Belmont Savings Bank, and Belmont DPW. Together we collected:

- 3,501 pounds of textiles – sponsored by RecycleThat
- 1,349 pounds of books – sponsored by RecycleThat
- 15 cubic feet of Styrofoam and 300 pounds of cardboard (boxes that held personal documents for shredding)—by ReFoamIt
- 2,180 pounds of bulky rigid plastics – sponsored by Russell Disposal
- 3,400 pounds of shredded paper –by Universal Shred, sponsored by Belmont Savings Bank
- 50 pairs of eyeglasses donated to the Lions Club
- \$230.00 for the Belmont Food Pantry—donated from residents using the shredding services.

In total, over 300 cars came to drop items off, 100 more cars than in November! This was another successful effort diverting the above items from the waste-to-energy plant where Belmont's trash is incinerated. Not only does it save the Town money by decreasing our trash tonnage, but it also helps preserve our natural resources. The Town of Belmont should be pleased with this collaborative green effort.

Exciting news from the Belmont Schools – The Department of Environmental Affairs presented the district with a Secretary's Awards for Excellence in Energy and Environmental Education.

More information can be found on the Belmont Public School website:

<http://www.belmont.k12.ma.us/bps/Home/Belmont-Public-Schools-News/Article/1165/Green-Award-to-Belmont-School-District#.VVn0O2d0zcs>

Also, the four elementary and middle schools celebrated Earth Day by weighing trash in their cafeterias. Trash weights were taken for one week without separating out food waste and the following week weights were taken separately of food waste/compostable trays and of trash. The trash weight was much lighter when the food waste and compostable trays were composted. If it is extrapolated over the school year, approximately 56,880 pounds of trash from the elementary and middle schools can be diverted from the waste-to-energy plant! A big thank you is fitting to Arlington Whole Foods for accepting this food waste in their organics container.

Any questions or suggestions can be forwarded to the Belmont Recycling Coordinator, Mary Beth Calnan at mcalan@belmont-ma.gov or 617-993-2689.