



## Town of Needham, Massachusetts Media Release

Office of the Town Manager  
Town Hall, 1471 Highland Ave, Needham, MA 02492

### FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Tuesday, October 19, 2021

### CONTACT

Cyndi Roy Gonzalez

[croygonzalez@needhamma.gov](mailto:croygonzalez@needhamma.gov)

781-675-0394 (cell)

## Town of Needham to Launch Community Food Waste Recycling Program

NEEDHAM – Tuesday, October 19, 2021 – The Town of Needham will launch a community-wide Food Waste Recycling Program this November, encouraging residents to turn their food scraps into energy.

In partnership with Maine-based Agri-cycle, residential food waste and food waste collected at the Needham Public Schools and the Recycling Transfer Station (RTS) will be collected and sent to the Agri-cycle aerobic digester to create methane gas that is then used to generate electricity. This program is part of Needham's ongoing efforts to become a more sustainable community.

The Residential Food Waste Recycling Program at the RTS will begin Monday, November 3, 2021. Food scraps can be dropped off at the Recycling Transfer Station in the area adjacent to the textile and book recycling containers (which are adjacent to the salt shed). This year-round program is available to Needham residents only. Contractors who provide private curbside collection services and who bring curbside recyclables to the RTS will not be allowed to utilize this service for the time being. Residents must have a town sticker, free from the Town Treasurer's Office, to access the RTS.

To recycle food waste, residents must first place their food waste in a bag (plastic or compostable) and then place the bag in one of the food waste recycling barrels at the RTS. When the barrels at the RTS are emptied by Agri-cycle and delivered to their facility in Maine, the food waste is processed by a de-packaging machine, which mechanically separates the organic matter (food waste) from the non-organic matter (plastic bags). The food waste is then placed in an aerobic digester and mixed with cow manure, where methane gas is created that is used to then generate electricity. The non-organic matter is disposed as trash. Residents must bag their household food waste prior to placing it in a barrel to prevent odors and rodents.

All food items are recyclable for this program (meats and seafoods including small bones, dairy, bread, fruit, etc.). However, residents should **NOT** place the following in the food waste recycling barrels:

- **NO** liquids. This includes juice/soda/milk/grease/cooking oil. Sauces, such as apple sauce, are fine provided they are not in a plastic container;
- **NO** non-organic materials in with the food waste (straws, utensils, cups, lids, etc.);
- **NO** pet wastes; and

- **NO** yard waste

For questions about the food recycling program, please contact RTS Superintendent Greg Smith at [gsmith@needhamma.gov](mailto:gsmith@needhamma.gov).

###