



TOWN OF NEEDHAM
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Town Manager**

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February 12, 2024

TO: Department Managers
FROM: Kate Fitzpatrick
RE: Importance of Buying Recycled Products

Buying recycled products makes a difference

The Town of Needham's recycling programs are a cornerstone in our effort to make the community more sustainable. We have done a great job of collecting recyclables, but success does not end here. As public sector purchasers, we must complete the recycling process by procuring goods made with recycled material.

Recycling is big business in Massachusetts

Buying products made with recycled material is critical to our effort. If we fail to purchase recycled products, we remove the economic incentive for manufacturers to use the raw material that we recycle. Additionally, the recycling industry provides jobs and contributes significantly to the State's economy.

Today, recycled products are high quality

In the past, recycled products may have been of lower quality and available only at higher price points. However, improved technology and increased demand for recycled goods have led to cost competitive, high-quality recycled products. Many products we routinely purchase – to include paper towels, toilet tissue, plastic bags, and copy paper – are manufactured using recycled content.

The Town of Needham is officially committed to buying recycled products

As a community, we are committed to buying recycled goods. The Town has adopted a "buy recycled" purchasing policy that urges all departments to procure products that are environmentally preferable and/or made of recycled materials.

The next time you place an order with a vendor, we encourage you to ask for products containing recycled content.

Your support is truly appreciated and vital to the success of our recycling efforts!

cc: Carys Lustig, Director of Public Works
Matthew DeMarrais, Recycling and Transfer Station Superintendent