

TOWN OF WELLESLEY



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Recycled Newspaper and Cardboard from Wellesley RDF are Drawing Top Dollars *High Demand for Product Used to Make Packaging Materials for Online Ordering*

November 19, 2020 (Wellesley, MA) – Wellesley’s Recycling and Disposal Facility wants your clean, recycled newspaper and cardboard. The RDF has put out an SOS urging residents to step-up recycling, or start recycling these products, which are in high demand domestically and internationally, in part due to behavior changes caused by the ongoing Coronavirus pandemic. Increased efforts by our community to keep newspapers and cardboard out of landfills helps the environment and earns money for the Town.

Buyers from around the globe are paying top dollars for Wellesley’s high quality recycled paper products in part because RDF users separate recycling into specific bins, known as “source separated recycling” rather than depositing all recycling into a single bin, known as “single stream recycling.” This practice prevents contamination and delivers a clean end product. The current rise in online ordering by consumers is also playing a key role in premium pricing.

“Recycled newspaper is used to make molded pulp products like trays, egg cartons, and packing materials for food and other perishable items. We’re currently seeing the highest demand ever for pulp products as people stay home and have groceries, supplies, and take-out delivered to them. And they’re a more ecofriendly alternative to Styrofoam,” said RDF Superintendent Jamie Manzolini. “Recycled cardboard is sought after by Amazon and other e-commerce companies to help meet the skyrocketing need for boxes.”

Prices for recycled paper are predicted to keep increasing, especially for newspapers which are dwindling in supply as more people switch from print to digital media sources. Manzolini sees this at the RDF - the bins for newspaper collection are getting smaller as our community consumes less but hopefully does not recycle less. “The bottom line is that in this Town, it still pays to recycle. In fact, when you do, it helps the Town’s bottom line,” added Manzolini.

To learn more about recycling at the RDF visit the [Town of Wellesley website](#).

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