



# KENNEBUNKPORT RECYCLING UPDATE

14 January 2021



# Status



- Curbside Recycling has begun as of the week of 12 January.
- Opening Event at the Town Garage was a great success...
  - Lots of excitement in anticipation of the re-start of recycling.
  - All of the available bins (over 130), and lots of education materials were distributed.
  - Over 300 folks attended the event.





# Making Recycling Work

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- The Town has done their part...
  - Our Select Board has approved funding.
  - New contracts for recycling collection and processing have been signed.
- NOW – It's we, the residents, that must make recycling work.
  - The only three issues we, as residents, need to tackle are:
    - Contamination,
    - Contamination, and...
    - Contamination!
  - How hard can that be??



# Contamination = Higher Town Costs



- Here are the facts:
  - An extra fee must be paid by the Town for every ton of contaminated recycling.
    - Our contracted cost for recycling is currently ~\$95/ton.
    - Additional contamination fees:
      - Loads that contain 6-10% contaminants by volume incur an \$35 per ton fee,
      - Loads that contain 11-15% contaminants by volume incur a \$45 per ton fee,
      - Loads that contain 16-20% contaminants by volume incur a \$55 per ton fee,
      - Loads contain 21-25% contaminants by volume incur a \$65 per ton fee,
      - Loads which contain 26% or higher contaminants by volume incur a \$76+ per ton fee.
  - **Our recycling in the past was consistently over 20% contaminated.\***
  - We must do better now and in the future.

\* Because of (what is now) an expired agreement, Kennebunkport did not previously pay a contamination fee.



# Contamination Prevention



- Only YOU can prevent contamination!
- Simple Action Plan:
  - Carefully read the Recycling Do's and Don'ts card.
    - Keep it handy and refer to it often.
  - When in doubt, access ecomaine's Recyclopeda:
    - <https://www.ecomaine.org/what-can-be-recycled/recyclopeda>
    - Still in doubt? Throw it out!
  - End all wish-cycling. ("Gee, I wish/think this is recyclable.")
  - Remember the Solid Waste Hierarchy:
    - REDUCE – REUSE – RECYCLE