



City of Biddeford
Recycling and Waste Management Commission

September 17, 2025 at 6:30 PM

Biddeford Public Works

Join Zoom Meeting Online

Or call in by phone: +1 312 626 6799

Meeting ID:

Passcode:

1. Call to Order
2. Approval of Minutes - August 20, 2025
 - 2.a Minutes August 20, 2025
3. Discussion/Approval
 - 3.a Waste Truck Update
 - 3.b HHW Update from Saturday, September 13th Event
 - 3.c Household Waste Update - Going to Policy Committee
 - 3.d Proposed Elimination of PAYT Bags: Heavy for Staff to Lift Into Waste Trucks (Rocco DeLuca Requested)
 - 3.e Update on Recycling Education
 - 3.f Upcoming Agenda Discussions
4. Other Business
5. Commission Roster Changes - One Opening Remains
6. Agenda for Next Meeting
7. Adjourn

1. Approval of minutes of previous meeting. (Unanimous.)
2. The acquisition of a new waste truck is currently on track.
3. Hazardous Waste Day!
 - a. September 13th
 - b. Volunteers are welcome both from the Committee and the general public.
 - c. It will be an early morning, meeting at the Hill Street station.
4. Definition of "Household Waste."
 - a. Director Demers presented his proposed definition.
 - b. He stated that this is derived from similar definitions at nearby municipalities, adapted to his personal needs.
 - c. In response to David's question, Director Demers stated that this will be particularly helpful to the waste management teams as they explain the rules to citizens.
 - d. This should have the overall result of limiting orange bag contents for automatic pickup.
5. Violations.
 - a. Director Demers reiterated that municipal policy in regard "wishcycling" is for a first violation to result in a notice, and a second violation results in Public Works pulling the household's recycling can.
 - b. Abigail suggested that the escalation go from a paper notice, to a sticker that cannot be easily removed (like a bumper sticker), to the can being pulled.
 - c. Director Demers said that new cans actually have the rules set into the cover by epoxy, so this might be redundant.
 - d. He also said that he cannot pull a person's garbage can, because it would just result in waste piling up - which would be A) hazardous, and B) a punishment to the community, rather than the individual committing the infraction.
 - e. Abigail volunteered to do legal research on alternative enforcement methods / progressions

6. Update on recycling education.

- a. New bins are coming!
- b. The July audit of recycling gave an 11.3% citywide average. This is not terrible.
- c. Most sites were much lower than this; two sites (Village Ln and Cleave St) were very high, throwing off the average. Rocco is educating at both sites.
- d. Director Demers attributed this to someone trying to "recycle" the better part of a CAR - and the infraction is based upon weight, so this rather tipped the scales.

7. Upcoming agenda items

- a. Recycling in schools
- b. Education about recycling in schools
 - i. Probably a ton of work to get this into curriculum
 - ii. Maybe a school Recycling Club?
 - iii. Be GREAT to add a local student to this Committee!
- c. Composting
 - i. Garbage To Garden is \$500/mo., but this could totally be handled in-house by Public Works for much less
 - ii. ...just as soon as ME DEP gets Jeff the permits!
 - iii. Skepticism was raised in re Garbage To Garden's inspection of its facilities to ensure compliance and proper manangement of output
 - iv. Significant praise was given for DPW's composting of leaf material
 - v. Jake will reach out to the sustainability committee about prioritizing our composting in-house... just as soon as the permit finally lands
 - vi. Jeff will poke Marc Malon to see if he can't light a fire under the State DEP in re the licensure

8. Motion to adjourn

- a. Unanimous Except For Bill!