

Bulky Wastes: Increasing Reuse & Recycling in Rural Areas

Jennifer Griffith
Northeast Waste Management Officials'
Association (NEWMOA)



What is NEWMOA?

- Non-profit, non-partisan interstate association
- Solid waste, hazardous waste, waste site cleanup, & pollution prevention programs
- CT, ME, MA, NH, NJ, NY, RI, & VT
- Formally recognized by EPA in 1986
- More information at: www.newmoa.org



Promoting Bulky Waste Reuse & Recycling in Rural Areas

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What are Bulky Wastes?

- Furniture
 - ❖ Wood
 - ❖ Upholstered
 - ❖ Metal
 - ❖ Plastic*
- Mattresses
- Carpet
- Large Rigid Plastics like:
 - ❖ Kiddie pools
 - ❖ Plastic furniture*
 - ❖ Play structures

Project Partners

- **Maine**
 - ❖ Mid-Coast Economic Development District*
 - ❖ Department of Environmental Protection
- **Massachusetts**
 - ❖ Franklin County Waste Management District
 - ❖ Department of Environmental Protection
- **Vermont**
 - ❖ Central Vermont Solid Waste Management District
 - ❖ Northeast Kingdom Waste Management District
 - ❖ Department of Environmental Conservation

Project Outline

- Stakeholder Group in each partner location
- Guidance documents:
 - ❖ Furniture
 - ❖ Mattresses
 - ❖ Carpet
 - ❖ Large Rigid Plastics
- Workshop in each partner location
- “What to do” fact sheets in each location
- Outreach to others (e.g. this conference!)
- Project website: www.newmoa.org/solidwaste/projects/bulky

Current Practice

Twin /Single Mattresses or Boxsprings	\$30 each
Full /Queen /King Mattresses or Boxsprings	\$30 each
Couch	\$20 each
Loveseat	\$15 each
Upholstered Chair	\$10 each
End tables, wooden chairs, kitchen/dining room tables, bookcases, bureaus	\$5 each
Area rug	\$10 each
Wall-to-wall carpet	\$25 each
Sink, toilet	\$10 each

Furniture: Reuse

- Only appropriate for good quality
- Communities can:
 - ❖ Partner with local charity to promote donation and/or hold a collection event for donation
 - ❖ Sponsor:
 - Swap Shop
 - One-day swap event
 - Fix-it clinic
- What about bugs in upholstered furniture?
 - ❖ Treatment: heat, cold, CO2, or pesticides
 - Heat: ReSource in VT and Wish Project in MA
 - ❖ Exclude upholstered furniture from program

Swap Shop/Event

- Only appropriate for good quality
 - ❖ Need staff and/or volunteers
 - Partner with local group/business
- Need sheltered location
 - ❖ Hold in summer only
 - ❖ Rent tent for one-day event
- Need to move items that remain
 - ❖ Partner with local charity, arrange with service like 1-800-Got-Junk (they reuse/recycle!), or dispose
 - ❖ Charge drop-off fee to off-set expenses, but:
 - Lower than bulky waste disposal fee
 - Emphasize that donations are tax deductible

Swap @ Transfer Stations



“Double Your Trash Back if Not Pleased With Our Service!”



Furniture: Recycling

• Upholstered Furniture

- ❖ Breaks down into:
 - Clean wood (many transfer stations have free drop-off)
 - Metal (transfer stations typically have free drop-off)
 - Fabric/stuffing (clothing collection systems handle all textiles *if clean* or dispose)
- ❖ Communities can:
 - Promote deconstruction of upholstered furniture
 - Collect and investigate sending to a C&D recycler

• Wood furniture

- ❖ Collect and investigate sending to a C&D recycler

• Metal furniture

- ❖ Most communities already collect and recycle metals

Mattress: Reuse

- Only appropriate for good quality
- Communities can partner with local charity:
 - ❖ Promote donation
 - ❖ Hold collection for donation
 - ❖ Furniture banks serve low income families and individuals moving from: shelters, fire, refugee resettlement, domestic violence, etc.
 - Furniture Friends in Westbrook
- What about bugs in mattresses?
 - ❖ Treatment: heat, cold, CO2, or pesticides
 - Heat: ReSource in VT and Wish Project in MA

Mattress: Recycling

- Breaks down into:
 - ❖ Clean wood (many transfer stations have free drop-off)
 - ❖ Metal (transfer stations typically have free drop-off)
 - ❖ Fabric/stuffing (clothing collection systems handle all textiles *if clean* or dispose)
- Communities can collect & send to recycler
 - ❖ Must be kept protected from weather
 - ❖ Expense to transport (recyclers in CT, MA, & QC)
 - ❖ Recyclers charge fee to accept
- Extended Producer Responsibility (EPR)
 - ❖ Connecticut, Rhode Island & California

Recycling Collection



Carpet Options

- Significant climate change impacts
- Reuse: appropriate for good quality area rugs
- Nylon carpet has value & is recyclable
 - ❖ Problem: increasing use of PET carpet
- Communities can collect & send for recycling
 - ❖ Must be kept protected from weather
 - ❖ Expense to transport (processors in MA & NJ)
 - ❖ Processors charge fee to accept – or need to pre-sort and only send nylon (and dispose rest)
- Extended Producer Responsibility (EPR)
 - ❖ California has “EPR-ish” program

Rigid Plastics: Reuse

- Appropriate for good quality
- Communities can hold a swap event
 - ❖ Need staff and/or volunteers
 - Partner with local group/business
 - ❖ Northampton, MA: Recycling Rally (twice year) includes swap: animal crates, furniture, play structures
- Need to move items that remain
 - ❖ Partner with local MRF for recycling, arrange with service like 1-800-Got-Junk (they reuse/recycle!), or dispose
 - ❖ Charge drop-off fee to off-set expenses, but:
 - Lower than bulky waste disposal fee

Swap Event

Northampton's Reuse Committee's Fall 2015 Bulky Rigid Plastic Collection

Saturday, November 7, 9am-Noon
Smith Vocational High School



Bring your large, clean, rigid, plastic
discards for sharing & recycling!

All collected items will
be available to the public free of charge



Rigid Plastics: Recycling

- Communities can sponsor:
 - ❖ Ongoing collection at transfer station
 - Whately, MA regional location
 - ❖ Collection event
 - Need staff and/or volunteers
 - Partner with local group/business
 - Northampton, MA: Recycling Rally (twice year)
- Need partnership with MRF
 - ❖ Typically only plastic – remove metal and fabric
 - ❖ Current recycling market weak so might charge fee

Recycling Rally

Northampton Reuse Committee's
Spring Recycling Rally
 Saturday, April 30, 2016 • 9 AM to Noon
 Smith Vocational High School 80 Locust Street, Northampton

- 1 → **Bulky Rigid Plastic**
 Nothing flexible or crinkly,
 no PVC 
- 2 → **Pellet Fuel Bags**
 Must be dirt-free and dry 
- 3 → **White Styrofoam**
 Large white chunks only.
 Must be rigid, dry & clean 
- 4 → **Bicycles**
 via *Bikes Not Bombs*
 Suggested \$10 per bike donation
 to offset shipping expenses 
- 5 → **Document Shredding**
 Limit of 2
 curbside recycling-sized boxes 

For more info visit www.northamptonma.gov/reduce-waste
 or call 413-587-1059



Recycling Collection



Zero Waste Connection

A Professional Social Network

Mission & Goals

- Promote sustainable consumption and pollution prevention as the preferred methods of achieving zero waste
- Provide forums for zero waste professionals to share information on program development and implementation
- Foster innovation in zero waste programs through the exchange of ideas in real time
- Increase the adoption of zero waste practices among practitioners
- www.zerowasteconnection.org

Questions?

Jennifer Griffith, Project Manager
NEWMOA
89 South Street, Suite 600
Boston, MA 02111
(617) 367-8558, ext. 303
jgriffith@newmoa.org