Contamination

NERC Spring Conference
Burlington, VT
HRRA’s Efforts to Decrease Contamination

Housatonic Resources Recovery Authority
Regional Governmental Waste Management Authority serving 11 Municipalities in Western Connecticut Bethel, Bridgewater, Brookfield, Danbury, Kent, New Fairfield, New Milford, Newtown, Redding, Ridgefield and Sherman.
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Plastic Bag and Film Contamination in Mixed Recycling at the Winters Bros. Transfer Station Danbury, CT

Goal: Reduce contamination through public education
Plastic Bag and Film Contamination in Mixed Recycling at the Winters Bros. Material Recovery Facility in Shelton, CT.
Plastic Bag and Film Contamination in Mixed Recycling Solutions:

• Wipe Out Waste Guide
• Flyers – Hauler Invoices
• Newspaper Ads
• Bus Ad
• Facebook
• Website
• Billboard contest
• WRAP Campaign
• Trex Contest

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Plastic Bag and Film Contamination in Mixed Recycling.

Results:

• Quality material

• Strong relationships with transfer stations and MRF operators

• Maintain tip fees and rebates.

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Food Scraps Contamination

**Goal:** reduce amount of contamination in food scrap programs.
Food Scraps Contamination

Solution

1.) Clear signage at drop-off locations
Food Scraps Contamination

Solution 2.) Control access to containers

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REMEmber - **Only Food Scraps** are allowed in your bin. No Plastic items, stickers, rubber bands or twist ties!

**Acceptable Food Waste Items for Curbside Pick-up**
- Meat, Poultry (bones also) Fish (including shellfish)
- Dairy Products
- Flower & Vegetable Garden Waste
- Houseplants & Flower Bouquets
- Fruits & Nuts (including pits)
- Vegetables ***Remove stickers, bands and ties***
- Bread, Pasta & Grains
- Sauces, Soup & Gravy
- Coffee Grounds & Filters
- Tea Bags
- Paper Towels & Napkins
- Egg Shells
- Plate Scrapings

If you are having issues with animals, feel free to use a **bungee cord**.

**Food Scraps Contamination Solution 3.) Email communication to every participant**
Food Scraps Contamination

Results Clean stream of material

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Communication is the key to a successful program

• Consistent
• Concise
• Consequences
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