

## 2008 Goffstown Recycling Program Update

In 2007, the Town of Goffstown arranged for a new recycling contract with Integrated Paper Recyclers (IPR) of North Andover MA, commencing on January 1, 2008. This new contract reduced what would have been a \$95,000 annual cost for disposal of recyclables to absolutely nothing, and also provides revenue to the town. The change is transparent to Goffstown residents at the curb - recycle pickup is exactly the same as before. The new contract reduced first quarter 2008 solid waste disposal costs by a net of \$31,507.72:

- 536.45 tons of recyclables generated an average of \$11.733/ton in **revenue** for a total of **\$6,294.25**
- Under last year's contract, if it had been extended for 2008, the same 536.45 tons would have cost the Town \$47/ton for transportation and processing, which would have resulted in a cost of \$25,213.47.

In anticipation of the new contract, the Goffstown DPW was able to reduce its request for the 2008 Solid Waste budget accordingly. To the Goffstown residents who are properly recycling, Thank You, Thank You, Thank You! The average recycling rate for this period was 32%. 40% would be better and is an achievable goal for the year. It would also provide an additional unanticipated savings of \$40,000 - \$45,000.

There is however, some bad news which has the potential to negatively offset the progress made over the last few months. We have recently seen a significant increase in trash placed in the Big Blue recycling tote. The trash is manually removed from the recyclables at the Transfer Station prior to being loaded on the IPR trailer. This is a time consuming and wasteful process, which actually reduces recycling due to contamination. Here is a list of trash that we have recently seen, and wish we hadn't seen, in "Big Blue":

- Used cat litter
- Coat hangers (processing nightmare for IPR)\*\*
- Garden hose
- Leaf and yard waste
- Stuffed animals\*\*
- Bathroom waste
- Bedding\*\*
- Clothes / Shoes\*\*
- Large tarps
- Dirty diapers
- Car parts\*\*
- Bagged garbage
- Anything with a power cord\*\*

### **\*\*Recyclable at the Transfer Station (see attendant)**

These items, when in Big Blue, create an obvious health and safety problem or simply cause expensive operational shut downs for IPR. They also have no recycle value unless marked as recyclable at the Transfer Station. IPR has been patient as we try to understand the extent of the contamination and probable source. Requiring the use of clear bags only in "Big Blue" may be one solution. Please don't hesitate to contact the Transfer Station if you are uncertain whether a particular item is recyclable. Contact us with any questions at 497-4824.

Thanks again to all who have helped make the Goffstown curbside recycling program a success. It's been a great first quarter. Please continue to encourage family, friends and neighbors to recycle correctly. There is still plenty of room for improvement.