

## **Our Plastic Recycle Bin is “Open” for Business.**

The Town of Boscawen continues to try and balance cost with doing what is right for our town and its citizens. Recently, it has come to the attention of the Selectboard and town employees that residents are concerned about plastic recycling, or what is perceived by some as a “lack of” plastic recycling by the town.

Currently, every community within America is dealing with the problem of plastic waste.

Only 1 or 2 grades of plastic are readily recyclable. (Milk jugs, plastic water bottles) The rest is being burned or put into landfills across the country. Sad, but true. Unfortunately plastic is extremely difficult to recycle and within the last year or so, it has started to cost more money, time, and wear and tear on equipment to recycle plastic. Many communities and major metropolitan areas around the country have decided to not recycle plastic, or at least anything other than milk and water containers.

Major cities and urban areas are therefore burying, or burning their plastics as the only economical solution of today. Instead of recycling plastic, most environmental groups, and large urban areas, are not asking people to recycle plastic anymore but instead are asking people to reduce their use of plastic bottles, packaging, and other items that come in plastic.

Hard to do but this will be the future and best solution to this problem of plastics.

Here in Boscawen, the town continues to vigorously promote recycling, and champions the cause of recycling to reduce waste, reduce cost, and reduce pollutants within our small community. The small amount of money that we do make on cardboard and paper helps to replace and fix equipment that we use to collect recyclables.

The Board of Selectmen, with the knowledge and experience of our Director of Public Works, made the decision in 2013 to keep costs to a minimum while still making every effort to recycle that plastic if possible. We decided against paying someone to sort it, the cost of trucking it to another community, and then possibly have our plastic end up in a landfill or being burned anyways. We would be paying extra tax money for services above and beyond which we already provide every week to the town. This would not make practical, or economical, sense.

Because of the lack of opportunities, your collected plastic is economically transported every month or so by our town truck to the Wheelabrator plant in Concord where it is turned into electricity. In a way we are at least recycling that waste into another use. Perfect solution?...Certainly not. Better than in a landfill or on the side of Boscawen’s roads? Yes!

Do we stop asking people to place plastic in the plastic bin? We haven’t done so because other areas around the country have shown, and proven, that once people are in the habit of recycling, they will continue. And that continues to be good for Boscawen’s roadways, waterways, and by-ways!

If anyone would like to start a campaign to reduce plastic use in Boscawen we certainly encourage you to give us a call...we will put you in touch with someone from the Recycling Committee!

If you have an idea that Boscawen, and other areas of the country are missing, let's talk! Who wouldn't want to solve a major, world-wide problem!

We are working to make Boscawen a Better Place...We Thank You for Your Continued Support!