

PRESS RELEASE

TOWN OF CONWAY

Contact: Earl Sires, Town Manager, 447-3811

Town of Conway Begins Recycling Enforcement

Beginning Tuesday, June 15, 2004, the Town of Conway will enforce the mandatory recycling provision of its solid waste ordinance. This provision requires all users of transfer station to sort recyclables and place them in designated receptacles. The Town of Conway operates the landfill on behalf of the Lower Mount Washington Valley Solid Waste District which is composed of member towns of Conway, Albany, and Eaton.

Several years ago, the Town noticed that recycling levels were declining while the amount of trash increased each year during the same period. Concerned about this downturn, the Selectmen asked the voters if they were in favor of enforcing the mandatory requirement. At the 2003 Town Meeting, the voters supported enforcement by a vote of 1140 to 501. Due to this strong support, the Selectmen placed funds in the 2004 budget to finance enforcement. With the passage of this year's budget the town is set to begin enforcing.

According to town engineer, Paul DegliAngeli, "Our goal is to increase recycling from the current 18% of the waste stream to 40% over the next eighteen months. If we can do this we can extend the life of the landfill by one year for every three years that we operate".

A Recycling Compliance Officer will oversee the enforcement program. The enforcement officer will be present at the transfer station to help users understand how to recycle, what to recycle, and to issue citations to those that choose not to recycle. Fines for residential users will range from \$10.00 to \$100.00 and repeat offenders will have their landfill access revoked. Commercial users will be subject to fines ranging from \$100.00 to \$250.00 per ton. Repeated violations will also result in the loss of commercial access to the transfer station.

Town Manager, Earl Sires, noted however that for the first 30 days of the enforcement program only written warnings with no fine attached will issued. Sires also stated that prior to beginning enforcement, the Town plans a number of educational efforts such as educational programming on Valley Vision TV (Channel 3), the distribution of brochures at the transfer station, and a Recycling Resource Center on the town's Web Site (www.conwaynh.org). The Resource Center will offer a variety of information on complying with the regulations, recycling in general and how increased recycling will benefit the town. Chairman of the Conway Selectmen, Gary Webster, said "We believe we have created a program with the right combination of education and enforcement. We are asking all users of the transfer station to join in helping us increase recycling which will extend the life of the landfill. If we can do this we will all save money.

Our hope is that all residents will see the value in recycling and work together to the benefit of Conway, Albany and Eaton communities.”