



# Watertown City Council

Administration Building  
149 Main Street  
Watertown, MA 02472  
Phone: 617-972-6470

## ELECTED OFFICIALS:

Mark S. Sideris,  
Council President

Vincent J. Piccirilli, Jr.,  
Vice President &  
District C Councilor

John M. Airasian,  
Councilor At Large

Caroline Bays,  
Councilor At Large

John G. Gannon,  
Councilor At Large

Anthony Palomba,  
Councilor At Large

Nicole Gardner,  
District A Councilor

Lisa J. Feltner,  
District B Councilor

Emily Izzo,  
District D Councilor

## **COMMITTEE ON PUBLIC WORKS MEETING MONDAY, OCTOBER 3, 2022 AT 6:00 PM RICHARD E MASTANGELO COUNCIL CHAMBER ADMINISTRATION BUILDING, 149 MAIN STREET**

### **AGENDA**

1. Call to Order
2. Meeting Discussion - Action
  - A. Recommendations on New Trash and Recycling Policies and Inflow and Infiltration Fees
3. Adjournment



George J. Proakis  
City Manager

CITY OF  
WATERTOWN  
*Office of the City Manager*

Administration Building  
149 Main Street  
Watertown, MA 02472  
Phone: 617-972-6465  
[www.watertown-ma.gov](http://www.watertown-ma.gov)  
[citymgr@watertown-ma.gov](mailto:citymgr@watertown-ma.gov)

To: Honorable City Council

From: George J. Proakis, City Manager

Date: September 12, 2022

RE: Additional Information – New Trash and Recycling Policies and  
Inflow and Infiltration Fees

---

Enclosed please find additional information from Gregory St. Louis, Superintendent of Public Works regarding the upcoming citywide recycling and disposal policy changes and inflow and infiltration fees. The subject agenda item is listed under President's Report 7B for referral to the Committee on Public Works.

Thank you for your consideration in this matter.

cc: Gregory St. Louis, Superintendent of Public Works  
Steven T. Magoon, Director of Community Development and Planning/Assistant City Manager  
Thomas J. Tracy, City Auditor/Assistant City Manager for Finance  
Mark R. Reich, Esquire, KP Law



CITY OF WATERTOWN  
DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC WORKS  
124 ORCHARD STREET  
WATERTOWN MA 02472

Gregory M. St. Louis, PE  
Superintendent of Public Works

TO: Watertown Residents

FROM: Gregory St. Louis, PE – Superintendent of Public Works

SUBJECT: **UPCOMING** Citywide Recycling and Disposal Policy Changes

DATE: September 9th, 2022

The City of Watertown recently ratified the Massachusetts Department of Environmental Protection 2030 Solid Waste Master Plan. This plan establishes the goal of a 30% statewide reduction in disposal tonnage between now and 2030. The Watertown Department of Public Works is implementing new programmatic changes that will allow Watertown to achieve the 30% reduction in our disposal tonnage based on a 2019 baseline. New programs and policies have been created to increase diversion of materials away from disposal through reduced consumption, reuse of existing items, and expansion of recycling programs. Thank you to all Watertown residents for your support and patience as we transition into these new policy changes.

**There will be a delay to the start of some of these policy changes. Official start dates to be announced.**

**76 Stanley Ave. Recycle Center:** Open Tuesday, Friday, & Saturday 9AM-4PM to Watertown residents. **Active now.**

- Open hours are transitioning to **3 days a week starting Monday, September 12<sup>th</sup>, 2022.**
- Materials collected: Cardboard, single stream recycling, yard waste, e-waste, batteries, textiles (clothing, shoes, bedding), scrap metal items, hard plastics (outside furniture, toys, etc.), compost collection.
- **New addition to Recycle Center:** Compost collection.

**Food Scraps/ Compostable Materials:** Watertown is partnering with Black Earth Compost to provide free food waste collection. **Active now.**

- Residents that would like to participate in the curbside collection program must register at: [blackearthcompost.com/watertown](https://blackearthcompost.com/watertown)
- Curbside collection pilot available for residents in buildings with 4 units or fewer.
- **Compost drop off will also be available at the Recycle Center for all residents.**
  - All food scraps must be emptied into communal totes directly. **NO** bags of any kind.
  - **Acceptable items:** Meat, bones, dairy, vegetables, leftovers, coffee grounds and filters, eggs, eggshells, seafood and seafood shells, napkins.
  - Complete list of items that are allowed into the bins:  
<https://blackearthcompost.com/media/uploads/2019/09/26/BlackEarthCompostGuide.pdf>
- Food waste collection will begin at Watertown Public Schools for the 2022-2023 school year.

**Bulk items:** Burnable items (excluding mattresses) will now have to be **scheduled and paid** for curbside pickup by phone at **844-737-8254** through Republic Services. These items will be collected curbside on **Wednesdays**. Please consider donating, selling, or gifting furniture and items that are in workable condition. This keeps large items out of disposal and decreases the need to create and transport new items. **Start date to be announced.**

- All burnable bulk items will now need to be scheduled for pickup. Schedule and pay for a pickup by phone at **844-737-8254** through Republic Services. Residents may also use an outside vendor if preferred.
- Items placed on the curb that have not been scheduled through Republic Services will not be collected and will be considered illegal dumping, which can result in a fine.
- Places to donate or sell include Facebook Marketplace, Buy Nothing-Watertown Facebook page, craigslist.org...etc.
- Each household can schedule collection for **two** burnable items per week.
- **Prices for bulk item collection will depend on the item, size, and shape.** Small/medium items will be capped at \$25/per item, and large items such as couches will be capped at \$50/per item.

**TVs/ White Goods:** These items cannot go into the trash and must be recycled properly. White Goods refers to household appliances like stoves, fridges, dehumidifiers, ovens, and microwaves...etc. **Start date to be announced.**

- TVs/White goods will require payment and scheduling through Republic Services.
- Schedule and pay for a pickup by phone at **844-737-8254** through Republic Services.
- Collections will occur every **Thursday**.
- **Prices for White Goods/ TV collection will depend on the item, size, and shape.** Small/medium items will be capped at \$25/per item, and large items will be capped at \$50/per item.

- MassSave provides zero cost appliance pickup and recycling. Consider scheduling a collection with them. To learn more, visit:

[www.masssave.com/shop/recycling/refrigerator-and-freezer-recycling](http://www.masssave.com/shop/recycling/refrigerator-and-freezer-recycling)

**Mattress Recycling:** Per MassDEP laws going into effect November, 2022 mattresses and box springs will become waste ban items. This means **they cannot be thrown away and must be recycled**. Watertown is partnering with HandUp, a mattress recycler. Schedule a curbside pickup by phone (617-378-7619) or at [www.handupmattress.com/curbside-pickup](http://www.handupmattress.com/curbside-pickup). Click the “Schedule town pickup” button to sign up. **Start date to be announced.**

- Website to learn more: [www.handupmattress.com](http://www.handupmattress.com)
- The City of Watertown has negotiated a price of \$46 per item. HandUp accepts both mattresses and box springs.
- Watertown will have curbside collection one day per month.
- Mattresses left on the curb that have not been scheduled for a pickup with HandUp will be considered illegal dumping, which can result in a fine.
- Republic Services will not be collecting mattresses at all.

*The City of Watertown offers a set price of \$20/ item for those customers who meet certain income based criteria. If you are a Watertown resident in an owner occupied property and receive a Section 17D or Section 41C real estate exemption, you qualify for this set price. If you are a Watertown resident and receive fuel assistance, you qualify for this set price. Please email a letter of interest and appropriate documentation of fuel assistance or real estate exemption to the Recycling Division, at [recycle@watertown-ma.gov](mailto:recycle@watertown-ma.gov).*

For questions and further information, please visit [www.watertown-ma.gov/trash](http://www.watertown-ma.gov/trash) or email the Watertown Recycling Coordinator, Anya Pforzheimer at [recycle@watertown-ma.gov](mailto:recycle@watertown-ma.gov)



**CITY OF WATERTOWN**  
DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC WORKS  
124 ORCHARD STREET  
WATERTOWN MA 02472

Gregory M. St. Louis, PE  
Superintendent of Public Works

(P) 617-972-6420  
(F) 617-972-6402

## **INFLOW AND INFILTRATION REMOVAL POLICY**

September 12, 2022

Unlike our water distribution system, which uses full pipes under pressure to deliver water to homes, the sanitary sewer system is rarely full when wastewater is flowing from homes to the wastewater treatment plant. When a water main breaks, it leaks water out. When a sewer pipe breaks, it allows groundwater and stormwater to infiltrate into the pipe.

When groundwater or stormwater leaks into the sewer system, it takes up extra space that could be carrying wastewater. This can contribute to sewer backups and overflows. In addition, this additional “clean” groundwater and stormwater is treated at the MWRA Wastewater Treatment Plant at the City’s expense.

Inflow is stormwater that is directly piped into the sanitary sewer system to control runoff. These connections, which may include storm drains in the street, parking lots, driveways, sump pumps, foundation drains, and gutters, should not be connected into our sanitary sewer system, which is designed only to carry wastewater.

Infiltration is excess water that gets into the sanitary sewer system through open joints, cracks, root intrusion, and breaks in the pipes. These deficiencies may allow constant infiltration of groundwater. Cracked or collapsed sewer lines are generally caused by deterioration over time, poor design, installation, or maintenance.

The City is required to reduce inflow and infiltration (I/I) as a requirement of its permits issued to the City by MWRA and MassDEP. In 2014, MassDEP revised 314 CMR 12.00, and in 2017 issued revised policies and guidance for I/I removal, including requirements for mitigating impacts from any new connections or extensions where proposed flows exceed 15,000 gallons per day. Such mitigation shall require that four gallons of (I/I) be removed for each gallon of new flow to be generated by the new sewer connection or extension. MassDEP also allows communities to adopt more stringent removal requirements.

Section 2.3(C) of the City’s *Sanitary Sewer Regulations* address the MassDEP requirements by stating, “For residential properties with four or more units and non-residential properties, all new connections to the public sanitary sewer and all existing connections where the property is completely or substantially reconstructed, Infiltration/Inflow (I/I) shall be removed from the sanitary sewer.”

As further noted in the *Regulations*, infiltration measurement and removal percentages for I/I removal projects “shall be in accordance with the Massachusetts Department of Environmental Protection’s Guidelines for Performing Inflow/Infiltration Analyses and Sewer System Evaluation Surveys. Specifically 50% of identified peak infiltration shall be considered removable effectively making the removal ratio 8 to 1.” In addition, any I/I proposed to be removed and subsequently removed from the system as part of an I/I project must be verified by a pre-rehabilitation and post-rehabilitation testing program.

The *Regulations* allow the Superintendent to assess a monetary mitigation in lieu of physical removal of I/I from the system as outlined in the previous paragraph. I/I mitigation funds shall be used to improve the public sewer and drainage systems in accordance with the I/I program objectives, which include investigating and evaluating the sources of I/I, designing and publicly bidding I/I removal projects, constructing and inspecting work, and I/I removal verification studies. The funds are to be deposited into a dedicated account to support these projects.

The City seeks to establish a fair and reasonable I/I in-lieu of fee to achieve the intent and purpose of the City's I/I program.

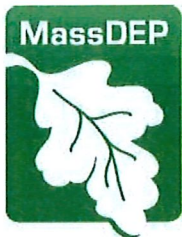
In 2020, Weston and Sampson analyzed the cost to design, construct, and supervise construction of three recent I/I removal projects. Costs associated with identifying sources of I/I were not included. The average cost to remove one (1) gallon of I/I from the sewer system over the last three (3) rehabilitation projects (2017 Sewer Rehabilitations, CIP Project 1, and CIP Project 1A) was **\$149.06**.

The I/I projects include sewer rehabilitations from three (3) primary sources: I/I sources, structural repairs, and repairs identified through the Illicit Discharge Detection and Elimination (IDDE) program. Recognizing that I/I removal costs may be higher due to the multiple objectives of the program, the City also analyzed the cost to remove I/I from the sewer system, excluding design and construction supervision costs, and further removing costs associated with structural and IDDE repairs. On this basis, the average cost to remove one (1) gallon of I/I from the sewer system over the last three (3) rehabilitation projects (2017 Sewer Rehabilitations, CIP Project 1, and CIP Project 1A) was **\$42.10**.

The City also researched neighboring municipalities' current I/I reduction fees. The fees listed below are in gallons of sewerage per day (gpd), which have been adjusted as necessary to account for the 4:1 (or more stringent) flow removal ratios.

|                         |                         |
|-------------------------|-------------------------|
| Boston: \$9.64/gpd      | Framingham: \$18.00/gpd |
| Waltham: \$12.00/gpd    | Belmont: \$18.20/gpd    |
| Burlington: \$12.50/gpd | Newton: \$19.77/gpd     |
| Somerville: \$14.35/gpd | Lexington: \$20.02/gpd  |

After analyzing the actual City cost to remove I/I from the City's sewer system and comparing neighboring communities in-lieu of fees, the City's monetary in-lieu of fee shall be **\$20** per gallon of new flow generated by the project, calculated in accordance with policy set by MassDEP in its *Guidelines for Performing Infiltration/Inflow Analyses and Sewer System Evaluation Surveys*, dated May 2017, as amended.



## Department of Environmental Protection

One Winter Street Boston, MA 02108 • 617-292-5500

Charles D. Baker  
Governor

Karyn E. Polito  
Lieutenant Governor

Kathleen A. Theoharides  
Secretary

Martin Suuberg  
Commissioner

### Massachusetts Department of Environmental Protection (MassDEP) Waste Ban on Mattresses and Textiles Frequently Asked Questions (FAQ)

1. When do the waste bans on mattresses and textiles take effect?

A: The revised waste ban regulations that ban mattresses and textiles take effect on November 1, 2022.

#### **Mattresses**

2. What type(s) of mattresses are subject to the mattress waste disposal ban?

A: Mattresses are defined in the regulations as “any resilient material or combination of materials that is enclosed by ticking, used alone or in combination with other products, and that is intended for sleeping upon, except for mattresses that are contaminated with mold, bodily fluids, insects, oil, or hazardous substances. Mattress includes any foundation or box spring.

“Mattress” **does not include** any mattress pad, mattress topper, sleeping bag, pillow, car bed, carriage, basket, dressing table, stroller, playpen, infant carrier, lounge pad, crib bumper, liquid or gaseous filled ticking, including any waterbed and any air mattress that does not contain upholstery material between the ticking and the mattress core, and mattresses in futons and sofa beds.”

All sizes of mattresses are included under the ban: California king, king, queen, full, twin XL, twin, and crib mattresses.

3. What about full-foam or latex mattresses, or “mattresses in a box”?

A: Yes, those specific mattress products are included in the waste ban.

4. How can a municipality or state agency find a mattress recycling vendor?

A: The state contract FAC 90 provides mattress recycling services for any state agency, municipality, or political sub-division as defined in the contract. For more information, please see the User Guide for this contract: <https://tinyurl.com/mattguid> While it is likely that the state

This information is available in alternate format. Contact Michelle Waters-Ekanem, Director of Diversity/Civil Rights at 617-292-5751.

TTY# MassRelay Service 1-800-439-2370

MassDEP Website: [www.mass.gov/dep](http://www.mass.gov/dep)

Printed on Recycled Paper

contract will be the best option for municipalities, they are not required to purchase off of state contract. If a municipality wants to consider other mattress recyclers, they should refer to the response under #5 below.

5. How can a business find a mattress recycling vendor?

A: Businesses can search for recycling service providers for mattresses (or for any material) through <https://www.recyclingworksma.com>. Recycling Works is a free business assistance program run under contract to MassDEP by the Center for EcoTechnology. If you are a business that needs further assistance with mattress recycling, you can contact the RecyclingWorks program at [info@recyclingworksma.com](mailto:info@recyclingworksma.com) or at (888)254-5525.

6. I am a resident and have a mattress that I want to recycle or donate for reuse. How can I find a convenient outlet?

A: You may want to start with your municipal recycling program, as many municipalities accept or collect mattresses from residents. You may also want to visit MassDEP's mattress recycling webpage: <https://tinyurl.com/depmatt> That page includes contact information for mattress recycling vendors. You may search MassDEP's Beyond the Bin recycling directory for organizations near you that accept mattresses for donation and reuse: <https://tinyurl.com/massbtb> Finally, you can search for cleanout companies near you that may collect materials such as mattresses.

7. I am a municipality or business sending mattresses for recycling. What determines whether a mattress is "clean" enough to be recycled?

A: This should be determined working with your mattress recycling vendor. Under the state contract for mattress recycling, customers shall adhere to all acceptance and storage criteria for mattresses as specified by the Vendor and will be responsible for the disposal of any mattresses that do not meet the recycling acceptance criteria. They shall not send for recycling:

- Excessively torn, punctured, soiled or moldy items
- Twisted or crushed mattresses or broken box springs
- Wet or frozen mattresses or box springs
- Mattresses or box springs infested with bed bugs or other pests
- Futon mattresses, fold-out sofa beds
- Mattress pads or toppers
- Infant sleeping pads; air or water beds; any other furniture or textiles

8. How will MassDEP determine whether a load of trash that contains mattresses is considered a waste ban violation, i.e., a "failed load" potentially subject to enforcement? If a trash truck delivers a load of trash to a disposal facility that contains a single mattress, will this load be treated as a violation of the waste ban regulations? -

A: There is no acceptable amount of mattresses that can be disposed of under the waste ban regulations. Therefore, disposal of one mattress or more would be considered a failed load. MassDEP will determine the appropriate compliance and enforcement response based on review of a specific failed load, the origin of that load, and the ability to identify the waste generator.

MassDEP generally does not issue waste ban enforcement to individuals, and instead typically issues enforcement to businesses and institutions (including municipalities) as well as waste haulers.

9. What documentation do I need if I have mattresses that I need to send for disposal because they are not acceptable by a mattress recycler?

A: If you have materials such as mattress pads or toppers that do not meet the regulatory definition of a mattress, those can be sent for disposal without further documentation. If you have mattresses that are not recyclable because they are wet, moldy, or infested with bed bugs, you should document the number of mattresses, the condition of each, and how they have been stored and managed to prevent contamination. For example, it is not acceptable to store mattresses uncovered outside and then send them for disposal because they are wet. This, along with any intentional contamination of waste ban materials, would be considered a violation of MassDEP's waste ban regulations. However, as long as materials are stored and managed properly and this documentation is maintained and provided to MassDEP upon request, unrecyclable mattresses can be sent for disposal without requiring a MassDEP waste ban waiver.

10. If the municipality or business determines that a mattress cannot be recycled, where should it be disposed of?

A: If a mattress cannot be recycled because it is contaminated as noted in the definition above; it is not subject to the waste ban and can be disposed as solid waste. This can mean that it can be sent to any solid waste disposal facility or handling facility.

11. Can municipalities use a shredder or other equipment to shred, destroy, or deconstruct a mattress at a municipal transfer station or recycling center?

A: Yes, however this activity would be regulated as either a General Permit or a Recycling, Composting and Conversion (RCC) Facility Permit. General permits have a 10 percent residual limit. If an operation cannot comply with that limit, it would need to apply for an RCC permit. If you operate a site assigned solid waste transfer station and want to incorporate a recycling operation, this would need to be addressed through a permit modification. If you are interested in considering this option, you should consult with the solid waste section chief in your MassDEP regional office: <https://tinyurl.com/depregoff>

12. Does a municipality have to amend their trash collection contract with their current waste hauler due to the new waste ban on mattresses? A: MassDEP recommends that curbside trash collection contracts include language that states that the hauler should not actively collect "waste ban materials" for solid waste disposal. This general statement is recommended rather than listing out every single waste ban item. If this is the case and the municipality has this language in their contract, then the municipality would be covered. MassDEP has contract templates online if a municipality and/or hauler wishes to update the language: <https://tinyurl.com/depcont> MassDEP also recommends that the municipality notify their hauler in writing of the new waste bans, to be effective on November 1, 2022. MassDEP will also be conducting outreach to solid waste haulers and other service providers on the new waste ban requirements.

13. Will MassDEP continue to offer Sustainable Material Recovery Program (SMRP) grants for mattress recycling?

A: MassDEP's intent is that these grants will be phased out as our mattress recycling infrastructure becomes more widely established. The next round of SMRP grants is expected to be released in the spring of 2022. MassDEP is finalizing specific grant offerings and will share those in the coming months. In addition to these grants, municipalities that have earned funds through the Recycling Dividends Program may use these funds to collect, transport, and recycle mattresses.

## **Textiles**

14. What type of textiles are subject to the waste disposal ban?

A: Textiles are defined in the regulations as "clothing, footwear, bedding, towels, curtains, fabric, and similar products, except for textiles that are contaminated with mold, bodily fluids, insects, oil, or hazardous substances."

15. Are used wiping clothes or "shop rags" considered textiles subject to the waste disposal ban?

A: No, these would be considered as contaminated and would not be subject to the waste disposal ban.

16. I am a textile recovery organization and have some textiles that I need to send for disposal because they are not recoverable or recyclable. How do I do this in compliance with the waste disposal bans?

A: If these textiles are not reusable or recyclable due to contamination with mold, bodily fluids, insects, oil, or hazardous substances, as defined in the regulations, those may be sent for disposal in the trash without violating the waste ban regulations. However, you should maintain documentation that documents the volume or weight of textiles sent for disposal and the reason that they are being sent for disposal. This documentation should be made available to MassDEP upon request. If a textile recovery organization has other residual textiles that do meet the definition in the waste ban regulations, but for which a company cannot identify a reuse or recycling outlet, the organization should contact MassDEP to request a waste ban waiver to allow those materials to be sent for disposal. In order to request a waiver, the organization should identify the type and amount of textiles that require disposal and identify what outlets the organization has contacted to attempt to reuse or recycle those textiles.

17. I am a business that generates textile waste. How can I find a textile recovery organization that will accept my textiles?

A: Businesses can search for recycling service providers for textiles (or for any material) through the RecyclingWorks in Massachusetts (RecyclingWorks) Find A Recycler tool at <https://www.recyclingworksma.com> RecyclingWorks is a free business assistance program run under contract to MassDEP by the Center for EcoTechnology. If you are a business that needs

further assistance with textiles recovery, you can contact the Recycling Works program at [info@recyclingworksma.com](mailto:info@recyclingworksma.com) or at (888)254-5525.

18. I am a municipality and want to establish a textiles recovery program for my residents. How can I identify a textiles recovery organization that I can work with?

A: Municipal officials can use the Find a Recycler tool at Recycling Works in Massachusetts available at [www.recyclingworksma.com](http://www.recyclingworksma.com). Municipalities may also want to contact their MassDEP Municipal Assistance Coordinator, who can share information on textile recovery organizations that other municipalities work with: <https://tinyurl.com/depmac>

19. I am a resident and have textiles I want to donate for reuse or recycling. How can I find a textiles recovery organization for my textiles?

A: You may want to start with your municipal recycling program, as many municipalities partner with textile recovery organizations to accept or collect textiles from residents: <https://tinyurl.com/depmunirec> You may also want to visit MassDEP's textile recovery web page at <https://tinyurl.com/deptextile>