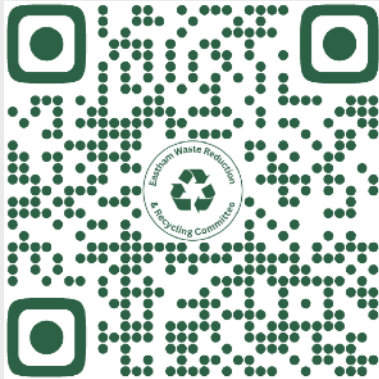


EASTHAM RECYCLES

Focus on Textiles



Transfer Station Hours

- Dec 24: Close at 11:30am
- Dec 25: Closed
- Jan 1: Closed
- Subject to change.

Helpful links

Check out these local resources:

- Mass Appeal ccmassappeal.org
- Thrift Cape Cod thriftcapecod.com
- Katy's Korner <https://lcoutreach.org/katys-korner/>
- Cape Abilities capeabilities.org
- Helpsy helpsy.com



Globally ONLY 12 - 15% of the material used for clothing ends up being recycled!

Where Can You Take Your Old Clothes?

- Good Condition?
 - Take to a consignment store or attend a local swap meet like Swap for a Cause
 - Donate to Mass Appeal, Katy's Korner, Nauset Green Club , the Red Cross or other local organizations
- Too used to wear?
 - Place them in the Bay State Textile bins at Transfer Station by the exit.

Textile Ban in MA

Since 2022, it's illegal in Massachusetts to throw textiles in the trash. Textile recovery like this is one way the state aims to reduce solid waste and meet its climate goals.



January Focus: Trash

Solid Waste Pop Quiz:

Q: Massachusetts banned textiles from the trash in 2022. About what percentage of textiles can actually be reused or recycled?

- A. 25%
- B. 45%
- C. 75%
- D. 95%

Answer from last month's quiz

What percentage of textiles can actually be reused or recycled?

- D. 95%

Textiles at the Swap Shop

The Swap Shop is able to take clothing, table linens, and throw rugs in good shape but **only** if there is space and if the weather is good. If the items are not taken by the end of the day, they go in the Bay State Textile bin by the exit. If in doubt, please ask a volunteer.

Clothing Facts

- Around 85% of all textiles thrown away in the US - roughly 13 million tonnes in 2017 - are either dumped into landfill or burned.
- The average American has been estimated to throw away around 37kg of clothes every year.
- By 2030, we are expected as a whole to be discarding more than 134 million tonnes of textiles a year.
- Globally the fashion industry is responsible for 10% of all greenhouse gas emissions, with textile production alone is estimated to release
- The fashion industry is responsible for 20% of global waste water.
- Synthetic clothing may take between 20 to 200 years to decompose.

[Recycle Clothing Information taken from: BBC & Sustainable Business](#)

From the Nauset Green Club at NRHS

Our initiative for the Nauset Green Threads is to promote recycling clothing. Textile waste is one of the leading causes of pollution in the world. Between water and energy consumption and the use of synthetic, non-biodegradable materials, fast fashion is a major problem.

At Green Threads, our goal is to make a dent in eliminating fast fashion schoolwide and to get students to understand that there are options other than online shopping. We offer an affordable alternative that consists of recycled and donated clothes we receive from the nauset community. Clean and wearable donations are encouraged and can be dropped off at the Nauset Regional High School.



For more information

Check out these resources for more information.

- **RecycleSmartMA**
<https://recyclesmartma.org/>
- **Eastham Transfer Station**
<https://www.eastham-ma.gov/384/Solid-Waste->

Bay State Textiles

Bay State Textiles is a regional textile recycler. They collect the bags from the bin and transport them to one of their sorting facilities.

There's a dedicated Bay State Textiles bin right at the Eastham Transfer Station. It's part of the MassDEP-supported "Beyond the Bin" textile recovery program.

Accepted items

- Clothing
- Accessories
- Footwear
- Linens
- Pillows
- Plush toys—even if worn or torn, as long as clean and dry

Make sure items are clean, dry, and odor-free (no mold, stains, or contaminants). Place items neatly in bags and drop inside the bin—do not leave them outside the container

What do textiles collected by Bay State become?

Reused (45%)

- Wearable items in good condition are resold in secondhand markets, often overseas (e.g., Latin America, Africa, Eastern Europe).
- Some are redistributed to nonprofits or thrift stores domestically.

Recycled (30%)

Unwearable textiles are cut into industrial wiping cloths (rags) used by mechanics, janitorial services, and factories. Others are processed into shoddy—a fibrous material used in:

- Insulation
- Carpet padding
- Stuffing for upholstery or pet beds
- Soundproofing materials

Waste (25%)

Items that are wet, moldy, or contaminated are not salvageable and must be landfilled or incinerated.



Contact us

The Recycling Committee is always looking for volunteers as well as members. Contact us via the Eastham Town webpage at: <https://www.eastham-ma.gov/611/Recycling-Committee>

For more information

Check out these resources for more information.

- **RecycleSmartMA**
<https://recyclesmartma.org/>
- **Eastham Transfer Station**
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Recycling Committee Charge Updated

The Select Board recently approved an updated charge for the Eastham Waste Reduction & Recycling Committee (formerly the Recycling Committee). The new charge better reflects what the committee does today – promoting recycling, composting, and reuse while helping reduce overall waste at the Transfer Station.

The update also recognizes the importance of the Swap Shop and its volunteers. Together, these changes strengthen Eastham’s commitment to sustainability and community involvement.

Volunteers Wanted

The Eastham Waste Reduction & Recycling Committee is looking for new members as well as community volunteer to help strengthen our waste reduction efforts. Even if you’re not ready to join the committee formally, you can still make a big difference by lending a hand on upcoming projects, including:

- Creating updated signage for the Recycling Center
- Developing a display about plastic contamination in food-waste compost
- Writing the monthly newsletter
- Assisting with a traveling compost-education workshop around town
- Working a shift at an info booth at a town event or the transfer station
- Planning future initiatives
- And more!

Whether you have an hour to spare or want to take on a small project, we’d love your help. Reach out to recyclingcommittee@eastham-ma.gov and get involved!

Upcoming Events

- Jan 20 @ 5pm: Waste Reduction & Recycling Committee Meeting (Eastham Town Hall) The agenda is available on the town website.