

A Brief History of Recycling in Weston



Recycling Hut Weston 1980

Bill McEllwain built the first recycling area in Weston with the help of many fellow Environment enthusiasts including Alan Orth. This was located at the landfill where the Weston Transfer station sits today!

In spring of 1971 an ad hoc committee was formed of representatives from: three garden clubs, the Weston League of Women Voters and the Youth commission to promote recycling in Weston in order to prolong the life of the landfill. Publicity was prepared for the newspaper, flyers were distributed at the dump, projects and competitions were conducted in the schools; resulting in 150 tons of waste as kept out of the landfill the first year. Markets for Recyclables were researched and before large volume was achieved,

Weston joined with the recycling (groups of Concord Acton and Lincoln to assure full loads of glass were going to the Glass Container Corp. of America in Dayville CT.

As money was earned the committee, composed completely of volunteers, was able to buy larger dumpsters or containers to receive recyclables, and after fifteen months, with all expenses paid there was \$1500. in the bank which, over the next eight years increased to \$25,000.00.

In 1980 when the selectmen wished to have the project taken over by: the town, the committee was collecting and selling newspapers, magazines, glass of three colors, tin and bi-metal cans and aluminum, but since then only paper and white glass has been collected and sold.

In 1980 money in the committee's bank account was put into the Weston Recycling committee Trust, invested and by Decerber 1989 amounted to \$47,000.00.

Thanks to Alan Orth for providing information, photos, and being a life long supporter of Land's Sake!