

Solid Waste Recycling Committee

Cell Phone Recycling

Recycling of cell phones, as of January 1, 2008 is required in the state of Maine and the law reads; ***any person, firm, or corporation that sells a cellular telephone at retail in the state of Maine must accept used cell phones for recycling at no charge to the customer.***

Anyone who sells cell phones at retail also must post a notice in a prominent location clearly visible to the public that says in bold: We accept used cellular telephones at no charge.

We have already advised that you cannot dispose of your old cell phone at the transfer station but recently our committee discovered a few non-profit organizations who will recycle the cell phones which will be re-programmed and given to the needy to be used for emergency 911 calls. We feel this is a worthwhile cause and we have placed a **Bin for recycling cell phones** in the "treasure chest". We ask that you place your cell phone in this Bin for forwarding by the recycling committee to a worthy non-profit organization.

Solid Waste Disposal is a very expensive process for the town of Alfred, as it is for all towns, and the major way to reduce the costs of disposal is through the process of recycling. Our town does not have "mandatory recycling" and is dependent on the good-will of its residents. You have responded well with a recycling rate of **43%** reported last year. This is a laudable accomplishment for a "voluntary recycling program", but we know that we can set the goal a little higher this year with the help of our regular recyclers. Encourage your neighbor to recycle, talk about recycling to those you see who are not recycling. If you spend some time around the compactor at the transfer station you can tell who recycles and who does not. Let's raise the rate again this year.

This committee has continued its goal of reducing the amount of "**Demolition Debris**" accumulated at the transfer station. The volume of demolition debris has not been reduced over the past few years even with the extra efforts being made to do so. The disposal and transportation costs are ever increasing, especially due to the fuel costs, and we need to change our disposal habits. One of the major changes should be in sorting out the unpainted wood and disposing of it in our special pile in the lower area of the transfer station. We know it is easier to just throw it in the bin but please make an effort to sort some of the demolition debris. There is, at times, steel thrown in as well while we have a special bin for steel which is returning a good price at this time. These little things will help us modify our habits and reduce some of our costs.

Thank you for your recycling efforts, especially the **43%** rate. We continue to provide you with a clean and efficient transfer station to dispose of your solid wastes at reasonable costs to you.

Alfred Solid Waste/Recycling Committee