

RECYCLING MYTHS AND REALITIES IN FITCHBURG

Does recycling work? Does it make any difference?

For years a debate has raged about the economics of recycling. The problem is not going away, and the COVID pandemic has exacerbated it with an explosion of single-use containers.



Just because you have “recycled” something, just because you have put it in the blue Pellitteri bin, doesn’t automatically mean it *can* be recycled in the end. Simple mistakes have a huge impact. And it has to start at the curb with you. Focus on quality rather than quantity of your recycling efforts to ensure that it’s done right.



On a national basis, about 25% of recyclables are contaminated and unusable. Let’s find out how well Fitchburg is doing and what kind of recycling report card it might earn. We’ll start with the following questions.

- Do plastic bags gum up recycling machinery?
- Does food residue make recyclables unfit for processing?
- Should you bag recyclables?
- Can you recycle all paper? Even if it’s wet?
- What about books, coffee cups, and other paper products?
- How can you decode the recycling symbols on containers?
- What types of plastic and paper are non-recyclable?
- What actually gets recycled? What percentage of items have to be rejected?
- Do you really know the proper ways to recycle?

Claudia Guy, Environmental Engineer for the City of Fitchburg, and Joe Spair, major account representative for Pellitteri Waste Systems with a primary focus on municipalities, will share insights on these issues for Fitchburg residents. It’s a talk you don’t want to miss.

Free, and open to the public

When: Tuesday, September 28, 2:00 p.m.

Where: Fitchburg Community Center

Sponsored by the Fitchburg Active Women’s Group (AWG). The AWG is a mix of vibrant women with a wealth of life experiences who continue to build on those experiences. They meet monthly, as well as join educational and recreational tours, engage in fitness and well-being activities, and further lifelong learning. There are no membership dues. Information available on the [City of Fitchburg website](#).

