

**Wellenstein, Gunther**

---

**From:** Wellenstein, Gunther  
**Sent:** Friday, April 05, 2019 3:15 PM  
**To:** recycle@lowellma.gov  
**Subject:** SW&R UPDATE TEXTILES

**PLEASE POST : PLEASE FORWARD**



About to do some **spring cleaning**?

**Don't put unwanted clothing or textiles in the trash!**

(Unless they are wet, soaked, or moldy)

Did you know textiles make up 6% of Lowell's trash?  
That's **1,512 tons** of perfectly good material going to  
incineration at a cost of **\$112,000** annually.

# donate **recycle** don't throw away



The average U.S. citizen throws away **81 lbs.** of clothing each year

**81**

lbs. of clothing each year

**95%** of textiles **WORN OR TORN** can be recycled

**15%** yet only 15% gets donated or recycled

**85%** goes into our landfills

That amount is equal to 26 billion lbs. or **310,000 truckloads**





Textile recyclers reuse and recycle **5 BILLION LBS.** of textiles each year



MORE THAN **\$100** MILLION

Amount of funding generated for charities from second-hand clothing sales

## SECOND LIFE ...



stained t-shirt → wiping cloth



lone sock → pillow stuffing



old denim → household insulation



teddy bear → car seat stuffing



torn bath towel → wiping cloth



Recycled fiber products **SAVE MONEY and RESOURCES** by using existing materials.



## CLOSING THE LOOP

Recycled cloth rags use **LESS WATER, LESS ENERGY** and create a **LOWER CARBON FOOTPRINT** than all other alternatives.



The second hand clothing market provides **AFFORDABLE CLOTHING** to those in need and **ENCOURAGES GLOBAL ENTREPRENEURSHIP.**

Instead of putting your textiles in the trash, **donate** them so they can be **recycled!**

**Don't discard your textiles in your curbside recycling cart!**  
Textiles will jam the machinery at the recycling sorting facility.

Drop off your clothing and other textiles at one of the **neighborhood drop off bins** located at each Lowell Elementary School and Lowell Collegiate Charter School.

Not sure if you can donate your textiles for recycling?  
See a list of materials accepted at neighborhood drop off bins [here](#)

**Bailey Elementary School**  
**Greenhalge Elementary School**  
**Lowell Department of Public Works**  
**McAuliffe Elementary School**  
**McAvinnue Elementary School**  
**Moody Elementary School**  
**Morey Elementary School**  
**Murkland Elementary School**  
**Pawtucketville Elementary School**  
**Reilly Elementary School**  
**Shaughnessy Elementary School**  
**Washington Elementary School**  
**Rogers STEM**  
**Collegiate Charter School**

See a map of all drop off locations [here!](#)

Each **ton of textiles** collected brings a **\$100 rebate** back to the Lowell School Community!

In 2018, all 14 bins collected **117,500 pounds of textiles**. Schools shared just under **\$6,000** from the refunds to supplement activities and programs!

## STAY UPDATED:

Residents with Lowell curbside collection are urged to download the **FREE** smartphone App, **LowellRecycle!**



Enter your home address to receive updates & alerts relevant to calendar items. You'll receive postings regarding **SUMMER Yard Waste Collection** schedule and other drop-off events.

Don't have a smartphone? You can request information via text, voice or email at [Curbside Calendar](#).

Created by:

Emily Teague, Journalism and Professional Writing Student; UML

**Updates to schedule and programs are posted at [LowellRecycle.org](http://www.LowellRecycle.org).**

Regards,

-Gunther

**Gunther Wellenstein** | *Solid Waste/Recycling Coord*

Solid Waste & Recycling Office

Department of Public Works

1365 Middlesex Street

Lowell MA 01851

t: 978.674-4309 | f: 978.970.4071 |

<http://www.LowellRecycle.org>

**LOWELL** *Alive. Unique. Inspiring.*



*Manager Recycling Systems*  
*Zero Waste Principles & Practices*



*Consider the environment! Please don't print this email if you don't need to*



Are you recycling right? Find out:  
<https://www.recyclesmartma.org>