

PWD gains GREEN SNOW-PRO Certification

The expense of snow control — on budgets and the earth means Towns must start using best practices to reduce salt use. To support this change the UCONN T2 Center offers “Green Snow Pro” training. Among the learning objectives: fine-tuning pre-treatment operations, understanding the impact of chlorides in nature, and improving vehicle & road maintenance.



Congrats and thanks to Roads & Streets Foreman **Joe Curioso** and **Dan Emery** on their certification.

Recycling Is a Process; a Learning Process!

The U.S. has been at this recycling thing for awhile now, so you might think “we got this,” but as towns and industry try to improve, and the drive to reduce waste becomes more urgent—we, consumers, need to periodically check-in, and sometimes re-school ourselves.



SCRRRA review of residential recycling deliveries to Casella Waste in Willimantic shows a ‘contamination rate’ near 26%, *meaning roughly 1 in 4 items are rejected. The biggest violation? BAGS OF ITEMS.* “Wait— isn’t a bag full of clean, curated recyclables a good thing?!” Well, almost... but with one change, we can see area contamination rates improve, as well as the rates our Towns pay into SCRRRA.

Collecting recyclables in a bag is an easy way to transport them to a bin, but *leaving it that way* jams up recycling machines. Instead,



IF YOU COLLECT ITEMS IN A BAG, empty it and ensure recyclables lie loosely in the container, which allows the machine to sort pieces by material type.

If the bag is recyclable, add it! But take the time to **DE-BAG IT**. Currently, these bags are tossed in the garbage; a shame considering the lost effort, but a reality tied to staffing, safety, and efficiency. But de-bagging is easy.

More new guidance: **Remove all lids & caps and place in the trash.** As it turns out, **items under 2” fall through the sorting equipment.** So they are too small— and often made of different, non-recyclable material. Thanks for taking up another easy fix for Mother Nature!

PUBLIC NOTICE

A 30-day public comment period for the Town 2022 Stormwater Management Plan (or MS4) Report will begin Feb 15. Find the draft document on the Town website under PWD > Stormwater, & send feedback to Project Mgmt. Specialist Michelle Maitland, (860) 448-4544 mmaitland@groton-ct.gov



Did you know YOU can help prevent local flooding by taking care to NOT cover nearby catch basins when clearing snow from your driveway or sidewalk. To go the extra mile? Commit to keeping nearby drains accessible. But know your limits & don’t overexert yourself when shoveling. Also note, complete clearing isn’t needed... Once a drain is partially exposed, flow & gravity do the rest!

On a related note: please remember anything entering storm drains flow unfiltered directly to open waters and wetlands. **So keep it clean!**

- > Consider plain, non-clay kitty litter or light sand for traction.
- > Skip chemical de-icers and
- > Use salt sparingly (or not at all!)