



# Town of Brunswick, Maine

INCORPORATED 1739

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## NEWS RELEASE

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

August 28, 2020

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### **BRUNSWICK NO LONGER ACCEPTING GLASS FOR RECYCLING**

**Glass containers should be put with trash effective September 14, 2020**

**BRUNSWICK, ME** – Effective Monday, September 14, 2020, the Town of Brunswick will no longer accept glass containers for recycling. Residents are being asked to stop placing glass containers such as food jars and bottles in their recycling bins and to instead dispose of them with their regular household trash. This change does not affect returnable glass beverage containers that, under the Maine “Bottle Bill,” should still be brought to area redemption centers.

The Brunswick Town Council, acting on a recommendation from the town’s Recycling & Sustainability Committee, voted at its May 18, 2020, meeting to no longer accept glass containers for recycling. Brunswick, like many municipalities across the country, is re-thinking its recycling program to be more effective and economical.

In the past year, Brunswick residents participating in the curbside collection program recycled almost 1,200 tons of material, 135 tons of which were glass containers. Due to unfavorable market conditions, however, glass that is sent by the town for recycling is currently being used as a sand substitute in construction projects and as daily cover at landfills, rather than as raw material for new glass products.

The town estimates that disposing of glass containers as trash will save approximately \$7,000 in processing costs between now and the end of its fiscal year on June 30, 2021. The town pays \$80 per ton to dispose of trash while it pays an average of \$120 per ton to process recyclables.

This change in recycling is one of several strategies that has come from the Recycling & Sustainability Committee’s effort to develop a comprehensive solid waste plan for Brunswick. The group will continue to work in cooperation with the Public Works Department and other

municipal departments to identify ways that the town can reduce the amount of solid waste that it generates, improve its waste management, and ultimately lower its greenhouse gas emissions.

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