

SOLID WASTE DISPOSAL/ LEAF MANAGEMENT

HOUSEHOLD SOLID WASTE

(Adopted 1971, Revised 1978, 1983, 1995)

The League of Women Voters of Westport supports a regional long-term solid waste disposal program that will give special consideration to the quality of our environment and the recovering of our resources. We support continuing efforts toward waste reduction by an expanded recycling program.

Explanation:

The League believes the increased efficiency and economy of a regional program make it preferable to a local solution.

1. The League believes townspeople should be educated on the role resource recovery plays in the preservation of our environment.
2. We urge the Town to continue a means of collecting separated, recyclable materials, by ordinance, licensing or other legal procedures.
3. The Town should continue to investigate interim solutions or pilot projects, such as plants, to facilitate a complete recycling program; and also financial aid (federal, state or other) for such projects. A recycling plant could become a long-term solution.
4. Should future technology provide a pollution-free method of combustion designed to generate usable products such as power or metals, thus providing for the recovery of resources, such a plant could then be acceptable as part of a long-term program.
5. We favor retaining our present private collection system. However, should circumstances alter, or should collection control be impossible, we would favor the investigation of another method of collection, preferably a contract system.

LEAF MANAGEMENT

(Adopted 1995)

We believe the Town has a responsibility to provide a place on town property to which residents can take their leaves and brush. We assume the Town will be responsible for the proper use of such areas. The most environmentally sound, efficient and economical way to recycle Westport's leaves is residential backyard leaf management.

Explanation:

Recognizing that not all residents will manage their own leaves in their own backyard, the League of Women Voters Westport supports a three-pronged approach to municipal leaf management:

1. An intense, ongoing town-wide education campaign to encourage as many residents as possible to manage leaves on their own property;
2. A flexible approach for the remaining leaves, which would combine a carefully managed and monitored municipal composting site with seasonal trucking of leaves out of town if necessary;
3. Trucking all leaves out of town from a permitted transfer site when no composting permit is available.