

Provincetown, Cape Cod, Massachusetts
 Year-round population: 2,500
 Summertime population: 60,000+

- Banned helium balloons (1993)
- Single-stream recycling (2011)
- Certified Green Community (2012)
- Installed LED streetlights (2013)
- Banned smoking on beaches (2015)
- Banned plastic bags (2015)
- Installed 3 bottle filling stations (2016)
- Achieved 33% town-wide recycling (2016)
- Collaborating on regional composting effort (2016)
- Initiated cigarette butt recycling program (2017)
- Banned #6 polystyrene and plastic straws (2018)
- Installed 3 more bottle filling stations (2019)

Facts Friday: The Do's and Don'ts of Plastic Recycling

Though on its face it may not seem like rocket science, the reality is that **residential recycling can be mind-boggling**. Each town has its own list of what can and cannot be recycled, based on which vendors they use for recycling and waste disposal.

Our Plastic Free July Recycling Challenge: **pick one thing in your recycling bin that you can choose to stop using for the rest of the month**, and see how it affects the weekly overall amount collected in your blue bin.

Here in Provincetown where CCS is headquartered, many things like glass, cardboard, metal, and paper are collected for recycling. All rigid plastic #1, 2, 4, and 5 are recyclable, and lids can be left on. Containers must be rinsed and relatively free of food. The town does not accept plastic film or bags, but these can be brought to Stop n' Shop for collection.

The following are not recyclable in most locales, including Provincetown: Juice boxes, Tetra Paks, containers or cups that are plastic coated paper (e.g. milk cartons, many ice cream containers, single use coffee cups), paper towels, Solo cups, styrofoam, polystyrene (#6), anything in a plastic bag (even clear bags), plastic pumps for dispensers, toothbrushes and dental floss.

If you're interested in **general recycling guidelines**, check out this post by NPR: <https://apps.npr.org/plastics-recycling/>