

Hanover Schools join textile recycling program

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HANOVER – Every year throughout Massachusetts, approximately 520 million pounds of textiles – 95 percent of which can be recycled – are disposed of at incinerators or landfills, a Hanover recycling company says.

As part of an ongoing effort to raise awareness on this issue, Bay State Textiles is partnering with Hanover Public Schools to collect old clothes, shoes and household linens in recycling containers.

The company will pay the school system \$100 for every ton of used textiles, and recycling these used goods will also help mitigate the estimated \$14,000 dollars spent by the town of Hanover to dispose of textiles on an annual basis.

“It’s a winning model, and one that has been successful in several other towns throughout the region,” said Bay State Textiles’ Recycling Development Coordinator Kathryn Larsen.

“This initiative saves the taxpayers money, saves resources from being wasted, and generates money for schools and municipal programs without any cost to the district.”

The first collection system in this region was established in Weymouth several years ago, and Bay State Textiles has systems set up through the Abington, Whitman-Hanson, Plymouth, and now, Hanover school system.

The program, which began last month, involved the placement of collection containers outside all four public schools in Hanover. Kelly Lawrence, the Director of the Office of Family and Community Engagement for Hanover Public Schools, spearheaded the initiative.

“The program came to our attention through our new superintendent, and we jumped at the chance to implement it,” Lawrence said.

“By generating revenue through monthly collection fees, we will be able to invest in more solar power, outdoor trash cans, and other projects that will keep our community cleaner and greener.”

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