

CITY OF PEABODY

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OFFICE OF THE MAYOR EDWARD A. BETTENCOURT, JR.

Mayor Touts Textile Recycling Rebate Program for Schools

Mayor Edward A. Bettencourt, Jr. announced that Peabody residents looking for a place to discard unwanted clothes, towels, sheets, shoes or other household textiles have an opportunity to benefit the Peabody Public Schools and keep recyclable materials out of landfills.

Through a partnership with Bay State Textiles, drop boxes are housed at each of the Peabody Public Schools as well as at the Kiley School Administration Building at 21 Johnson Street.

“By recycling common household items, Peabody saves on the cost of trash disposal, generates revenue for our schools and has a positive impact on the environment,” Mayor Bettencourt said. “Each school PTO receives a rebate of \$100 per ton for the unwanted textiles and can apply those funds to the benefit of every student.”

Bay State Textiles services the bins at no cost. Each week a driver stops at each bin, weighs the items with a hamper and a scale and submits a report to the school district. The rebate checks are sent to the schools on a monthly basis. In the first month of the program alone - with little promotion, over 2,000 pounds of unwanted textiles were collected from Peabody schools.

Annually, 520 million pounds of solid waste go into landfills, six percent of which is clothing and other textiles. Bay State Textiles is working to take those items out of landfills and reuse them in different ways.

The post-consumer items collected in Peabody will be sorted and graded. According to SMART (The Secondary Materials and Recycled Textiles Association), which Bay State Textiles is a member the recycled goods can be categorized as follows:

- 45 percent is used as apparel which is generally exported to least developed and developing countries where demand for secondhand clothing is particularly high.
- 30 percent of the recovered textiles become wiping and polishing cloths used in commercial and industrial settings.
- 20 percent is reprocessed into fibers for furniture stuffing, upholstery, insulation, sound proofing, carpet padding, building and other materials.
- 5 percent is unusable and not fit for recycling.

For a list of acceptable items, visit <http://www.baystatetextiles.com/recycled-cloth-items.htm>

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