

**For Immediate Release
August 16, 2019**

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**City of Brewer Announces Changes to Its Trash and Recycling Program
Effective September 1st**

BREWER – Beginning September 1, 2019, the City of Brewer will consolidate its curbside trash and recycling pickup to a weekly “All-In-One” approach. At the same time, the City is switching its pay as you throw orange bag trash program to a tag-based system.

The changes are prompted by the City’s move to take advantage of the technology of the new Coastal Resources of Maine advanced waste processing and recycling facility in Hampden, which will significantly increase the City’s recycling rate while simplifying the curbside collection process for residents.

An “All-In-One” approach means that residents will put all waste and recyclables into the same bag and place it curbside for weekly collection. Residents will no longer need to think about which items go where or which week to place items curbside as it will all be picked up together every week.

The switch to pay as you throw tags from orange bags will allow residents to choose the bag size and quality that works best for them and will provide as much as 50% to 100% more volume than under the current program. Cardboard, if neatly stacked and placed alongside bags, will be collected weekly, free of charge.

All commingled residential and commercial solid waste and recycling in Brewer will now be processed by the Coastal Resources of Maine/Fiberight facility in Hampden. Trash and recycling will be sorted on site by Coastal Resources, which will recover, recycle, and upgrade many of the wasted materials thrown out each week. Recovered parts of trash will be converted into ethanol and

biogas; plastics will be converted into “briquettes” that can be used for fuel; and solubilized food waste will be processed through anaerobic digestion.

Although this new process requires less sorting on the part of residents, it will more than double Brewer’s annual recycling efforts and help to stay one step ahead as the nature and business of recycling continues to develop.

Brewer residents will be getting a mailing in the next few days explaining the changes. They can also visit the City’s website at www.brewermaine.gov for more information.