



Town of Barnstable  
Department of Public Works  
Solid Waste Division

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"Town of Barnstable book recycling"

The Town of Barnstable in partnership with the nonprofit organization Hands Across the Water, has recently installed a "surplus books for charity" collection container at the Barnstable Transfer Station Recycling Center located at 45 Flint Street in Marstons Mills.

The hours of operation are *Tue-Sat 7:30 a.m.-3:30 p.m.*

The container will be available for all to use to dispose of their excess reading material-for a good cause!

Hands Across the Water will send the books at no charge to needy schools and libraries in needy areas all over the world. Use of the container by individual households, as well as by local schools and libraries, to dispose of their surplus books will hopefully not only lower area trash disposal costs by diverting unwanted books from the trash stream, but will provide badly needed books for Third World schools and libraries.

Hands Across the Water (HATW) is a dual purpose charity which promotes both local conservation and global literacy and education.

Hands Across the water, Inc. (HATW) is a nonprofit organization established in Massachusetts and recognized as a public charity by the IRS under IRC Section 501 (C) (3).

HATW has attracted considerable positive attention from the Massachusetts Department of Environmental Protection.

HATW uses federal government aid to recycle excess books from our relatively affluent society over to nonprofit educational institutions and community libraries in book hungry Third World countries overseas, where many people rarely get a chance to own or even borrow a book.

HATW will take excess books of every kind and description, for all age levels, which are generated by area residents, schools, religious and civic organizations, and libraries.

The planned container should hopefully reduce the community's disposal costs. If HATW did not collect the surplus books generated by the local population, as they periodically "weed out" their collections, these cast off books would go into either the local waste or recycling pile, slated for expense, as the no longer wanted books would go into either the local waste or recycling pile, slated for reduction back into paper or landfill burial. Destroying surplus books only increases municipal expense, as the no longer wanted books would have to be transported out of the city by a hired commercial hauler for destructive processing.

HATW urges all citizens to be concerned about this waste, not only as civilized people with the respect for learning and literacy promotion in a book-starved world, but also as taxpayers who have to ultimately foot the bill at some level for this expensive trashing. Property and other taxes typically rise as municipal waste disposal costs rise. Use of the container will hopefully mitigate that trend. The multiple advantages of a constructive outlet for the area's excess reading materials are easy to appreciate.

Hardcover and paperback books can be donated, but we cannot take magazines and we cannot take newspapers. Additionally, please do not place any telephone, trade directories or merchandise catalogs in the book collection container. Since they have no "reuse" purpose overseas, directories and catalogs of all kinds cannot be accepted. Instead directories, catalogs, magazines and newspaper should be placed in the separate "paper" recycling receptacles provided by the town recycling program for these other materials. We also cannot take any books which have mold or mildew on them, as books with mold should be destroyed.

However, outside of these expectations, the HATW book "re-use" collection box can take everything else.

We can take books in reasonably good/mold free physical condition on all subject matters, both hard cover and paperback, fiction and nonfiction, both academic textbooks and encyclopedia sets as well as popular or general/pleasure reading books for all age groups.

We take school textbooks ranging from kindergarten up through college and post graduate levels of instruction in all academic disciplines to support higher education in the Third World. We also take popular paperbacks and hard cover books on a range of nonfiction subject as

well as fiction to stock community libraries overseas. We realize that many of these donated books will be older books but as long as they are in reasonably adequate physical condition they are acceptable.

HATW has already sent over two million books to several countries in Africa, as well as to the Philippines, and the newly independent states of the former USSR, where the books have been distributed among the public schools and colleges, as well as to community libraries overseas where a broad range of popular as well as educational promotion in poor communities here in the United States.

The many books HATW has collected to date from area schools, libraries and individuals are of good quality and deserve a new life in the hands of new readers.

HATW has been receiving enthusiastic support in its calls for books from schools and libraries and individual households across Massachusetts.

HATW currently has community surplus book collection containers in place in fifty communities statewide as detailed on the charity's website at [www.surplusbooksforcharity.org](http://www.surplusbooksforcharity.org).

HATW will empty the community surplus book container when it is filled and make the necessary arrangements with federal government humanitarian assistance transport programs and other programs to have the books shipped for free distribution to needy schools and libraries all over the globe. Perhaps an enterprising high school student applying to art school might wish to round out his portfolio credentials by painting an appropriate mural on the twenty foot long face of the container.

Individuals may take a tax deduction consistent with IRS guidelines for all books donated.

If a book donor desires a donation acknowledgement for tax purposes from HATW, he or she should submit a written description of the type and quantity of books donated to HATW at 79 Central Street, Stoneham MA 02180. Along with a self addressed stamped envelope. HATW's nonprofit organization tax identification number is 043 51 4769.

Anyone interested in further information about this project may contact the Barnstable Transfer Station at 508-420-2258 or HATW director Jane Miller at tel. 781-438-4051 (HATW email: [literacyforall@yahoo.com](mailto:literacyforall@yahoo.com)).

