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with \$830

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LOCAL / STATE

Town supplements recycling program

WESTWOOD

By Greg Duggan
DAILY NEWS STAFF

WESTWOOD — By joining a statewide paper recycling campaign, the town hopes to boost its own recycling program.

Selectmen this month voted to join Mass Recycles Paper! which focuses on paper recycling.

"It's a program to support the effort to increase recycling across the state. We agreed to sign on as a participant and promote increasing recycling efforts," Board of Selectmen Chairwoman Nancy Hyde said last week.

The town already offers curbside biweekly recycling, picking up paper, plastic, glass

and cans.

The Mass Recycles Paper! program comes from MassRecycle, a group of individuals, governments, businesses and non-profit organizations that promote recycling and its benefits - economic and social.

According to the Mass Recycles Paper! Web site, www.massrecyclespaper.org, the state trashes 1.5 million tons of paper annually at a cost of more than \$100 million in disposal fees.

To dispose of trash, Westwood pays \$112 for every ton it dumps. The trash trucks hold 15 tons to 18 tons of waste, said Tim Walsh, director of the Department of Public Works. "For every ton of recycling, we've saved \$112," Walsh said.

Westwood has yet to institute a specific

plan to participate in Mass Recycles Paper!, but the resolution passed by the selectmen this month included a statement that all municipal offices would recycle waste paper.

Walsh said estimates show 75 percent of Westwood residents participating in the recycling program. "It should be 100 percent. There should be no reason why people don't recycle," Walsh said. "It saves the town money."

By Walsh's calculations, recyclables make up nearly a quarter of the waste picked up by the town. "There's always more one can do to help recycle," Hyde said.

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