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Contact Carol Miller, your local Reverse Mortgage Specialist.

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NMLS #595725

1. Property taxes, homeowners' insurance, and home maintenance required. The home must be your primary residence.
2. Consult a financial advisor and appropriate government agencies for any effect on taxes or government benefits.
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SORTING IT OUT

Proper recycling is always a good resolution

While you're thinking of 2026 resolutions, consider reducing waste and increasing recycling as a goal in the new year. Your individual actions may feel insignificant, but every effort can have an impact, especially locally. Here are a few reasons to motivate you in the new year.

Recycling is mandatory in Rhode Island, and all residents, businesses, and institutions are expected to recycle. If there are barriers preventing you from participating, please talk to the town, business, or institution about making it more accessible. There are recycling coordinators and knowledgeable Public Works employees in most towns

who are available to support your recycling efforts.

Rhode Island has only one landfill which accepts all residential waste and some commercial waste for the entire state. At the rate we are currently using it, the landfill is projected to be full by 2046. Once the landfill is full, the state will likely have to start shipping our trash to other states, as Connecticut does, costing tens of millions in tax dollars per year. To extend the life of the landfill, we need to focus on creating less waste, reusing more, and increasing our recycling and composting.

Recycling saves money for both residents and towns. Residential recycling is free at the curbside and

at transfer stations, so the more you recycle (correctly), the less you'll have to pay for trash. And RI Resource Recovery rebates money back to municipalities based on how well they recycled that year.

Recycling is not the only answer to our waste and plastic problems, but it is part of the solution. Often the narrative is to just give up because it's pointless. Instead, let's focus on reducing our consumption and putting pressure on manufacturers to make better products that are higher quality, have less packaging, and are more recyclable. We can also encourage our lawmakers to push for policies that emphasize upstream

regulations, putting responsibility on the manufacturer. And simply talking to your neighbors, family, schools, and businesses you frequent about making changes can increase your individual impact.

Next month, we'll review some of the basics for single-stream recycling. In the meantime, go to RIRRC.org to learn more or reach out to your Recycling Coordinator.

'Sorting It Out' is a recurring column of The Independent Newspaper that features recycling and composting tips from Charlotte Canner, the Recycling Coordinator for the towns of South Kingstown and Narragansett it will appear monthly in the newspaper.