



To: Wellesley Planning Board

Date: September 2025

Memorandum

VHB Project #: 12920.21

From: WC Design Team

Re: Wellesley College Campus Renewal
Residence Hall Swing Space – Project of Significant Impact
Refuse Disposal & Recycling Municipal System Impact Analysis

This memorandum summarizes the analysis of project-generated municipal systems impacts for the proposed redevelopment of Dower Hall into Residence Hall Swing Space at Wellesley College as they relate to refuse disposal and recycling.¹

The proposed project will reuse a single exterior dumpster at the southeast corner of the Dower Hall parking lot. Access to the dumpster location will be provided via College Road and the new driveway.

Consistent with existing on-campus operations, Wellesley College will remain responsible for all trash removal and recycling associated with the new Residence Hall Swing Space. The Wellesley College Office of Sustainability and the Wellesley College Sustainability Committee are focused on continually moving towards a more environmentally-focused campus. The College has implemented programs across the campus that give students and faculty incentives to recycle. With this increased recycling effort, the College has seen a decrease in total waste generation from the campus and is committed to continuing its efforts to reduce waste and promote sustainability.

Wellesley College recycles within all its buildings through a dual-stream recycling program for comingled recyclables (bottles, cans, plastics, etc.) and paper/cardboard. Accommodations are made for recycling non-standard items. Waste that cannot be recycled is collected by Wellesley College and hauled by a private contractor to a waste transfer station in Holliston, MA. From there, it is transported to Semass in West Wareham, MA, which is a waste-to-electricity facility.

There is no planned increase in staff or student enrollment associated with the proposed project, the College provides its own trash removal, and the Project is providing swing space for existing dormitories that will be taken offline for renovations. As such, no increase in campus-generated refuse is expected to result from the Project and no impacts to the Town of Wellesley's refuse and recycling disposal systems are anticipated.

¹ Refuse and recycling information provided by Wellesley College.