
Solid Waste Alliance Communities (SWAC) 2014 Newsletter

Communities working together to manage solid and hazardous waste issues in an economically and environmentally friendly manner.

For Residents of Benson, Chittenden, Fair Haven, Middletown Springs, Pawlet, Rutland Town, Shrewsbury, Sudbury, Tinmouth, and West Haven

HOUSEHOLD HAZARDOUS WASTE (HHW)

When certain household chemicals are not used up, they can become household hazardous waste (HHW). Many household products contain the same chemicals as strictly regulated industrial wastes and pose similar environmental and health problems.

Last year, 291 households participated in the SWAC household hazardous waste collection events. SWAC spent \$11,569.62 for the disposal of the HHW products collected.

How to Choose Wisely: Adopt a new way of thinking about hazardous household products. Try to buy less or use non-hazardous products as much as possible. Visit the SWAC website for ideas about less toxic alternatives.

READ THE LABEL! Compare product labels to select the least potentially hazardous product that will best meet your needs. **USE UP OR SHARE YOUR USABLE LEFTOVER PRODUCTS.**



UPCOMING EVENTS

To assist residents with properly disposing of their HHW, SWAC has scheduled six days of collection events in 2014.

SATURDAY, APRIL 12, 2014

8:00 a.m. – 11:30 a.m. – **RUTLAND TOWN** Transfer Station, Northwood Park, off Post Road Extension, Rutland Town

12:00 noon – 3:00 p.m. – **CHITTENDEN TRANSFER STATION**, Chittenden

SATURDAY, APRIL 19, 2014

8:00-9:30 a.m. - **PAWLET**, Mettawee Community School Parking Lot, Route 153, West Pawlet

10:30 a.m.- 12:00 noon – **MIDDLETOWN SPRINGS** Transfer Station, behind fire house, Middletown Springs

SATURDAY, APRIL 26, 2014

8:00-10:00 a.m. – **TINMOUTH** Transfer Station, Route 140, Tinmouth

11:00 a.m.-1:00 p.m. – **FAIR HAVEN** Transfer Station, Fair Haven Avenue, Fair Haven

SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 13, 2014

1:00-3:30 p.m. - **SHREWSBURY** Transfer Station, 103 Mountain Road, Shrewsbury

SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 20, 2014

8:00-9:30 a.m. - **BENSON** Transfer Station, Benson
10:30 a.m.-NOON - **SUDBURY** Transfer Station, across from the Town Garage, Williams Lane, Sudbury

1:00-3:00 p.m. – **FAIR HAVEN** Transfer Station, Fair Haven Avenue, Fair Haven

SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 27, 2014

8:00-11:30 a.m. – **RUTLAND TOWN** Transfer Station, in Northwood Park, off Post Road Extension, Rutland

Cost? No fees are charged to residents of SWAC. The fees for disposal of household hazardous waste are paid by member municipalities.

ANY SWAC resident can take their HHW to **ANY** of the collection events - not just the one scheduled in their town. SWAC residents can also dispose of HHW at the Rutland County Solid Waste District (RCSWD) Hazardous Waste Depot on Gleason Road in Rutland. SWAC contracts with RCSWD for hazardous waste services. Please contact RCSWD at 775-7209 for convenient hours of operation.

What? Bring your household pesticides and household hazardous chemicals. Check your garage, basement, barn, bathroom, storage shed, or under the sink to see if you have things that require disposal.

Mercury Added Products: Fluorescent light bulbs, thermometers, thermostats, switches, medical and scientific instruments, mercury batteries and other mercury containing products will be accepted at this event.

Who? Residents of the SWAC towns. Proof of residency may be requested.

BUSINESS WASTE: In addition to what most people would classify as a business, schools, municipal buildings, and town garages are also considered businesses when disposing of hazardous waste.

To improve the accessibility of hazardous waste disposal for small businesses – SWAC town small businesses are able to take their hazardous waste to the RCSWD Hazardous Waste Depot for proper disposal. An estimate of disposal costs can be given prior to delivery of the hazardous waste. Payment for disposal is due upon delivery of the waste to the HW Depot. Call 775-7209 to schedule an appointment.

BUY ONLY WHAT YOU NEED! More is not better! Buying a larger size is not a bargain if you do not use it up.

Plan Ahead: Disposing of HHW improperly is dangerous to the environment. Try to identify any products you may have

that need to be disposed of properly. Be sure that the containers are closed and not leaking. This will save you the fun of cleaning up your vehicle after an unplanned spill of *stuff!*

SWAC has scheduled six days of collections in 2014 and residents benefit from year-round access to the RCSWD Hazardous Waste Depot. Plan when it will be the most convenient for you to properly dispose of your HHW. Disposal of HHW is a FREE service provided to SWAC residents. You have nothing to lose except your waste!

UNIVERSAL RECYCLING (ACT 148) NOW LAW

Act 148 will impact **EVERY** person in Vermont - residents, visitors, and businesses. There are phased-in mandates and bans in the new law including mandatory recycling and landfill bans on leaf and yard waste and organics (food scraps).

The law focuses on diverting waste from landfills and providing more consistent, convenient options for recycling and composting throughout Vermont.

What Does the New Law Do?

BANS disposal of certain solid waste from LANDFILLS including:

Recyclables by July 1, 2015, including:

- Aluminum, foil, pie pans, and steel cans
- Glass bottles/jars from food/drink
- PET/HDPE plastic containers/bottles/jugs
- Corrugated cardboard & Boxboard
- White and mixed paper and paper bags
- Newspaper, magazines, paper mail, and envelopes
- Leaf, yard & clean wood waste by July 1, 2016, &
- Food scraps by 2020, (see below).

Facility owners (such as TOWN Transfer Stations) that offer trash collection must also offer collection of:

- Recyclables by **July 1, 2014;**
- Leaf and yard debris by **July 1, 2015;** and
- Food scraps by **July 1, 2017.**

FACILITIES can charge commercial haulers for collection of recyclables.

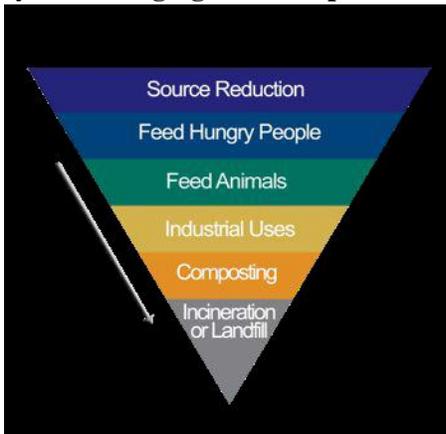
Haulers that offer services for managing trash must also offer services for managing:

- Recyclables by **July 1, 2015**;
- Leaf and yard debris by **July 1, 2016**; and
- Food scraps by **July 1, 2017**.

FACILITIES AND HAULERS cannot charge a separate fee for the collection of residential recyclables. The costs of collecting recyclables from residents can be included in trash collection fees. Facilities can charge for the collection of leaf and yard debris and food scraps.

The State of Vermont, Agency of Natural Resources (ANR) can oversee facility & residential rate structures to ensure rates are transparent to residential customers.

A Hierarchy for managing food scraps:



Phased in food scrap diversion: Food scrap generators must divert their food scraps (if a certified facility is **within 20 miles**) by:

- July 1, 2014, for generators of more than 104 tons/year (2 tons/week);
- July 1, 2015, for generators of more than 52 tons/year (1 ton/week);
- July 1, 2016 for generators of more than 26 tons/year (1/2 ton/week);
- July 1, 2017, for generators of more than 18 tons/year (1/3 ton/week).

VISIT the SWAC website or ANR's website at:
www.anr.state.vt.us/dec/wastediv/solid/Act.148.htm

By 2020, all food scraps, INCLUDING THOSE FROM HOUSEHOLDS ARE BANNED FROM THE LANDFILL (with no exemption for distance).

Did You Know? Approximately 12.5 percent of the U.S. waste stream is food scraps and only 3 percent of that is recovered. The average household produces 7-9 pounds of food waste per week. In the SWAC towns, that amounts to approximately 43,000 pounds per week! That is over 1,100 tons of food scraps that could be put a higher use.

Now would be a great time to start a backyard composting. Composting is an inexpensive, natural process that transforms your kitchen and garden waste into a valuable and nutrient rich food for your garden. It's easy to make and use. Visit www.rutlandcountyswac.org for more information about how to become a backyard composter.



Did you know composting at home for just one year can save global warming gases equivalent to all the CO2 your washing machine produces in three months?

Why do you need to compost when the waste will break down in landfill anyway?

When waste is sent to landfill, air cannot get to the organic waste. As the waste breaks down, it creates a harmful greenhouse gas, methane, which damages the Earth's atmosphere. When this same waste is composted above ground at home, oxygen helps the waste to decompose aerobically which means hardly any methane is produced. Good news for the planet. AND, after nine to twelve months, you get a free fertilizer for your garden.

Act 148 requires municipalities (whether in solid waste districts, towns, town groups, or alliances AND haulers) to implement variable rate pricing (aka Pay As You Throw/Pay Per Bag) for materials collected from residential customers based on volume or weight, by July 1, 2015.

Requires recycling containers to be located in public buildings and publically owned or controlled land (municipal and state) wherever trash cans are located (except in bathrooms) by **July 1, 2015**.

SWAC Officers and Representatives

Benson

Karen Barber, Representative

Chittenden

Gary Congdon, Representative

Fair Haven

Bonnie Rosati, Representative, **Secretary/Treasurer**

Middletown Springs

Jim Webber, Representative

Pawlet

Lenny Gibson, Representative

Rutland Town

Charles Shields, Representative

Shrewsbury

Bert Potter, Representative

Sudbury

Steve Sgorbati, Representative and **Chair**

Tinmouth

Gregg Casey Representative

West Haven

John Garrison, Representative and **Vice Chair**

Donnaleen Farwell, Alternate

Abby Greene, Alternate

Mike Lamson, Alternate

Fred Nicholson, Alternate

Michael Stewart, Alternate

Lynwood Smith, Alternate

Rick Lacroix, Alternate

We're on the Web!

See us at:

www.rutlandcountyswac.org

Pam Clapp, Administrator
Solid Waste Alliance Communities

Phone:
802-342-5701

E-Mail:
info@rutlandcountyswac.org