

2018 Newsletter

Solid Waste Alliance Communities (SWAC)

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

SWAC will be contracting with EnPro Services of Vermont, located in Williston, Vermont for HHW collection events. Any SWAC resident can take their HHW to any of the collection events listed.

If you live outside of a SWAC towns and have questions about recycling, HHW, or trash, please visit <http://www.rcswd.com>.

Household Hazardous Waste (HHW) Event Information

SWAC residents may also purchase a non-district permit at the HHW Depot or RSCWD offices at 1 Smith Rd, Rutland, Vermont, to utilize the Rutland County Solid Waste District facility. This permit allows drop off of HHW at no charge, trash at current rates, and recycling. Call 802-775-7209 for more information.

Disposing of HHW

Hazardous waste includes any unused product that is poisonous, reactive, corrosive, or flammable.

You can easily identify hazardous products by reading packaging labels. Look for key words such as **“Warning!”** **“Danger!”** **“Poison!”** **“Caution!”** Such products include certain paints, cleaners, stains and varnishes, car batteries, motor oil, and pesticides.

Household hazardous wastes should not be disposed of improperly by pouring wastes down the drain, on the ground, into storm sewers, or putting them out with the trash.

The dangers of such disposal methods may not be immediately obvious, but certain types of household hazardous waste have the potential to cause physical injury to sanitation workers, contaminate septic tanks or wastewater treatment system, pollute bodies of water, present hazards to children and pets, and contaminate ground and surface water.

Reducing HHW

Consider reducing your purchase of products that contain hazardous ingredients. Learn about the use of alternative methods or products—without hazardous ingredients—for some common household needs.

When shopping for items such as multipurpose household cleaners, toilet cleaners, laundry detergent, dish soap, dishwashing machine pods and gels, bug sprays and insect pest control, consider shopping for environmentally friendly, natural products or search online for simple recipes you can use to create your own.

Composting

Begin composting your kitchen food scraps, or find ways to do more. Separating food and yard waste can reduce the amount of trash your household produces by 25% or more!

Can't or don't want to get involved with a composter? How about a Green Cone food digester. Check out our information page (<http://rutlandcountyswac.org/backyard-composter-and-green-cone-sales/>)

HHW Event Schedule

Saturday, April 14, 2018

TIME: 8:30-12:30 p.m.

LOCATION: Rutland Town Transfer Station, off Post Road Extension

Saturday, April 28, 2018

TIME: 8:30-12:30 p.m.

LOCATION: Fair Haven Transfer Station, Fair Haven Ave off West st.

Saturday, October 13, 2018

TIME: 8:30-12:30 p.m.

LOCATION: Rutland Town Transfer Station, off Post Road Extension

PAWLET RESIDENTS: New this year, a shared household hazardous waste event with the town of Dorset.

Saturday, September 15, 2018

TIME: 9:00-1:00 p.m.

LOCATION: Dorset School, 130 Dorset Rd., Dorset

Cost to Residents: No fees are charged to residents of SWAC. The fees for disposal of HHW are paid for by member municipalities.

Household Hazardous Waste (HHW) Accepted Items

- Household Pesticides
- Household Hazardous Chemicals
- Fluorescent light bulbs
- Paint
- Batteries

to see how you can lower your trash costs even if you are not able to compost.

Compost containers and kitchen collectors are available for purchase at many home and garden stores or at Rutland County Solid Waste District Offices or by visiting <http://www.rcswd.com/>

Visit our Pinterest page for instructions on building your own compost bin: http://www.pinterest.com/s_waste/

Food Waste Reduction

1. Write a list and stick to it;
2. Keep a healthy fridge;
3. Don't throw it away, repurpose when possible
4. Use up leftovers
5. Rotate food to use older food first
6. Serve smaller amounts
7. Buy only what you need
8. Freeze breads or leftovers,
9. Compost

When do I separate food scraps?

Businesses generating over 18 tons of food waste per year (3 totes per week) are required to

divert food waste if there is a processing facility within 20 miles. There is not currently a location within 20 miles of Rutland County. As of July 1, 2020, all residents and businesses will be required to divert regardless of the proximity of a processing facility.

All SWAC town transfer stations currently accept food waste on-site.

Benefits of Food Waste Diversion

Food donations: capturing quality food before it is discarded helps people in need. In 2015, VT saw a 40% increase in the amount of food donated.

Healthy soils: composting allows the nutrients and organic matter to be put to better uses. Compost improves plant growth, food production, and can reduce soil erosion, increase water retention, and decrease the need for synthetic fertilizers.

Green jobs: New uses for discarded food scraps has the potential to create new products and markets. The collection, management, and treatment of food scraps will produce a higher number of green jobs in comparison to disposal.

Greenhouse Gas (GHG) Reduction: Composting will reduce total GHG emissions. When food scraps are disposed of in a landfill their decomposition produces methane gas (GHG). When captured it can be used for energy production at a gas-to-energy facility.

SWAC and RCSWD have joined in a business outreach project to help provide businesses with information and aid in implementing changes due to Act 148 regulations. Your lucky business may be receiving a call!

Ways to Reduce, Reuse & Recycle

Cut down the amount of waste using these great ideas:

1. Avoid Disposable Goods
2. Purchase recyclable products
3. Use cloth bags and resealable containers
4. Donate old items
5. Use recyclable paper
6. Buy products in bulk for less packaging
7. Avoid overpackaged goods
8. Upcycle & Reuse products
9. Repair items instead of replacing

Food Donations in Vermont

About **40%** of all food produced in the U.S. is wasted, luckily most food types can be donated. The Bill Emerson Good Samaritan Food Donation Act provides protection from liability for the donation of food that is 'apparently wholesome' without visible quality issues.

When donating food, it is important to remember the donation is for human consumption and needs to be handled accordingly. If food looks or smells bad, is moldy, or has damaged packaging do not donate it - compost it. All donated food should be protected to prevent food contamination by storing in packages, covered containers, or wrappings.

Vermont Foodbank - Barre, VT - 1-800-585-2265 - <https://www.vtfoodbank.org/>

Vermont Gleaning Collective - 802-888-4360 - <http://www.vermontgleaningcollective.org/>

Materials Management Map: <http://anrmaps.vermont.gov/websites/organics/default.html>

For more information on food donation regulations and gleaning visit <http://forms.vermontlaw.edu/farmgleaning>

10. Use digital mail

11. Purchase clothes that do not require dry cleaning

Visit our pinterest page for more great ideas and ways to creatively reuse items. http://www.pinterest.com/s_waste/

Bio-Solids

When the wastewater flushed from your toilet, drained from your household sinks, washing machine, or dishwasher leaves your home, it flows into your septic system or your community's wastewater treatment facility.

When septic tanks are pumped out, the waste may be disposed of through land application (spreading any chemicals or heavy metals that are in the waste onto the fields as well), taken to the local wastewater treatment facility, or taken to a solid waste incinerator for disposal.

Your home may be connected to a wastewater treatment facility. The wastewater from homes, along with the wastewater from some septic haulers, businesses, industries and other facilities, is treated to reduce or remove pollutants.

Wastewater treatment plants incorporate a series of processes to

try to remove pollutants from water used in homes, small businesses, industries, and other facilities. All wastewater goes through a primary treatment process, which involves screening and settling out large particles. During treatment, solid, semi-solid, and liquid residues, or sludges/ biosolids, are removed from the wastewater. Sludges/ biosolids may be composted, land applied, incinerated, or landfilled.

Wastewater treatment facilities are designed to treat organic materials, not hazardous chemicals. If you pour chemical down the drain they may end up in your local rivers, streams or lakes or spread on land.

FLUSH RESPONSIBLY! Don't pour household products down the drain.

You don't have to use toxic products!

The average American uses 40 lbs. of toxic cleaners every year. Toxics can harm your health now, or cause disease years from now. Children have the highest risk because their bodies' defenses are still developing. Childhood cancer and asthma have increased dramatically in the past 10 years. Every year, approximately 10% of child poisonings are caused by exposure to household cleaners.

The EPA says 80-90% of human

cancer is caused by exposure to toxins in our environment.

Choose your products wisely by reading the labels and watching for "**Danger,**" "**Warning,**" or "**Caution.**"

Visit <http://rutlandcountyswac.org/green-living/less-toxic-alternatives/> for ideas for less toxic cleaning products for a safer home and cleaner environment.

Visit our Pinterest page other green living tips and ideas: http://www.pinterest.com/s_waste/

Disposing of Sharps

It is safe to dispose of sharps, syringes or needles by reusing rigid plastic containers such as laundry detergent bottles, securing the cover and labeling "Not for Recycling."

NEVER dispose of sharps in the recycling, even if placed in a rigid plastic container.

The Solid Waste Program has created a separate webpage about sharps disposal: <http://dec.vermont.gov/content/safe-disposal-sharps>

Planning Waste-Free Events

Planning environmentally friendly events can be difficult. Working with the right vendors and keeping these tips in mind can help!

1. Develop a waste reduction plan for public and private areas.
2. Work with vendors to portion control and donate unserved food to a food donation program.
3. Use food vendors who offer washable plates, silverware and linens
4. Seek venues which offer recycling, food waste collection, and provide trained cleanup crews
5. If you are not able to use reusable items, choose recyclable or compostable items

For more tips on waste-free event planning, visit <http://www.rutlandcountyswac.org/event-planning/>

**This Newsletter is available in full color
with active weblinks on our website:
<http://www.rutlandcountyswac.org>**

2018 Officers

Steve Sgorbati, Sudbury, Chair

Chris Hoyt, West Haven, Vice-Chair

Bonnie Rosati, Fair Haven,
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Pam Clapp, Administrator

**Solid Waste Alliance Communities
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