

2021 Spring Newsletter

Solid Waste Alliance Communities (SWAC)

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

HHW Event Schedule

SWAC contracts EnPro Services of Vermont for HHW collection events. Any SWAC resident can take their HHW to any of the collection events listed. Used waste oil will be accepted at the Rutland and Fair Haven designated collection areas during the events. Several local businesses also accept it for free year round. Please do not give your waste oil to the HHW contractor. For more information please visit,

www.rutlandcountyswac.org

Saturday, May 15, 2021

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

LOCATION: Rutland Town Transfer Station, off Post Rd. Extension

Saturday, October 19, 2021

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

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

If you live outside of a SWAC town, please visit www.rcswd.com for more information.

SWAC residents may also purchase a non-district permit from Rutland County Solid Waste District (RCSWD) to utilize the RCSWD facility at www.rcswd.com. This permit allows drop off of HHW, trash and tires at current rates, and recycling.

HHW events are hosted by local towns and are an expensive endeavor. Reducing the amount of HHW products purchased and using the methods above will help reduce the cost to your towns.

VT Environmental Producer Responsibility (EPR) Legislation

Vermont's EPR laws require manufacturers to be responsible for the proper disposal of their products, thus reducing the disposal costs for towns. These products can be disposed of year round, free of charge, at the locations listed below and do not need to be saved for HHW events.

Flourescent Bulbs: VT residents can dispose of mercury containing bulbs at collection sites. <https://bit.ly/3va-MEVD>

Batteries: <https://bit.ly/3tbtrRA>
Architectural Paint: paintcare.org
Electronics: <https://bit.ly/3cnbNDJ>

These items can be dropped off year round and do not need to be saved for HHW events.

Mercury Thermostats: to find a drop off location visit <https://bit.ly/38yeKAa>

Disposal of Other Items

Propane Tanks: recommend a swap out at your local retailer, take to RCSWD or a HHW event.

Tires: can be returned to local retailers and some transfer stations for a disposal fee

Large Appliances: drop off at Hubbard Brothers, RCSWD or some local transfer stations for a fee.

Food Waste BANNED FROM VERMONT LANDFILLS

As of July 1, 2020, all residents and businesses are required to divert food waste from the landfill.

Food waste is one of the largest components of solid waste in U.S. landfills. Currently, 1/3 of food produced for human consumption is lost or wasted globally.

That's not the worst part. Food in the landfill does not break down or biodegrade due to lack of oxygen. It contributes to greenhouse gas emissions and wastes the water and other resources it takes to grow the food.

So, what you should you do with your food waste?

All SWAC transfer stations offer food waste collection on-site. Contact your local transfer station for specifics.

Backyard composting is a great option. For ideas, check out <http://scrapfoodwaste.org/>

Many local and online retailers offer backyard composters and collection containers.

Want to build your own composter? Check out these DIY projects on our pinterest site at www.pinterest.com/solidwastealliance-communities/build-your-own-compost-bin/

Reducing Waste Tips

Every year, the average American sends over 1,000 pounds of everyday household refuse to landfills.

Fortunately, we have the power to do something about this. There are many easy ways to reduce waste and your impact on the environment.

Here are some of the top things you can do to reduce the amount of waste you produce on a daily basis.

Reduce Food Waste: make sure to shop with a list, take inventory of your fridge, use leftovers, and store food properly.



Reusable Bags: use reusable bags when you grocery shop. You can even get reusable bags for produce.

No Bottled Water: use a reusable water bottle and travel coffee cup rather than a disposable one.

Towels: use towels and rags for cleaning rather than paper towels. They can be easily washed and reused after each use.

Opt for Paperless: most bill providers offer a paperless billing option. Use this to reduce the amount of waste paper you receive in the mail.

Less packaging: purchase food and products that have less packaging. In addition to producing less waste, this will encourage manufacturers to reconsider excessive packaging.

Food Storage: think of alternative food storage options. Ziploc bags tend to be one-use and are thrown away. Use reusable containers and reusable food wrap instead of plastic bags.

Reusable Cutlery: instead of using the throw-away silverware for your next to-go order, consider using reusable cutlery. You can use the silverware you already own or get travel cutlery to have on-hand.



Go Strawless: consider going without a straw for your next beverage. If you really prefer or need a straw, there are many reusable options available on the market.

Avoid Paper cups: paper cups have plastic linings and cannot be recycled. Many coffee shops are starting to allow customers to bring their own reusable cups.

Low Waste Laundry: use dryer balls instead of dryer sheets. Consider using laundry sheets instead of purchasing laundry detergent in plastic containers.

There are some items that do not have alternatives available. For these items, we recommend choosing recyclable items over items that will go into a land fill.



Business Assistance Services

Vermont businesses have been hit hard by the COVID-19 pandemic. We know it can be difficult to figure out where to get support for your business. Here is a list of some local resources for Vermont businesses.

- Small Business Grants: <https://vtdigger.org/2020/12/15/lawmakers-earmark-13-2-million-more-to-small-business-grants/>
- Support for Micro Businesses: <https://mbdp.org/>
- Support for Farmers and Agricultural Workers: <https://agriculture.vermont.gov/agency-agriculture-food-markets-news/covid-19-relief-grants-now-available-agriculture-and-working>
- Small Business Grants: <https://vtdigger.org/2020/07/01/vermont-lays-out-criteria-for-small-business-grants-portals-open-july-6/>



Sustainable Living

Reduce your carbon footprint through more sustainable living. What does that mean? We've created a list of areas where you can become more sustainable in your daily routine.

Save Water: a typical American family will use over 300 gallons of water in a day. Reduce water consumption by taking shorter showers, washing larger loads of laundry, running a full dishwasher, and saving rain water for indoor plants.



best non-toxic
CLEANING PRODUCTS
in every category



simply quinoa

Go Nontoxic: many household cleaners are toxic. Switch to non-toxic cleaning options or make your own natural cleaners. Check

out our Pinterest page (www.pinterest.com/solidwastealliancecommunities/) for recipes!

Green Up Your Closet: buy less clothing and make sure the clothing you do purchase will last.

Be Energy Efficient: this can be as easy as switching your light-bulbs to energy efficient versions. You can also check for energy drains around your home, such as leaving electronics or empty freezers plugged in.

Bank & Invest Responsibly: your money can do a lot of good things in the world. Pick a bank or investment fund that banks responsibly.

Choose "Good" Food: purchase from local suppliers to reduce transportation of food. You can also select foods that are produced with a lower carbon footprint.

Build Green: use environmentally friendly materials for any building projects. Consider reusing or repurposing old materials.

Reuse, Repurpose & Recycle: There are some very creative ways to repurpose or upcycle items. Check out our Pinterest page (www.pinterest.com/solidwastealliancecommunities/) for some neat ideas.

Green Transportation: bike, walk, carpool or take public transit whenever possible or feasible.

Travel Sustainably: consider locally owned hotels, organic restaurants or green businesses when you travel. These businesses work hard to reduce their carbon footprint on a daily basis.

SWAC's Solid Waste Implementation Plan (SWIP)

All solid waste management entities in Vermont are required to have a SWIP. The SWIP is a comprehensive planning document meeting the State's standards for hazardous and solid waste. SWAC has newly approved SWIP. It is available for public review and comment on the website - <https://bit.ly/3I8EW9N>. The SWIP acts as a five-year planning document for SWAC and acts as a work plan. We look forward to your input.

SWAC's Website

SWAC has an extensive website created to assist its residents and businesses with solid and hazardous waste issues. The website contains information on Vermont's solid waste and hazardous waste laws and how they pertain to you. There is information on where to take back products, greener alternatives, food waste and other tips and ideas.

Follow us on [Pinterest](#) and [Facebook](#) for more great ideas and ways to creatively reuse items.

Business Outreach

SWAC and RCSWD have joined in a business outreach effort to assist local businesses with meeting their requirements for solid and hazardous waste under state law. Your lucky business may be receiving a visit or telephone call!

Please contact us with any inquiries you may have in the meantime. We are here to help.

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

DUE TO COVID-19, HAZARDOUS WASTE DATES
ARE SUBJECT TO CHANGE/CANCELLATION.
PLEASE VISIT THE SWAC WEBSITE FOR
UP-TO-DATE INFORMATION.

2021 Officers

Steve Sgorbati, Sudbury, Chair

Chris Hoyt, West Haven, Vice-Chair

Bonnie Rosati, Fair Haven,
Secretary/Treasurer

Pam Clapp, Administrator

Solid Waste Alliance Communities
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