

Solid Waste Alliance Communities (SWAC)

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

Newsletter

Fall 2015

Visit us on the web at:
www.rutlandcountyswac.org

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

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2015 Officers

Steve Sgorbati, Sudbury, Chair

John Garrison, West Haven, Vice-Chair

Bonnie Rosati, Fair Haven, Secretary/Treasurer

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HOUSEHOLD HAZARDOUS WASTE (HHW)

Many household products are hazardous. Mixing, improper storage, disregarding label instructions or improper disposal – can be a threat to health and to the environment.

Last year SWAC spent \$10,768.98 for the disposal of household hazardous waste. 159 households participated in the events and properly disposed of their HHW.

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

UPCOMING EVENTS

SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 12
1:00 p.m. – 3:30 p.m.
SHREWSBURY Transfer Station,
103 Mountain Road, Shrewsbury

SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 19
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

SEPTEMBER 26
8:00-11:30 a.m. – RUTLAND
TOWN Transfer Station, in
Northward Park, off Post Road
Extension, Rutland

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

What? Bring your household pesticides and household hazardous chemicals. Fluorescent light bulbs and latex paint may also be accepted at this event.

All products must be in the original containers. Materials **WILL NOT** be poured off into other containers at the event.

Pesticides: The Vermont Department of Agriculture Food and Markets Division sponsors a program to help farmers, growers, and households dispose of canceled or unwanted pesticides **at no cost**. Funding comes from registration fees that pesticide manufacturers pay for their products to be sold in Vermont. Only pesticides are covered by this contract. Do you have a large quantity of pesticides? Contact RCSWD at 775-7209 to schedule an appointment to have the pesticides accepted.

Mercury Added Products: Items such as thermometers, fluorescent light bulbs, thermostats, switches, medical and scientific instruments,

mercury batteries and other mercury containing products will be accepted at this event.

Batteries: Nickel cadmium batteries from various types of rechargeable appliances such as drills, flashlights and portable telephones can be accepted at these events. Alkaline batteries are not hazardous. They can be disposed of in the trash. When in doubt, bring them to the event. At this time, some transfer stations, service stations, auto parts stores, and the RCSWD accept car batteries at no charge.



Paint: Since May of 2014, architectural paint (paint used in painting homes) is collected through a manufacturer environmental producer responsibility program. Facilities accepting the paint (including latex) for free are set up throughout the area. Unwanted paint will still be accepted at no charge at Household Hazardous Waste Events. There may be a 10 gallon limit for latex paint. Please call **RCSWD at 775-7209 if you have more than 10 gallons of paint.**

Local retailers, solid waste districts, as well as many local transfer stations accept architectural paint for fee. Visit www.paintcare.org to find a facility nearest you.

Motor/Crankcase Oil: If your town does not have a used oil collection tank, bring your used motor/crankcase oil to this event for proper disposal.

Who: Residents of the SWAC towns. Small businesses can schedule an appointment with the RCSWD at (775-7209) to make arrangements for disposal of their small business waste. Business waste is **NOT** accepted at HHW events.

Not Allowed? Some wastes can't be accepted: infectious wastes (contact your doctor's office or hospital for safe disposal); explosives such as ammunition and flares, (contact the state police for instructions in proper handling and disposal).

Where Does the Dirty Water Go?

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.

How is the wastewater at a wastewater treatment plant treated?



Waste water 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.

The wastewater then moves on to the **secondary treatment process** where organic matter is removed by allowing bacteria to break down the pollutants.

The treated wastewater is then usually disinfected with chlorine to remove the remaining bacteria.

Some communities go one step further and put the wastewater through an **advanced treatment process** to reduce the level of pollutants of special concern to the local waterbody, such as nitrogen or phosphorus.

What happens to the treated water when it leaves the wastewater treatment plant?

The treated wastewater may be released into local waterways where it is used again for any number of purposes, such as

supplying drinking water, irrigating crops, and sustaining aquatic life.

What Can You Do to Protect Local Waterways and the Environment?

FLUSH RESPONSIBLY! Don't pour household products such as cleansers, beauty products, medicine, auto fluids, paint, and lawn care products down the drain. Properly dispose of them at the HHW events.

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

Don't pour used motor oil down the drain.

Used motor oil can diminish the effectiveness of the treatment process, and might allow contaminants to be discharged. The contaminants could pollute local waterways or harm aquatic life.

You Don't Have to Use Toxic Products! Make the Switch...and here's why:

- 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 percent of child poisonings are caused by exposure to household cleaners.

- EPA says 80-90% of human cancer is caused by exposure to toxins in our environment.



Recipes for a Safer Home and a Cleaner Environment:

Laundry Soap: Use non phosphate detergent. TIP: Add ½ cup borax or washing soda to the wash cycle to boost cleaning for heavily soiled clothes.

Diaper Pail Deodorizer: 1 cup baking soda, 1 t. tea tree oil and/ or other essential oil. Mix and work out all lumps with a fork. Sprinkle in bottom of pail after liner is removed. Periodically rinse pail with vinegar and baking soda.

FRUIT FLIES? - Try apple cider vinegar or red wine, and dish soap! By simply pouring apple cider vinegar or red wine into an open cup or bowl and adding a few drops of dish detergent you can easily make an incredibly effective trap for ridding your kitchen of fruit flies. Place it near your source of infestation and within a day you will have nipped the problem in the bud!

Apple cider vinegar and wine work as an attractant because of their strong

sweet odor while the dish detergent decreases the vinegar and wine's surface tension so that when a fly touches the surface it immediately sinks and drowns.

Bathroom Deodorizer: One pound box baking soda, 10-20 drops essential oil. Mix oil in baking soda. Place open box under sink or near toilet. Add more essential oil as needed. Replace baking soda every 3 months. Use the old baking soda in cleaning recipes.

Toilet Bowl Cleaner: Use ½ cup borax or baking soda. Sprinkle on a wet bowl brush, scour, and rinse.



Scuff Marks: To remove from floors, sprinkle with baking soda and spray with equal parts vinegar and water. Wipe clean.

Silver Cleaner: Line your sink or a bucket with aluminum foil. Pour in boiling water, 1 cup of baking soda and a dash of salt. Let silver sit for a few minutes. The tarnish will transfer to the foil!

Wood Floor Polish: ¼ cup olive oil, ¼ cup vinegar, 10 drops essential oil (optional). Mix and apply.

For more ideas, visit the SWAC website at: <http://www.rutlandcountyswac.org/Nontoxic%20Cleaners.htm>

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. The best way to tell if a product is hazardous is to read the label.

DANGER indicates the product is extremely hazardous: a taste could be fatal. **WARNING** and **CAUTION** signal a somewhat lesser hazard. Select products with a **CAUTION** label over those with **WARNING** or **DANGER**. The best selection is one with no hazards.

Plan Ahead: Now that you know the possible dangers of disposing of HHW improperly, 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 schedules HHW collection days in the spring and fall of each year, and residents benefit from year-round access to the RCSWD Hazardous Waste Depot on Gleason Road in Rutland. 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 and everyone gains.

UNIVERSAL RECYCLING (ACT 148) 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.

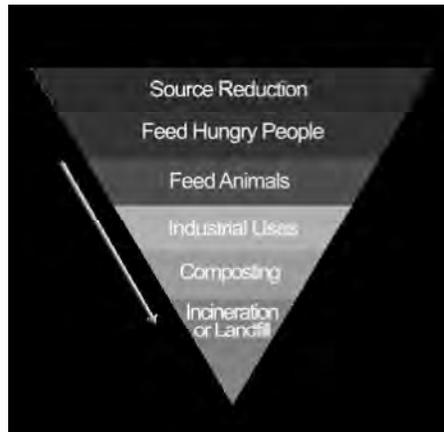
Haulers that offer services for managing trash must also offer services for managing:

- 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 and haulers 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.

Food Scrap Management Hierarchy



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).

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 43,200 pounds per week or 2.2 million pounds per year! That is over 1,120 tons of food scraps that could be put a higher use.

Now would be a great time to start a backyard composting. It 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 one year can save global warming gases equal 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 all towns (whether in solid waste districts, towns, town groups, or alliances AND haulers) to implement variable rate pricing (aka Pay –As-You Throw or Pay Per Bag) for materials collected from residential customers, by weight or by volume, by July 1, 2015, and 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).

SWAC’s SOLID WASTE IMPLEMENTATION PLAN (SWIP)

SWAC has rewritten its SWIP to comply with the new Vermont Materials Management Plan (MMP). The MMP contains performance standards, including those focused on implementing Act 148 (Vermont’s universal recycling and composting law), that each solid waste entity must meet to achieve the following goals:

- Prevent waste from being generated.
- Promote sustainable materials management, with a preference for highest and best uses.
- Minimize reliance on waste disposal (landfilling and incineration).
- Conserve resources, minimize energy consumption, and reduce greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions and other

adverse environmental impacts.

The SWIP is available for viewing on the SWAC website at <http://www.rutlandcountyswac.org/SWAC%20webpages/Solid%20Waste%20Plan.htm> Check it out!

SWAC’s WEBSITE:

SWAC has created an extensive website to assist its residents with solid waste issues. It is very user friendly and contains information on Vermont’s Solid Waste Laws, Living a Greener Lifestyle, Recycling, Alternative Cleaning Products, Hazardous Waste Collection Events, and even has a What Do I Do With...? section. Utilize the website as your “go to” source for information on all solid waste related issues.

This Newsletter is also available on the SWAC website with interactive links.

Representatives/ Alternates:

Benson

Wes Bowen, Representative

Chittenden

Clifford Bassett, Representative
Wendell Smith, Jr., Alternate

Fair Haven

Bonnie Rosati, Representative

Middletown Springs

Mike Lamson, Representative
Herb Childress, Alternate

Pawlet

Lenny Gibson, Representative

Rutland Town

Dick Lloyd, Representative
William Matteson, Alternate

Shrewsbury

Bert Potter, Representative

Sudbury

Steve Sgorbati, Rep.

Tinmouth

Gregg Casey, Representative
Rick Lacroix, Alternate

West Haven

John Garrison, Representative
Lee Ellis, Alternate



VERMONT STATE LAW DISPOSAL BANS



Paints & Stains, Varnish, Thinner



Tires



Waste Oil & Filters



Recyclables



Plastic #1 and #2



Glass jars, bottles



Aluminum & steel cans, aluminum foil



Cardboard, mixed paper, newspaper



Effective July 1, 2015

Mercury-Added Products



CFLs, mercury switches, thermostats, lamps, thermometers, etc.

Electronics



Computers and accessories, all phones, televisions, MP3 players, VCRs/DVDs, etc.

Organics (Compostable Material)



Clean wood, branches, leaf and yard debris, grass clippings, etc.

Effective July 1, 2016

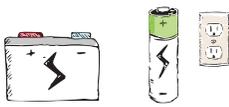


Food scraps, coffee grounds, egg shells, etc.



Effective July 1, 2020

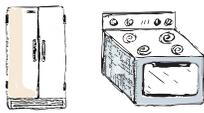
Certain Batteries



Lead-acid

Rechargeable

Appliances (White Goods)



Refrigerators, ranges, washers, dryers, dishwashers, freezers, etc.

Dangerous Wastes

These items are regulated and **extremely hazardous** to persons handling solid waste:

Explosives. Fireworks. Gasoline. Sharps. Medical Waste. Pool Chemicals. Propane Cylinders. Liquid Waste.

Please use proper disposal methods or keep out of trash.

Keep these items out of the trash!

Ask attendant for details on recycling and alternative disposal options.

Waste Management & Prevention Division
(802) 828-1138 | www.recycle.vermont.gov

2015 Edition. VERMONT

We start with six.

Now anywhere in Vermont, you can recycle these six items at the curb or transfer stations. You may be able to recycle even more, so check with your local district. But if you're ever unsure, start with these six.



Recycling Resimplified.

Paper

Aluminum

Cardboard

Steel

Glass

Hard Plastics

We're on the Web!

See us at:

www.rutlandcountyswac.org

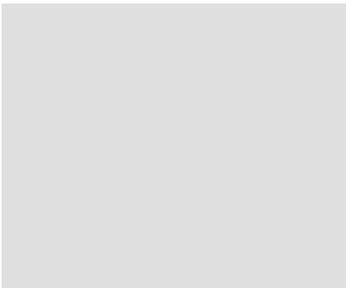
Pam Clapp, Administrator

****ECRWSS

E-Mail:
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Postal Patron

REMINDERS...



**HOUSEHOLD HAZARDOUS WASTE
COLLECTION EVENTS** are scheduled for
September 12, 19, and 26. Check inside this
newsletter for times and locations or visit the
SWAC website at www.rutlandcountyswac.org