



## Summer 2018 Newsletter from the Bennington County Solid Waste Alliance

The Bennington County Solid Waste Alliance (BCSWA) includes the Towns of Arlington, Bennington, Dorset, Glastenbury, Manchester, Pownal, Rupert, Sandgate, Searsburg, Shaftsbury, Stamford, Sunderland and Woodford and provides technical assistance to businesses, schools and institutions within the thirteen towns to help them in recycling and waste reduction.

**2018 Household Hazardous Waste Events:** The Alliance will hold the next event on Saturday, **September 15, 2018** at the Dorset School, 130 School Drive, Dorset, VT 05251 from 9:00 AM to 1:00 PM for residents of the 13 Alliance towns plus the town of Pawlet.



**Recyclables at Transfer Stations:** The Legislature provided for transfer stations to begin to charge for recyclables. At this point, no transfer stations in our area are charging. Please talk to the attendant when you visit to see if they will be changing their policies. All the transfer stations in our area are also accepting food scraps.

**Sharps:** If you use sharps including needles, and need to dispose of them, visit <http://www.bcswvt.org/programs-and-projects/what-do-i-do-with/> and scroll down to ‘Needles and Sharps’ on how to seal them in a sturdy container for disposal. Sharps can’t be recycled and are dangerous if not disposed of properly.



**Be Careful What You Put Down the Drain:** Many materials, especially household hazardous waste, should NOT be poured down the drain, either to a septic tank or field or to wastewater treatment plants. These chemicals are toxic, will kill the organisms that break down waste, and will enter surface and groundwater supplies. Flushing prescription drugs down the toilet should also be avoided as these have been shown to harm fish and amphibians. Visit <http://www.bcswvt.org/programs-and-projects/sludge-septage-residual-waste/> for more information that will protect our water supplies.

**Batteries, Fluorescent Bulbs, E-Waste, Textiles and Paint:** Many retail stores accept alkaline and rechargeable batteries, fluorescent bulbs, including both tubes and CFLs and latex and oil based paint for FREE! Goodwill in Bennington accepts clothing and has trucks on weekends in Arlington and Manchester for donations of clothing. There are textile boxes located all over Bennington County, including at the transfer stations, where you can donate clothing. Goodwill also accepts donations of clothing and other items. Visit them at [www.goodwill-berkshires.com](http://www.goodwill-berkshires.com). The Bennington, Northshire, Pownal, Searsburg and Sunderland Transfer Stations accept E-Waste. Several retail businesses accept bulbs and batteries as well. Visit [www.bcswvt.org](http://www.bcswvt.org) to find locations for disposing these materials.

**Business, School and Event Outreach:** The Alliance continues to provide outreach to businesses, schools and event organizers. This free service provides information on methods of recycling, disposing hazardous materials, and properly diverting food scraps and organics from landfills. If your school, business or institution or event is interested in having someone visit to discuss better ways to handle solid waste, organics, recyclables and other materials, please contact Michael Batcher at 802-442-0713 x 2 or [mbatcher@bcrcvt.org](mailto:mbatcher@bcrcvt.org).

**BCSWA Board Meeting:** The next Alliance board meeting will be on September 26, 2018 from 4:00 to 6:00 PM at the Arlington Town Hall, 3828 VT Route 7A, Arlington, VT 05250.

**Need More Information?** Many plastics as well as paper, cardboard, glass, electronic waste and other items are banned from landfills but are accepted by haulers and transfer stations. Talk to your hauler about recycling and how you can save money by disposing of materials properly. Check with your town hall to find out how you can access your town transfer station. Contact Michael S. Batcher at (802) 442-0713 x 2 or [mbatcher@bcrcvt.org](mailto:mbatcher@bcrcvt.org) or visit the Alliance website at [www.bcswvt.org](http://www.bcswvt.org) for more information.