



# COVID-19 Newsletter from the Bennington County Solid Waste Alliance

**The Household Hazardous Waste Event scheduled for Saturday, May 9, 2020, at the Mt. Anthony Union Middle School, 747 East Road, Bennington has been CANCELED!** Rescheduling the event will depend on when the COVID19 restrictions have been lifted. Plans are still in place to hold a fall event at the Dorset School from 9:00 AM to 1:00 PM on September 12, 2020.

In the meantime, residents, businesses and schools are encouraged to store household hazardous waste (HHW) in a cool, dry, well-ventilated place that is inaccessible to children and pets. Never put HHW in the trash or down the drain. Keep materials in the original containers with the original labels. Residents are reminded not to take paint, batteries, plastic film, light bulbs, and electronics (E-Waste), back to retailers participating in recycling programs during the COVID19 outbreak so their staffs can concentrate on the essential functions of their business and keep everyone safe. For more information about proper waste disposal during COVID19, visit: <https://www.bcswavt.org/covid19-response/>

**Staying safe during COVID19:** To reduce the spread of COVID19, residents and businesses are asked to limit drop-offs at transfer stations to include ONLY trash, recyclables, and food scraps at this time. Please do not bring large household items such as furniture or tires to your transfer stations. Please also refrain from bringing electronic waste, mercury containing bulbs or batteries. Transfer stations staffs are practicing physical distancing to minimize their contact with the public wherever possible. Expect in-person outlets that accept used clothing (e.g., Goodwill) are closed and have suspended home pickups during the pandemic.

The Department of Environmental Conservation (DEC) recommends residents check with redemption centers before bringing containers to redeem. If your retailer has closed or chosen not to accept beverage containers during this period, you can delay redemption until locations re-open for normal business. Or, you can place redemption containers in your regular recycling; all unclaimed deposits will go to the Vermont Clean Water Fund.

## **TIPS FOR SUPPORTING THE RECYCLING INDUSTRY DURING THE PANDEMIC:**

- Freeze your food to make your supplies last longer and reduce food waste.
- Store leftover foods in reusable containers instead of single use plastic bags or Polystyrene foam containers.
- Don't throw loose plastic bags in with other recyclables, and don't bag your recyclables. Collect your plastic bags to take back to the grocery stores once the pandemic is over.
- Keep food and liquids out of your recycling. Recycle clean bottles, cans, paper and cardboard.
- Latex and other disposable gloves go in the trash – not your recycling container.

**The next BCSWA board meeting will be on Wednesday, June 3, 2020 from 4:00-6:00 PM** at the Arlington Town Hall 3828 Vermont Route 7A, Arlington, VT 05250. If COVID19 restrictions are still in place the meeting will be held online and information on how to participate will be provided. An agenda will be at [www.bcswavt.org](http://www.bcswavt.org) at least two weeks prior to the meeting. Visit [www.bcswavt.org](http://www.bcswavt.org) for information on recycling, composting, disposing prescription drugs, and services offered by waste haulers. Contact Michael S. Batcher at (802) 442-0713 x2 or [mbatcher@bcrcvt.org](mailto:mbatcher@bcrcvt.org) for more information or visit our web site at [www.bcswavt.org](http://www.bcswavt.org).