



Late Summer 2020 Newsletter from the Bennington County Solid Waste Alliance

September 12, 2020 Household Hazardous Waste Event: The Alliance will hold a household hazardous waste event on September 12, 2020, at the Dorset School from 9:00 AM to 1:00 PM. Contact Michael Batchner at mbatcher@bcrcvt.org, or (802) 442-0713 x2 if you have questions. For more information, visit www.bcswavt.org.

Composting Equipment: The Alliance is selling green cones for backyard composting, kitchen composters in which to put kitchen scraps for later disposal in the green cone or backyard composter and pails for taking food scraps to the transfer station. Visit www.bcswavt.org for pricing and ordering information.

Food Scrap Ban: As of July 1, 2020, food waste has been banned from disposal in landfills. Residents, institutions, businesses and schools should divert their food waste by contracting with their haulers, bringing food to their transfer stations, composting, feeding food scraps to domestic animals, donating to food banks and/or reducing the amount purchased to avoid wasting food. Haulers are required to offer collection for businesses, schools, institutions, and apartments of four units or more so contact your hauler for assistance.

Single Use Plastics: After July 1, 2020, stores and food service establishments will no longer provide **plastic carryout bags** at check-out. Plastic bags will be allowed in stores and food service establishments for certain materials (e.g., fruits, vegetables, nuts, coffee, hardware items, frozen foods, meat, fish, prescription medications) or for laundry, dry cleaning, and other large garments. Stores and food service establishments may provide paper carryout bags at check-out, for a minimum of \$0.10 each. Food service establishments will no longer offer **plastic straws** or **plastic stirrers** to customers, though they may provide straws or stirrers made from alternative materials. Businesses can still provide these to customers upon request regardless of their composition. Stores and food service establishments will no longer provide or sell food or beverage containers made of expanded **polystyrene** including plates and cups, trays, egg cartons, and take-out containers. Expanded polystyrene is still allowed for trays used to package uncooked meat, fish, poultry, or seafood, products packaged out-of-state or packaged for sale out-of-state.

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 contact you to discuss better ways to handle solid waste, organics, recyclables, and other materials, please contact Paula Kamperman at 518-788-2553 or paulakamperan@gmail.com

Be Careful What You Put Down the Drain: Hazardous materials and pharmaceuticals 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. Prescription drugs have been shown to harm fish and amphibians. Visit www.bcswavt.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 a truck on weekends in Manchester for donations of clothing. Visit them at www.goodwill-berkshires.com. There are also clothing boxes spread around Bennington County near various retail establishments operated by the One World Center. The Bennington, Northshire, Pownal, Searsburg and Sunderland Transfer Stations accept E-Waste. Several retail businesses accept bulbs and batteries as well. Visit www.bcswavt.org to find locations for disposing these materials.

Bennington County Solid Waste Alliance: The mission of the Bennington County Solid Waste Alliance is to reduce the amount of waste disposed in landfills, by incineration or similar means by 1) reducing the amount of waste generated, 2) conserving resources, and 3) promoting recycling and reuse. The Alliance towns include Arlington, Bennington, Dorset, Glastenbury, Manchester, Pownal, Rupert, Sandgate, Searsburg, Shaftsbury, Stamford, Sunderland, and Woodford. For more information, please visit www.bcswavt.org or contact Michael S. Batchner at (802) 442-0713 x 2 or mbatcher@bcrcvt.org or Paula Kamperman at paulakamperman@gmail.com or 518-788-2553.