

## Fall 2020 Newsletter from the Bennington County Solid Waste Alliance

Visit [www.bcswavt.org](http://www.bcswavt.org) to find information on recycling, composting, disposing prescription drugs, and services offered by waste haulers and to sign up for newsletters and announcements.

**Reduce Your Waste During the Holidays:** Visit <https://dieteticdirections.com/10-practical-ways-reduce-thanksgiving-food-waste/> on ways to reduce food waste during the holidays. Better meal planning, creative cooking with leftovers, composting, and giving extra food to those in need by donating to food pantries can all help reduce waste and save money. For the holidays, using recycled wrapping paper, avoiding unnecessary packaging, sending electronic cards instead of paper cards and other planning can save a lot of waste at this time of year.



**Household Hazardous Waste Events:** If you missed our two events this past year, visit [www.bcswavt.org](http://www.bcswavt.org) and look for information on how to dispose of **architectural paints, alkaline and rechargeable batteries and cell phones, mercury thermostats, fluorescent bulbs, prescription medications and electronics.** BCSWA residents can also dispose of materials at the Rutland County Solid Waste District, but there are charges involved. For more information, visit <https://www.rcswd.com/hhw/>. Contact Michael Batcher at [mbatcher@bcrcvt.org](mailto:mbatcher@bcrcvt.org), or (802) 442-0713 x 2 if you have questions.

**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 stirrers** to customers. **Plastic straws** may still be given to customers, but only upon request. Businesses providing straws or stirrers are encouraged to purchase those made of alternative materials such as wood, paper, hemp, or reusable stainless-steel spoons or straws. 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, Institution, Event and School Outreach:** The Alliance provides assistance to businesses, schools, institutions and event organizers on recycling, food scrap diversion, managing hazardous materials and other solid waste issues. Paula Kamperman is our Outreach Program Manager and can be reached at 518-788-2553 or [paulakamperman@gmail.com](mailto:paulakamperman@gmail.com). She can also provide you with handouts on many subjects and point you to resources on our website and other sources of great information.

**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.bcswavt.org/programs-and-projects/sludge-septage-residual-waste/> for more information that will protect our water supplies.

