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The Bennington County Solid Waste Alliance Reports Hazardous Waste Collection and Donations for 2020

Bennington, VERMONT- The Bennington County Solid Waste Alliance hosted two household hazardous waste collection events this year in August at the Mt. Anthony Union Middle School and in September at the Dorset School. The events are for the benefit of the member towns of the Alliance which include Arlington, Bennington, Dorset, Glastenbury, Manchester, Pownal, Rupert, Sandgate, Searsburg, Shaftsbury, Stamford, Sunderland, and Woodford.

The two events collected a total of 33 tons of material from 497 households, approximately 40% of those were first-time attendees. Some of the material collected included 6,974 pounds of latex paint on behalf of PaintCare, 2,956 pounds of oil-based paint on behalf of PaintCare, 3.6 tons of pesticides, 1,028 feet of fluorescent bulbs, 389 compact fluorescent bulbs (CFLs), 111 propane tanks, approximately 400 pounds of single-use batteries, 300 pounds of rechargeable batteries, and 300 pounds of lead-acid batteries.

“We’re really pleased with the turnout for this year’s events and even more heartwarming was the number of donations received to help offset the costs.”, says Michael Batcher, Program Manager of the Alliance. “We received \$1317.42 in donations from the public and in turn we gave \$300 to each of the schools who hosted us. This year the total cost of the two events was \$68,200 which includes administrative, equipment, and disposal costs. Disposing of the hazardous material is the biggest and fastest rising cost of these events.” The Alliance received \$32,499.48 from a grant from the Vermont Agency of Natural Resources to help cover the costs of the events and \$8,875 from the Vermont Agency of Agriculture and Markets to help cover the cost of pesticide disposal, specifically.

In accordance with the updated Solid Waste Implementation Plan (SWIP) of 2020, in 2021 the Alliance will begin hosting a 3rd event each year in Searsburg or Stamford to meet the requirement of all towns being within a 20-mile radius of at least one event during the year. Look for information about these events beginning in Spring 2021.

The Bennington County Solid Waste Alliance (BCSWA) was formed in 2015 by the towns of Arlington, Bennington, Dorset, Glastenbury, Manchester, Pownal, Rupert, Sandgate, Searsburg, Shaftsbury, Stamford, Sunderland and Woodford to adopt a solid waste management plan to implement Vermont's recycling laws. The Alliance provides education and outreach on reducing waste, recycling and proper disposal of hazardous materials to residents, businesses, schools and institutions in the thirteen towns. A complete list of disposal resources and information about its programs can be found at www.bcswavt.org.

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