



## Bennington County Solid Waste Alliance 2020 Annual Report

In 2015, the towns of Arlington, Bennington, Dorset, Glastenbury, Manchester, Pownal, Rupert, Sandgate, Searsburg, Shaftsbury, Stamford, Sunderland, and Woodford formed the Bennington County Solid Waste Alliance

(BCSWA or the Alliance. The Alliance developed a Solid Waste Implementation Plan (SWIP) and has implemented that plan since then. The Bennington County Regional Commission (BCRC) provides assistance to the Bennington County Solid Waste Alliance, which includes. BCSWA provides outreach to businesses, schools, institutions, and the public on managing organics, hazardous materials, electronic waste, paint, prescription drugs and other forms of solid waste to reduce the amount that is sent to landfills or incinerated.

### 2021 to 2025 Solid Waste Implementation Plan

The Alliance revised the Alliance Solid Waste Implementation Plan or SWIP and submitted that to VT ANR for review and approval for the 2021 to 2025 period. This plan is effective for five years and follows the state’s Materials Management Plan. The Alliance held two public meetings on the plan and received final approval from VT ANR and adopted the SWIP in November of 2020.

### Outreach Program

Burr and Burton Academy	Mount Anthony Union Middle School
Dorset School	Pownal Elementary
Forest Ward Memorial School	Red Fox School
Grace Christian School	Sacred Heart
Hiland Hall School	Southshire Community School
Maple Street School	Stamford Elementary
Molly Stark Elementary	Village School of North Bennington
Monument Elementary	Woodford Hollow Elementary
Mount Anthony Union High School	

Paula Kamperman, our Outreach Program Manager, contacted 45 businesses, including several property owners and managers. Contact was via some in-person meetings, phone calls and emails. Given COVID-19 restrictions, in-person visits were limited or avoided. Paula also provided several webinars for businesses, apartment, and

condominium managers. She also provided outreach to seventeen schools.

Outreach involved providing buckets, purchased by VT ANR, for use by students to dispose of food scraps in classrooms. Schools are providing food in classrooms to avoid large gatherings in the cafeterias. Paula distributed 150 buckets while providing information on food scrap management, recycling and offers to provide on-site trash on the lawn exercises when the pandemic is over.

## Household Hazardous Waste Events

We held household hazardous waste events at Mt. Anthony Union Middle School on August 8<sup>th</sup> and at the Dorset School on September 12<sup>th</sup>. We had a total of 497 households participate in the two events with no businesses. Sixty percent of households had previously participated in an event in Vermont. Our total is higher than the 446 we had last year.

BCSWA collected 6,974 pounds of latex paint and 2,956 pounds of oil-based paint to be recycled by 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. The total cost of the two events was \$68,200 which includes administrative, equipment, and disposal costs. The Alliance received \$1,317.42 in donations from the public and in turn gave \$300 to Mt. Anthony Union Middle School and the Dorset School, each of which hosted our 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.

## Food Scrap Ban and Compost Equipment Sales

As of July 1, 2020, food scraps are banned from disposal to landfills. Commercial haulers are required to offer collection to businesses, institutions, and apartments of four units or greater. Residents may opt to hire haulers, to compost in their backyards or to bring food scraps to their transfer stations. To help residents, the Alliance sold 184 Soil Saver Backyard Composters, 60 Green Cones, 132 Kitchen Composters for collecting food scraps in the kitchen and 50 pails for collecting food scraps to take to transfer stations.

## Web Site, Facebook, and Other Sources

The Alliance has a website at [www.bcswavt.org](http://www.bcswavt.org) where visitors can find information on recycling, food scrap diversion and schedules for household hazardous waste events. The site also provides information on services offered at the Bennington, Northshire, Pownal, Searsburg, Shaftsbury, Stamford, and Sunderland Transfer stations. The site also has information on locations that accept batteries, fluorescent bulbs, computers and electronic waste, paint and other items banned from landfills at no cost. We also provide regular updates and information on Facebook and in Front Porch Forum as well as local news media such as the News Guide, Catamount Access Television (CAT-)TV, Green Mountain Access Television (GNAT), and local radio. For additional information contact:

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