Backyard Composting Workshops

Backyard Composting is a great way to reduce or eliminate your household food waste, and ACSWMD can teach you how! Whether you use the end product or not, composting your food scraps will allow you to save money on your trash bill, reduce your impact on the environment, and comply with Vermont's Universal Recycling Law. ACSWMD is hosting FREE backyard composting workshops on the fourth Saturday of every month from June to October. Workshops will begin at 1:30 PM, will last about an hour, and will involve both an indoor presentation as well as an outdoor demonstration. As an added bonus, all workshop participants will receive a half-off voucher for a Soil Saver Compost Bin or a Green Cone Solar Digester while supplies last! Sign up now by calling us or going to our homepage AddisonCountyRecycles.org and clicking on the link called, “Backyard Composting Workshop Sign Up.” Each workshop is limited to 12 registrants.

Food Scrap Collection at the Drop-offs!

Starting on July 1, 2017, all Addison County Drop-off centers that collect trash will begin collecting food scraps! This is a phase of the Vermont Universal Recycling Law (Act 148) that will require all Vermont residents and businesses to separate food scraps from their trash by 2020. On July 1, District residents will have the option to bring food scraps to the drop-offs. The ACSWMD Municipal Advisory Drop-off Committee will be working with towns and haulers to prepare for the deadline, and to get the word out. Call us for more information as the deadline nears.

How do I do it?
First, get a container! A 5-gallon bucket is a good size for most families. Next, simply put food scraps in your bucket instead of your trash can, and bring your food scrap bucket with you when you head to your drop-off (fees will vary by location). You may line your bucket with a paper bag or newspaper.

What can I bring?
See the list on the sticker below. (Note: the one exception is that you can line your food scrap bucket with a paper bag or newspaper, however, some paper products have plastic fibers so please refrain from putting any other kind of paper products in your food scrap bucket).

Stickers like the one below are available at the District Transfer Station in Middlebury, and most Addison County Town Clerk offices (call first).

Guess what? Now you can recycle
EVEN MORE! For years, we’ve said that refrigerated and frozen food cardboard boxes are not recyclable due to tiny bits of plastic that are blended with the cardboard to keep the boxes from falling apart in the fridge or freezer. Now, improvements in processing paper have allowed us to collect and recycle these items, with only a few exceptions.

YES, RECYCLE these things:
Clean boxboard such as shoe boxes, cereal boxes, tissue boxes, AND NOW frozen or refrigerated food cardboard boxes such as frozen pizza, butter, waffles, etc.

These things DON’T BELONG in your recycling bin:
- NO wax- or plastic-coated cardboard
- NO cartons (milk, juice, or soup)
- NO drink boxes
- NO ice cream tubs

YES - FRUITS, VEGETABLES, GRAINS, BREAD AND PASTA, DAIRY PRODUCTS, MEAT, FISH, SHELLFISH, BONES, EGG SHELLS, COFFEE GROUNDS, TEA BAGS

NO - PRODUCE STICKERS, GLASS, PLASTIC, METAL, PAPER PRODUCTS, CARDBOARD, PLATES/UTENSILS, BAGS/TWIST TIES, BUTTER CAPS, STYROFOAM, SHRINKWRAP, RUBBER BANDS, PET WASTE
AmeriCorps Helps ACSWMD Get Stuff Done!

In September 2016, ACSWMD welcomed ECO AmeriCorps member, Carlie Wright to the team. For her 11-month service period, Carlie has been tasked with conducting school outreach as well as aiding the District on general outreach and education topics. AmeriCorps is a national service society that gives members a chance to gain valuable work experience while committing themselves to a year of community service. ECO AmeriCorps is a service corps under the national AmeriCorps umbrella and is created by the Vermont Department of Environmental Conservation to place members at service sites dedicated to clean water and universal recycling.

Thus far, Carlie has given presentations to schools on waste reduction, recycling, composting and vermicomposting (worms!), hosted a “Waste Warriors” after-school program, and provided technical assistance to help schools bolster their recycling programs and bolster or begin food scrap diversion programs. Additionally, she has taken control of our Facebook page (Like us!), helped update our website and event displays, and even secured a grant from the Agency of Natural Resources for backyard composting supplies.

Carlie grew up in Middlebury and is a recent graduate from St. Lawrence University with a degree in Conservation Biology. She joined AmeriCorps to gain professional experience and explore different environmental careers.

Refresh Your Memory on Electronics Recycling

In the US, we dispose of almost 400 million electronic devices each year. Rapid advances in technology mean that electronic products are becoming obsolete more quickly. This, coupled with explosive sales in consumer electronics, means that more products are being disposed, even if they still work. Last year the District collected 165 tons of electronic waste (E-waste) at its Transfer Station in Middlebury!

What and who is eligible for FREE E-waste recycling?

The following electronic items are eligible for free recycling under the law:

- Computers
- Computer peripherals (mice, keyboards, etc.)
- Monitors
- Televisions
- Printers

The items listed above may be brought in for free recycling provided that they were originally sold to any Vermont household, charity, school, or business with up to 10 employees. Additional electronic items not listed above (or any devices sold to businesses with 10 employees or more) are also accepted for a nominal fee per item. For prices, visit AddisonCountyRecycles.org, or call us at 388-2333.

Where are the collection locations?

To participate in the free Vermont E-Cycles program, you must visit one of the registered collection locations. In addition to the District Transfer Station at 1223 Rte. 7 South in Middlebury, there are more than 80 sites around VT. Visit www.vtecycles.org for details.

Please note that the following items ARE BANNED from trash disposal in VT:

- Computers, monitors & peripherals (keyboards, mice, etc.)
- Printers (all types, incl. all-in-one), fax machines
- TVs (all types) & digital converter boxes
- Telephones, wireless (cell) phones, & answering machines
- Stereo equipment, VCRs, & DVD players
- Electronic game consoles
- E-device power cords & chargers
- Personal electronics, such as personal digital assistants and personal music players

Green Up on MAY 6TH!

Want to get involved in some good “clean” fun?! Participate in your town’s Green Up Day activities!

To find out what’s going on in your town, visit GreenUpVermont.org and contact your town coordinator.

Green Up Vermont!
Itching to do the Spring “Fling”?? Now that the snow is melting, your spring cleaning impulse may be in high gear. Want to fling (gently, of course) some unnecessary household clutter? Clean out your closet? Then come visit our Transfer Station and Reuse Sheds to recycle or repurpose all of the following (and more!):

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Transfer Station (for Recycling)</th>
<th>Reuse Sheds (for safe and readily usable items)*</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Appliances</strong> (Check our rate sheet on our website for full list).</td>
<td>Small appliances (No microwaves, vacuums, old mops, humidifiers or air purifiers).</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Books</strong> (Hard and soft cover. No plastic or metal spiral binding or three-ring binders).</td>
<td>Books (In good condition. No textbooks, Readers Digest condensed books, old encyclopedias or Romance novels).</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Electronics</strong> (See our rate sheet for full list).</td>
<td>Electronics (In good working condition. No computer monitors, televisions, large stereo systems, VCR/DVD/CD players).</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Household Hazardous waste</strong> (Including paint, household cleaners, polish, stains, sealer, automotive fluids, and pesticides/herbicides).</td>
<td>Furniture (No stains, tears, odors, pet hair or structural damage. No large metal desks or mattresses/box springs).</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Textiles</strong> (Clean, dry and in plastic bags).</td>
<td>Sporting goods, weights, games, toys (No helmets, crutches, bike seats, life preservers or motorized exercise equipment).</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Documents for secure destruction</strong>.</td>
<td><strong>Furniture</strong> (No stains, tears, odors, pet hair or structural damage. No large metal desks or mattresses/box springs).</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

*We also take building materials for reuse! General acceptance guidelines are all building materials placed in the shed should be readily usable in their current condition. Items should not require extensive repair or preparation.

Got Junk Mail?!  
If you want to get less junk mail, send a postcard with your name, address, and home address to:  

DMA Choice  
Direct Marketing Association,  
PO Box 643,  
Carmel, NY 10512.

Or register online at www.dmachoice.org and click on “Get Started.” Most people recycle less than 1/3 of their junk mail. If you do get it, recycle it.

Employee Spotlight: Meet Shelly, Our Scale House Operator!  

“I’ve been with ACSWMD for 10 years now. I love working here because my co-workers are so awesome and the customers that come in are great. Pepper joins me most Saturdays and he loves to sit in the window and greet the customers and other dogs that come in. I also work for the Courtyard Marriott in Middlebury part-time evenings and weekends. In my spare time, I have 5 horses and manage one of the largest open horse show series in New England which are held at Addison Field Days during the summer. I look forward to seeing you!”
What is the Addison County Solid Waste Management District?

We are a union municipal district that exists to cooperatively and comprehensively address the materials management interests of our 20 member towns. The District promotes waste reduction; maximizes diversion of materials through reuse, recycling & composting; & provides for the disposal of remaining wastes. Our office is located 1223 Route 7 South in Middlebury, and is open weekdays.

Is My Town a Member?

Member towns are: Addison, Bridport, Bristol, Cornwall, Ferrisburgh, Goshen, Leicester, Lincoln, Middlebury, Monkton, New Haven, Orwell, Panton, Ripton, Shoreham, Starksboro, Vergennes, Waltham, Weybridge, & Whiting. District programs & services include: the full range of services at the District Transfer Station in Middlebury (including the HazWaste Center); solid waste planning & management; public outreach; educational programs, including school workshops and events; technical support and advocacy on waste-related issues; & enforcement against illegal burning & dumping.

”News to Reuse” is a publication of the Addison County Solid Waste Management District, 1223 Route 7 South, Middlebury, Vermont

Questions or comments? Contact the editor at 388-2333, Ext. 221, or acswmd@acswmd.org.

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