



# News to Reuse

Addison County Solid Waste Management District Spring 2020

## Compost Workshops Live On Zoom

Learn how easy it is to turn the food scraps you already paid for—like peels, cores, and shells—into compost for growing healthy soil and food. Separating scraps for composting can even make your garbage less stinky, so you won't have to take it out as often. Topics include: how to set up and manage a pile, benefits and uses of compost, troubleshooting tips, deterring wildlife, other options for managing food scraps, and Q&A. All experience levels are welcome!

### Upcoming Workshop Schedule

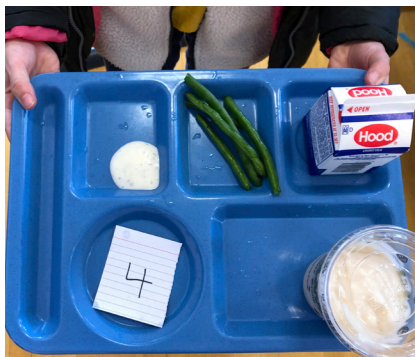
- Wed. May 20th, 7-8 pm, Zoom Video Conference
- Thurs. June 4, 1-2 pm, Zoom Video Conference
- Sat. June 20, 9:30-10:30 am, Zoom Video Conference

Sign up now for an interactive online workshop at [acswwd.org/food-scraps/composting/workshops](https://acswwd.org/food-scraps/composting/workshops), or by emailing [ollie@acswwd.org](mailto:ollie@acswwd.org), or by calling 802-388-2333 ext 232.

## Students Investigate Cafeteria Waste

In January, three 6th graders at Mary Hogan Elementary School in Middlebury took their sustainability projects to the cafeteria! Interested in assessing waste and coming up with solutions, they measured food waste from lunch trays, weighed unfinished milk and counted packaging waste generated by their fellow classmates. Over the course of five days, food waste from their lunch period ranged from 4.6 lbs to 8.6 lbs, and milk waste ranged from 4.4 lbs to 18 lbs on any given day. Milk carton waste remained steady throughout the week, while plastic water cup, napkin and parfait cup waste varied daily. Students' ideas to reduce waste included serving more popular lunches to reduce food waste, implementing bulk milk dispensers to eliminate milk and carton waste and using reusable cups and napkins to decrease disposable versions going into the trash.

Schools interested in classroom visits by ACSWMD staff, or support (including grant funding for waste reduction projects) are invited to email [jessie@acswwd.org](mailto:jessie@acswwd.org) or call 388-2333 ext 221.



## Food Scrap Ban: Get to Know Your Options



Starting July 1, 2020, State law bans food scraps from the trash in Vermont. We can help you understand your options for managing food scraps and equip you with the tools to reduce food waste and put your scraps to good use. Read our feature article on page 3, visit our website, or contact us for more information.

## COVID-19 Update & Thank You

ACSWMD would like to thank all essential workers, including waste haulers, Drop-off operators, recycling coordinators and Transfer Station staff for their dedication during this time! At the time of printing this newsletter, all waste and special recycling programs at the District Transfer Station are closed to residents, except food scrap drop-off and the purchase of compost supplies. Please check our website, follow us on Facebook, or contact us for the latest updates.

## Recycle Right

Yes! These items, when clean & dry, belong in your blue-bin recycling:



**Glass:**  
Bottles & Jars



**Paper:**  
Mixed Paper & Cardboard



**Plastic:**  
Bottles, Tubs & Jugs



**Metal:**  
Aluminum & Steel Cans

No! Keep these contaminants out of your blue-bin recycling:



Cartons



Paper  
Cups



Paper  
Towels



Plastic  
Bags



Shoes &  
Clothing



Styro-  
foam



Utensils

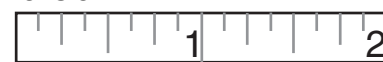


Straws

### Size Limits on Recyclables

Minimum size: 2 inches in 2 dimensions (e.g. length & width)

Maximum size: 2 feet in any one dimension



For a complete list, visit [acswwd.org/recycling](https://acswwd.org/recycling)

## Introducing: Waste Warrior Volunteers



Sorting waste at events can be confusing, and event-goers are focused on enjoying the event, not deciphering where their plastic forks should go. ACSWMD's Waste Warrior program trains volunteers to help event attendees properly sort their discarded materials into recycling, compost, and trash.

Waste Warrior volunteers get free admission (and often other perks) to events like festivals, races, and Addison County Fair and Field Days. Contact [ollie@acswmd.org](mailto:ollie@acswmd.org) if you would like to be trained as a Waste Warrior or have Waste Warriors help at your event. For more info, visit [acswmd.org/about/support/events](http://acswmd.org/about/support/events).

## Rate Changes

**PLEASE NOTE: At the time of this newsletter printing, residential use of the District Transfer Station is restricted to food scrap drop-off and compost bin purchases ONLY during the COVID-19 pandemic.** Please check our website for updated information, or call us prior to bringing any other materials to the Transfer Station.

Our 2020 Adopted Rate Schedule went into effect January 1st and lasts through December 31st. The following are new or updated rates:

- MSW (trash), Construction & Demo debris – \$128/ton  
*Note: The District Transfer Station cannot accept bagged trash directly from residents.*
- Asphalt shingles and drywall recycling – \$110/ton  
*Note: This new program is not currently accepting material, but will launch in 2020. Stay tuned!*
- Film plastic & plastic bags – free for residents  
Business limit 1 cubic yard per week or less – \$10
- Oil filters – free for residents to drop off  
Business 5 gal. pail (crushed or not) – \$7  
Business 55 gal. drum (crushed or not) – \$70
- Single stream recyclables from businesses & commercial haulers – \$120/ton
- Single stream self-hauled from businesses – Min. Fee 1 cubic yard or less – \$9  
*Note: The District Transfer Station cannot accept single stream recyclables directly from residents.*

The cost to manage single stream recycling increased significantly this year. With China restricting recycling imports of recyclable materials, global recyclable markets are flooded and costs have increased for our regional processing facilities. While we're hopeful domestic markets for recyclables will flourish and drive costs down, we encourage residents to keep your blue-bin recyclables free of contaminants, and always consider zero waste alternatives.

## Basics of Backyard Composting

Composting can be a simple and inexpensive way to keep food scraps out of the trash while creating a resource for growing healthy soil and food.



### Materials

Compost bins, food scrap collection containers, and Green Cone Solar Digesters are available for sale at the District Transfer Station in Middlebury. Or, use a recycled container to collect food scraps and use materials on hand to build your own bin.

### Ingredients

Both “greens” and “browns” are necessary ingredients for microbes—the decomposers that turn scraps into compost—so the pile won't smell or attract wildlife. **For each container of food scraps you add, mix and cover with three containers of browns.**

#### Greens

- Fruit & veggie scraps
- Bread, grains, & pasta
- Eggshells & eggs
- Coffee grounds & filters
- Tea bags & loose tea
- Fresh grass & garden clippings

#### Browns

- Dry leaves
- Straw & hay
- Wood chips & shavings
- Small sticks & twigs
- Paper & cardboard
- Dry grass & garden clippings

### Keep out

- **Meat, bones, fish & grease\***
- Large amounts of dairy
- Weed seeds
- Diseased & invasive plants
- Dog or cat feces or litter
- Paper with glossy colors
- Pesticide-treated materials
- Cut flowers from a florist

**\*If you compost at home, you are allowed to throw meat, bones, fish, and grease in the trash**—those items break down slowly, which can cause odors and attract wildlife.

Home compost piles typically take several months to a year to make finished compost. For more information on what to put in, what to keep out, and how to manage your pile, visit [acswmd.org/food-scraps/composting](http://acswmd.org/food-scraps/composting).

### To keep critters away, always:

- Keep out meat, bones, fish, fats, & large amounts of dairy
- Cover food scraps with several inches of browns
- Take down bird feeders March–December

You can also line the bin with wire mesh, bury fresh scraps in the pile, mix the pile every few weeks, or start materials in a tumbler before finishing in a pile.

You can always pause composting and take your scraps to a drop-off until bears or other critters move on.

## Food Scrap Ban: Understanding Your Options

**Starting July 1, 2020, Vermont's Universal Recycling Law (passed unanimously in 2012) bans all food scraps from the trash.** Food scraps take energy to transport to Vermont's landfill, where they take up valuable space, contribute to leachate, and generate methane, a greenhouse gas. Food scraps contain nutrients and organic matter that can be recycled locally into compost for growing healthy soil and food. Businesses that produce large amounts of food waste already have to separate their scraps from the trash. Choose from the options below and join your fellow Vermonters in ending food waste!

### Options for Managing Food Scraps in Addison County



#### Reduce waste

Save money & minimize the scraps you have to manage by using tips from [scrapfoodwaste.org](http://scrapfoodwaste.org).



#### Curbside pickup

Ask your hauler if they collect food scraps, or visit our website for a list of haulers that do.



#### Feed animals

Chickens love food scraps! Pigs can eat scraps, too, with restrictions. Visit our website for details.



#### District Transfer Station

The District Transfer Station in Middlebury takes all types of food scraps from residents for free.



#### Home composting

Simple & inexpensive. **If you compost at home, you're still allowed to throw away meat & bones.**



#### Green Cone Solar Digester

Green Cones can handle all food scraps on-site, including meat and bones if used properly.



#### Town Drop-offs

All District member towns' recycling & trash drop-offs accept food scraps, often for a fee.



#### Got scraps at work?

Use any of these options or contact us for more information.

**For more information on these options, visit our website or contact us.**

## Frequently Asked Questions:



#### Can I just use my garbage disposal?

Food scraps should never go down the drain because they can cause costly (and messy) clogs and damage. Kitchen sink garbage disposals don't help. Our sewer, septic, and wastewater treatment systems are designed to handle only human waste and toilet paper.



#### Can I use compostable liner bags?

No compostable products, including certified compostable liner bags or food serviceware like cups or utensils, are accepted from residents for commercial composting at drop-off locations, at the District Transfer Station, or in curbside collection of food scraps in Addison County. Only food is accepted. For a complete list, visit our website.



#### Is my hauler required to provide curbside pickup of food scraps?

The requirement for waste haulers to provide curbside pickup of food scraps from residents was repealed in 2019. Haulers will still be required to collect food scraps from non-residential customers and apartment buildings with four or more units.

**Find more info and answers to common questions on our website, or contact us.**

## PLUs Give Compost the Blues

**Fruits & veggies are compostable. Produce stickers are not!** Peel off all stickers before collecting food scraps. Fill out the card with **30 PLU stickers (front and back)** and your contact info, and mail or bring it to ACSWMD, 1223 US-7 South, Middlebury, VT 05753 to enter our drawing for \$20 in Middlebury Money in June, July & August! Details at [acswmd.org/food-scraps/produce-stickers](http://acswmd.org/food-scraps/produce-stickers) or call 388-2333.

 1	2	3	4
5	6	7	8
9	10	11	12

**Place 18 more on the back**

**Name:**

**Town:**

**Email or phone:**

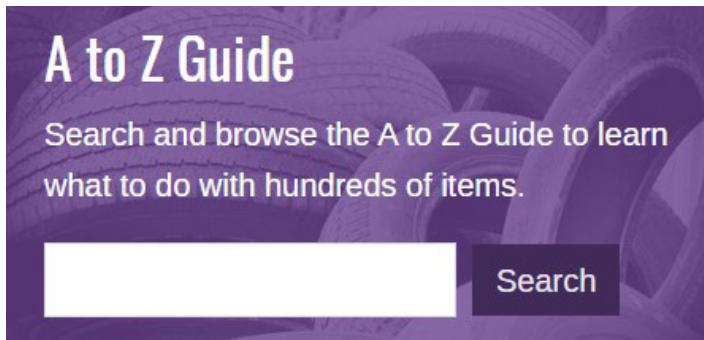


## What is the Addison County Solid Waste Management District?

ACSWMD is a union municipal District that exists to cooperatively and comprehensively address the materials management interests of our 21 member towns: Addison, Bridport, Bristol, Cornwall, Ferrisburgh, Goshen, Leicester, Lincoln, Middlebury, Monkton, New Haven, Orwell, Panton, Ripton, Salisbury, Shoreham, Starksboro, Vergennes, Waltham, Weybridge, and Whiting. The District promotes waste reduction; maximizes diversion of materials through reuse, recycling, and composting; and provides for the disposal of remaining wastes.

District services include: use of the District Transfer Station in Middlebury (including the HazWaste Center); solid waste planning and management; public outreach; education programs, including school workshops and events; technical support and advocacy on waste-related issues; and enforcement against illegal burning and dumping.

Our website is a robust resource, and the **A to Z Guide** can tell you how to get rid of almost anything! If you can't find the info you need on our website, give us a call.



**A to Z Guide**  
Search and browse the A to Z Guide to learn what to do with hundreds of items.



## District Transfer Station

**See note on page 1 about COVID-19 closure to residents.**

Location: 1223 Route 7 South, Middlebury  
Hours: Mon-Fri: 7 AM - 3 PM, Sat: 8 AM -1 PM

The **HazWaste Center** at the Transfer Station is open Monday through Friday, 8 AM - 2 PM & Saturdays, 8 AM - 1 PM. Business hazardous waste is received by appointment only.

We cannot accept household recyclables or small amounts of bagged trash from residents. Please call us for a list of town drop-off locations, or licensed haulers for curbside collection and cleanouts. The Transfer Station accepts many other special recycling items. Visit [www.AddisonCountyRecycles.org](http://www.AddisonCountyRecycles.org) for more information.

Recycling of the following landfill-banned items is mandatory for residents and businesses in the District: Newspaper, cardboard, boxboard, white & mixed paper, magazines & catalogs, plastic bottles (#1-#7), glass bottles (clear, green, brown), metal cans. These mandated recyclables can be commingled in the same bin. Contact your hauler or local drop-off for disposal of leaf & yard waste. Leaf & yard waste and clean wood are accepted at the District Transfer Station.

Loads must be properly sorted. We reserve the right to inspect & reject or surcharge improperly sorted loads.

Every visitor must check in at the scalehouse. Thank you!



Search "Addison County Solid Waste Management District," and like us to stay up-to-date on waste and diversion information including District announcements and events.

"News to Reuse" is a publication of the Addison County Solid Waste Management District. Questions or comments? Visit our website, [www.AddisonCountyRecycles.org](http://www.AddisonCountyRecycles.org) or contact us at (802) 388-2333 or [info@acswmd.org](mailto:info@acswmd.org). This newsletter is printed on recycled paper.

## Postal Patron

- Addison
- Orwell
- Bridport
- Panton
- Bristol
- Ripton
- Salisbury
- Cornwall
- Ferrisburgh
- Shoreham
- Goshen
- Starksboro
- Vergennes
- Leicester
- Lincoln
- Waltham
- Middlebury
- Weybridge
- Whiting
- Monkton
- New Haven

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Middlebury, VT 05753



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