



# News to Reuse

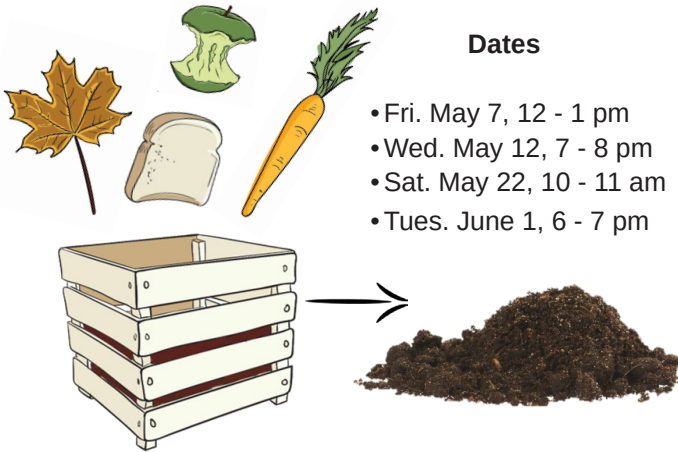
Addison County Solid Waste Management District

Spring 2021

## Spring Compost Workshops

Gear up for summer with a free, virtual, composting workshop. ACSWMD will teach you how to manage your food waste in addition to yard waste! We'll cover setting up a compost system, managing the pile, troubleshooting, and the benefits of composting.

To register visit [www.AddisonCountyRecycles.org/food-scrap/composting/workshops](http://www.AddisonCountyRecycles.org/food-scrap/composting/workshops), or email Colin, our AmeriCorps member at [Colin@acswmd.org](mailto:Colin@acswmd.org), or give us a call at 802-388-2333 and ask for Colin!



### Dates

- Fri. May 7, 12 - 1 pm
- Wed. May 12, 7 - 8 pm
- Sat. May 22, 10 - 11 am
- Tues. June 1, 6 - 7 pm

## Meet Patti: Our Business Manager

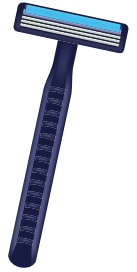
Don't be deceived if you see a sign for, "Betty's Office." It's Patti Johnson's office and it's that humor that lightens the atmosphere of the busy District Office. Patti joined the District in 2015 as our Business Manager, bringing passion and drive to our workplace. Whether she's busy handling the financials or keeping the District running more efficiently with the latest technology, she's an integral part of our team.



A native of Connecticut, Patti and her husband Bob moved to Vermont in 1998 with their two children. In 2004, Patti graduated with a Master's degree in Business Administration from Norwich University. She's an avid gardener and cook who frequently brings in excess vegetables and homemade treats for staff to enjoy.

## Disposable Razor Recycling Program

You can now feel even better about your shave! ACSWMD has partnered with TerraCycle to offer a collection program for disposable razors and razor blade heads. These items should NOT go in your blue-bin recycling but can be brought to the District Transfer Station and dropped in our new collection bucket located next to battery recycling in the Drop Zone. No razor blade packaging, electric razors or other shaving paraphernalia are accepted, just disposable razors and razor heads.



Please clean your razors before dropping them in our collection bin. Once the bin is full it will be shipped to the TerraCycle processing facility in Trenton, New Jersey. Razors will then be separated into different material streams. The metal blades will be melted down to recover the alloy. The plastic handles will be further separated by resin type, then pulverized and pelletized before being sold back into the materials market for use in other plastic items.



*Keep calm and shave on!*

## Volunteer as a Waste Warrior!

After more than a year of canceled in-person events, ACSWMD is reintroducing our Waste Warrior program.

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

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



## Blue-Bin Recycling Tips

Here are some pointers to help you decide if something belongs in your blue bin and to reduce the contamination we send to our Materials Recovery Facilities (MRFs).

- Blue-bin recycling is designed to recycle **containers and packaging**, not durable goods.
- **Rule of 2:** An item must be at least 2 inches in 2 dimensions and no bigger than 2 feet in 2 dimensions to successfully be recycled. For instance, small bottle caps, like soda bottle caps and milk jug tops need to be reattached to their bottle to be recycled. Larger lids, like a peanut butter lid can go in the recycling bin loose.
- **The 3 F's: No film, no foam, and no food.**
  - No film means no plastic bags or film plastic. These items commonly tangle in sorting equipment used to separate blue-bin recyclables. Therefore, don't bag your recycling in plastic bags; instead leave it loose or put in paper bags.
  - No foam means no Styrofoam. Instead, try to reuse Styrofoam before discarding it in the trash.
  - No food is a reminder that all items in your blue bin must be clean, empty and dry.
- **No Tangles:** Plastic bags, clothes, and rope disrupt the recycling process by tangling in machinery.
- **Nothing hazardous or combustible:** Empty containers of hazwaste, including household cleaners and paint, are not recyclable. Instead, these containers should be placed in the trash.
- **No biodegradable/compostable plastic:** Biodegradable/compostable plastics are not designed to be recycled into new products; instead, they are designed to biodegrade. Place biodegradable/compostable plastic in the trash.



## Myth Busters:

### Where does your blue-bin recycling go?

Have you ever wondered if your recyclables just end up in the trash? There has been a lot of negative attention surrounding blue-bin recycling recently, so we'd like to bust some myths!

In Addison County, the life of blue-bin recycling starts at home. Whether you set your recyclables out by the curb or bring them to your Town Drop-off, they are consolidated with other blue-bin recyclables on a hauler's truck. Some of these trucks are divided into two sides: one for trash, one for recyclables. Some haulers have dedicated trucks for blue-bin recyclables, while others provide every other week collection in the same truck – one week for trash and one week for recyclables. Once the hauler has completed their pick-up route or finished collection at a Drop-off, they bring the recyclables to the District Transfer Station. Upon arrival, trucks are weighed in at our Scale house before being tipped into our hopper for consolidation onto large transfer trailers.

These trailers are then brought to Rutland and unloaded at a Materials Recovery Facility (MRF), operated by Casella. From there, recyclables are pushed onto a conveyer belt where workers remove valuable materials like bags of shredded paper, and as many contaminants as they can safely remove. Next, materials undergo a complex sorting process using machinery such as density separators, vibrating screens, magnets, and electric eddy currents.



Above: Bales of cardboard, paper, and plastics are stacked up at a MRF. Photo courtesy of Recycling Today, "Sustainable Business Practices," 2/2/18, [www.recyclingtoday.com/article/casella-waste-systems-recycling-segment-profile/](http://www.recyclingtoday.com/article/casella-waste-systems-recycling-segment-profile/).

Once separated into plastics, paper, cardboard, aluminum, and steel, materials are pressed into cubes, known as bales. Much of the glass is crushed into processed glass aggregate (PGA) and used in a variety of construction projects. Other glass and recyclables are sold back into the post-consumer product market to be made into a variety of new products.

While recycling is an important part of reducing our waste, it is only half the battle. To ensure we close the production loop, consumers should do their best to support recycling by buying products made with post-consumer content.

We are all in this together! Vermont is doing its part to close the loop by making sure we are using the valuable resources that you put in your blue bin!

## Are You a New Resident?

Welcome to Addison County! As a resident of our 21 member towns (see page 4 for a list member towns), you have access to all the resources the Addison County Solid Waste Management District has to offer. This includes:



- **The District Transfer Station:**

Located off Route 7 in Middlebury, the District Transfer Station accepts clean-out loads, construction and demolition waste, special wastes for recycling and food waste from residents. We do not accept weekly household trash and blue-bin recyclables directly from residents, only large cleanout loads and bulky items a hauler does not accept. The Transfer Station is open Monday - Friday, 7 a.m. to 3 p.m. and Saturdays, 8 a.m. - 1 p.m.

- **The HazWaste Center:** Located at the District Transfer Station, the HazWaste Center accepts household hazardous waste (HHW) for free from residents. Open Monday - Friday, 8 a.m. to 2 p.m. and Saturdays, 8 a.m. to 1 p.m., no appointment is necessary for HHW customers. Businesses are required to make an appointment and to pay for disposal.

- **A-Z Guide:** Visit [www.ACSWMD.org](http://www.ACSWMD.org) to find answers to everyday disposal questions. What belongs in your blue bin? How much does it cost to properly dispose of tires? Find answers to these questions and more, anytime of day, and from the convenience of your smartphone.

- **List of Licensed Haulers:** Need a curbside hauler or a roll-off box for a large clean-out? We keep a list of licensed commercial haulers in Addison County on our website. Visit [www.ACSWMD.org/about/haulers/list](http://www.ACSWMD.org/about/haulers/list) to find a hauler!

- **Resources on Composting, Recycling, Reuse and Zero waste:** Achieve a greener lifestyle! Visit our website to learn about options for managing food waste, donation locations, tips for reducing your waste and more.



Above: The Drop Zone at the District Transfer Station accepts propane tanks, fire extinguishers, electronics, mercury-containing bulbs, plastic bags and film plastic, books, disposable razors, and batteries for special recycling.

## Skip Drano with these Drain No-No's!

Have you ever wondered what you can and cannot pour down the drain? Here's a quick reminder of items that should not be disposed of using sink drains.

The first is FOGs (fats, oils, and greases). Some of these substances harden when cooled and act as drain cloggers. Others are immiscible with water and don't travel down drains quickly. Instead of pouring these substances down the drain, pour them directly into a jar for reuse or place them in the trash. To clean a pan full of grease, we suggest waiting until the pan has cooled, wiping it out with a paper towel, and then placing the soiled paper towel in the trash.

Hazardous chemicals and pharmaceuticals also do not belong down the drain. Wastewater treatment facilities are not designed to remove these substances, and they're harmful to the environment when poured down the drain. Instead, bring hazardous waste to the HazWaste Center at the District Transfer Station. Expired, leftover or unwanted medications can be dropped off at a participating drop-off location or turned over to the Vermont Department of Health through a prepaid mail-back program. Visit [www.HealthVermont.gov/alcohol-drugs/services/prescription-drug-disposal](http://www.HealthVermont.gov/alcohol-drugs/services/prescription-drug-disposal) for participating drop-off locations or to request a free mail-back envelope.

Feminine products and wipes clog drainpipes and don't breakdown in septic systems. Save yourself from costly repairs by placing these items in the trash after use.

Finally, garbage disposals and wastewater treatment plants aren't designed to handle more than a little food from dirty dishes here and there. Garbage disposals are not a replacement for backyard composting, drop-off composting or food scrap pick-up.

## Drywall & Asphalt Shingles Program Reminder



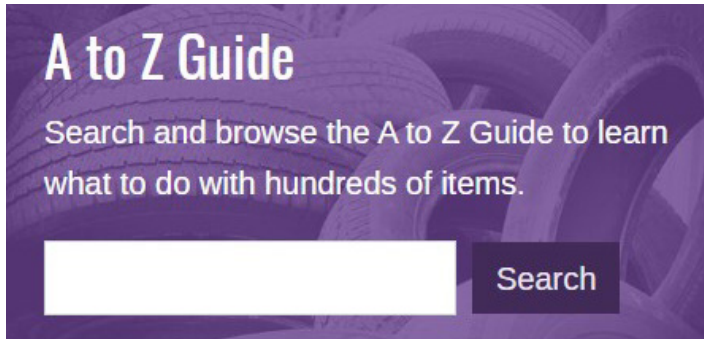
Spring is in the air, and while you think about all of the new construction projects you want to get done, remember the District Transfer Station accepts asphalt shingles and new drywall for special recycling. Asphalt shingles can be brought in without separating them from nails and tar paper, but new construction drywall must be uncoated, unpainted, and dry (no water damage or mold). The rate for each material is \$110 per ton, which is less than the cost to dispose these items in the trash. Be sure to separate all material from construction site trash, such as soda cans, water bottles, wood, etc.

## 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.



## District Transfer Station

**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-#2), glass bottles (clear, green, brown), and metal cans. These mandated recyclables can be commingled in the same bin along with other non-mandated recyclable items that your hauler offers to collect. 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!](#)



“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).

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