Addison County Solid Waste Management District

Request for Proposals: Website Redesign and Hosting Services
REQUEST FOR PROPOSALS
FOR
WEBSITE REDESIGN AND HOSTING SERVICES

Issued By: Addison County Solid Waste Management District
1223 Route 7 South
Middlebury, VT 05753

Contacts: Teresa A. Kuczynski, District Manager
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OR
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Issue Date: August 7, 2018

Proposal Due Date: Friday, September 7, 4:00 PM

Proposals should be sent via mail, hand-delivery, fax or e-mail to:

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District Manager
Addison County Solid Waste Management District
1223 Route 7 South
Middlebury, VT 05753
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Objective

The Addison County Solid Waste Management District (ACSWMD) is a union municipal district that exists to cooperatively and comprehensively address the solid waste management interests of its 20 member towns. The mission of the ACSWMD is to: promote waste reduction; maximize diversion of wastes through reuse, recycling and composting; and provide for the disposal of remaining wastes.

The goal of this Request for Proposals (RFP) is to find a partner to redesign our website at www.AddisonCountyRecycles.org in order to better communicate our mission and impact as well as educate ACSWMD residents, businesses, and community partners on proper reuse, recycling and disposal. This RFP is available online at www.AddisonCountyRecycles.org.
Context
Our current website, constructed in 2007, does not make it easy for our community to understand our work and their disposal options. Our website is integral in passing along educational resources and answering questions about where something can be taken for reuse, recycling, or disposal. The site averages about 300 weekly website users, and we have received consistent feedback from residents that our website is difficult to navigate.

Project Team
Teri Kuczynski, District Manager
Teri will manage the internal team and serve as the point person for the selected Contractor during the design. She must approve all Contracts.

Don Maglienti, Program Manager
Don will inform the design and give insight on usability of the site for the many ACSWMD programs. Don and the Public Outreach Coordinator will be responsible for updating the website as needed (outside of hosting service responsibilities).

Users
ACSWMD Residents
There are approximately 37,411 permanent and seasonal residents in Addison County, and all of them create waste. Residents often head to our website, because they have something they want to get rid of and are not sure what to do with it. We also offer educational workshops, so residents will visit the website to register and learn more. New or seasonal residents will also be learning about who we are, what services we provide, where to go and how much it will cost.

ACSWMD Businesses, Schools and Towns
Businesses are likewise looking for ways to properly dispose of or reduce their waste. They generate far larger amounts, and often need to navigate the system to fill out registration forms for Hazardous Waste before they can visit our HazWaste Center. We also offer businesses, schools and towns free resources and technical assistance to help them become more environmentally friendly.

Additionally, we offer classroom presentations for schools, and offer grants to both schools and towns in the ACSWMD for implementation of projects that would reduce their waste or environmental impact.
ACSWMD Board Members
Members of the ACSWMD Board of Supervisors (Board) visit our site to look up agendas for upcoming or archived meetings as well as meeting minutes and news. State law requires us to: warn all Board meetings; post all meeting agendas; and post all minutes within five days after a meeting. A calendar must be included to notify the public of ACSWMD events and regular meetings.

Commercial Haulers
Commercial Haulers visit our site to download the necessary forms to obtain an ACSWMD license, as well as educational information for their customers.

RFP Timeline
<table>
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<th>Event</th>
<th>Date</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>RFP Issue Date:</td>
<td>August 7</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Responses Due:</td>
<td>September 7</td>
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<tr>
<td>Finalists Selected &amp; Contacted:</td>
<td>September 14</td>
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<tr>
<td>Finalist Presentations/Discussions:</td>
<td>October 1-5</td>
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<tr>
<td>Vendor Selected &amp; Contacted:</td>
<td>October 11</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Project Contract and Kickoff:</td>
<td>October 22</td>
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Project Timeline/Launch
The new website must be live by **March 1, 2019** (ideally earlier!). Spring cleaning spurs our busy season, and we continue to grow busier into the summer. Therefore, we would like our new website to be up and running by that time. We also put out a Spring Newsletter to all 18,000+ households where we would like to inform them of our new website design.

Budget
The project budget is $15,000 - $17,000. While we prefer the most cost-effective solution, all Proposals that fall reasonably within this range will be considered based on the value they provide.

Existing Website Info
Our current website is over a decade old and does not accurately reflect our work and mission. It is wordy, not intuitive, lacks images, and is frustrating for staff and visitors alike in navigating the site. The website uses an old version of WordPress that makes working with images and tables difficult, and the edit box and preview feature do not accurately reflect what the website pages actually look like. Countless hours have been spent trying to add or delete spaces and adjust image sizes in the edit box, only to then preview the actual page and realize that we went too far, or not far enough.
The website width is about half the size of computer screens due to the limits of the older theme we are currently using. This limits our ability to give proper white space/ breathing room and therefore makes our pages appear cluttered. The things we do like about the site are the quick links in the header and the drop-down tabs, which require some reorganization but have the potential to serve as a helpful way to structure and navigate the site. We also like the right-side column options on the home page for the hours, location, and contact information, but would prefer formatting that allows us to highlight information and distinguish between blocks.

**Functionality Requirements & Services**

We do waste – we don’t do websites. Therefore, if we say something that sounds a bit “off”, we are open to alternative ideas. We’re going to outline what we want the website to be able to do, and we are excited to hear your thoughts on how you can get us there.

**Our new website will have the following:**

- Responsive full-screen layout (scalable to smart phones).
- White space (breathing room / no sensory overload!).
- Intuitive for all users (see below for more details).
- Locked menu bar at the top so that when you scroll down you can still see your searching options.
- Advanced SEO setup for both a general search bar, and a search bar for how to dispose of certain items (like [http://cuyahogarecycles.org](http://cuyahogarecycles.org)). Cuyahoga Recycles has a smart search engine – for instance, when you type in "textiles", it also knows to include "clothing" and "household goods" in the suggested search area.
- When a menu tab is clicked at the top, a large solid-colored bar will come down to help visitors focus their eyes on those options (like [https://cswd.net/#](https://cswd.net/#) or [http://cuyahogarecycles.org](http://cuyahogarecycles.org). We also like that the Cuyahoga website adds quick recycling or sustainability tips to the bar.
- Color-coded images for recycling, special wastes, composting or trash that quickly identify how items should be handled/disposed of (like [http://cuyahogarecycles.org/how_to_recycle](http://cuyahogarecycles.org/how_to_recycle)). We would like the border to be thicker than the Cuyahoga website. These images also pop up when you click on an item in their “What Do I Do With” box.
- A news feed on the home page with a limited number of most recent news and event posts (like [https://www.boston.gov/](https://www.boston.gov/) or the scrolling news panel on [http://nwswd.org/](http://nwswd.org/).
- Images (or icons) with links to our resources instead of just text.
• Sans font (we’ve been using Oswald fonts for headings and sometimes do Helvetica for body in our brochures and educational handouts).
• Google Events calendar
• Contact form
• Google Analytics integration
• Social integration (sharing pages, embedded social feeds)
• Interactive map of drop-off locations
• SiteLock or a similar hacker protection software
• Ability to edit key pages through an open-source content management system
• Website hosting and ongoing technical support
• Accessible for all users and built to meet web content accessibility guidelines (WCAG) 2.0 standards

Optional items
• Content entry.
• Brand creation – fonts, color scheme, general layout. We are open to hearing ideas of how to marry the website with future outreach materials. Attached are a few of our current outreach materials as examples of what we are currently distributing.
• Fillable web forms for job applications, business registration for disposal of hazardous waste, and Commercial Hauler license applications.

Proposal Requirements
Please include the following in your Proposal response:

• Company description and contact information;
• Project process overview;
• Recommended approach of how you will meet our goals;
• Proposed timeline;
• Team bios;
• Three recent relevant project samples (interactive);
• Three client references;
• Line-item pricing, including costs for: setting up, training, recurring costs for hosting, and ongoing technical support; and
• Terms and conditions, including payment schedule.

Pricing
All costs are to be stated in exact amounts. All costs must be detailed specifically in the vendor cost summary section of the Proposal; no additional charges (e.g., for
sales tax, transportation, out-of-pocket expenses, etc.) will be allowed unless so specified in the Proposal.

Comparables
1. http://cuyahogarecycles.org - This site is very effective in allowing visitors to search for and understand how they can dispose of or recycle items.
2. https://cswd.net/ - This site has an excellent search tool for the A-Z list, and we like that the menus on the header remain expanded when selected. The scrolling news feed is helpful though we generally find the home page to be a bit cluttered.
3. http://bostonmountain.org/ - This site has lots of white space, and we like the integrated map with drop-off locations and social media integration.
4. https://recycleoss.org/ - We like this template, the linked icons for special collections, and design of the mega footer.

Conditions of Work
- Final Contractor selection and contract must be reviewed and approved by the ACSWMD Board.
- Contractor will be responsible for all licenses, permits, fees, and taxes associated with the project.
- Implementation of the new website must be done in a manner that minimizes disruption of the ACSWMD's web presence.

Evaluation of Proposals
Price will be a significant, but not the only, criteria in evaluating the Proposals. Consideration will also be given to the following:
- The extent to which the Proposal meets the aforementioned requirements for our website;
- Responses to requests for additional information submitted to the respondents;
- References; and
- Proposed timeline for completion. We would like to have our new website as soon as reasonably possible.

The award will be made to the qualified respondent whose Proposal is most advantageous to the ACSWMD with price and other factors considered.

Revisions to RFP
If it becomes necessary to revise any portion of this RFP, the addenda will be sent to all providers who were mailed the original request and any parties who were provided copies of this request. The ACSWMD also reserves the right to negotiate
with the Contractors to modify or amend certain portions of their respective Proposals.

**ACSWMD Requests for Clarification**

It is the responsibility of the Contractor to provide accurate and complete information to the ACSWMD. The ACSWMD may, at its sole discretion, request clarifications and/or supplemental information from the Contractor during the Proposal evaluation. The ACSWMD may waive technical irregularities of a Contractor’s Proposal if they do not alter the quality or quantity of the services offered.

**Contractor Selection**

There is no obligation on the part of the ACSWMD to award a Contract to the Contractor submitting the lowest price. Selection for the requested services will be awarded to the most responsive and responsible Contractor offering the best price and deemed to be in the best interests of the ACSWMD. The ACSWMD reserves the right to negotiate sections of the Proposal from any or all Contractors.

**Rejection of Proposals**

The ACSWMD reserves the right to reject any and all proposals in the best interests of the ACSWMD.

**Limitation of Liability**

Contractors shall bear the full cost of proposal preparation, and negotiation of the final Contract if selected by the ACSWMD. There may be no claims whatsoever for reimbursement from the ACSWMD for costs and expenses associated with this RFP process.
Offered by the
ADDISON COUNTY SOLID WASTE MANAGEMENT DISTRICT
A User’s Guide to

BACKYARD COMPOSTING
What is Compost?
A gardener’s best friend!

Compost is simply organic matter that has decayed to the point where plants can use the nutrients. Consider the forest floor. Leaves, logs, and dead animals pile up, rot and make fertile soil.

Home composting is a way to manage this process so that it is faster and more convenient. About 28 percent of the waste that Vermont residents create each year (by weight) is food waste that could be composted!*

Compost improves the structure and fertility of garden soil. It adds organic matter to clay soil, and helps sandy soil hold more water. Compost adds nutrients to the soil and provides a source of helpful bacteria. This homegrown additive will provide a slow and steady supply of nutrients for plants, while preventing plant diseases. Compost is the answer to many gardening problems.

*Source: Vermont Waste Composition Study. DSM Environmental (2013)

Getting Started

Compost is simple to make requiring just three things: a location, a “container” of sorts, and the compost ingredients.

The location is somewhat specific, but the container can take many forms, and the compost ingredient list encompasses a wide range of items.

1. Locate an Area

You will want your compost pile or container on a level, well-drained area. Most importantly, be sure to allow yourself easy access to the area. Either a sunny or shady area is fine, since the heat associated with compost is generated by the microbes within the pile itself. Just don’t locate your compost right near your garden, since it may attract slugs and other bugs that gardeners consider pests.
2. To Contain or Not to Contain?

There are many ways to compost, depending on how much work you want to put into it and what you want the site to look like. Here are some ideas, listed in order from simplest to slightly more complicated. If you make a bin, always use untreated wood. Treated wood will leach harmful chemicals into the soil and your compost.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>The Pit</th>
<th>The Trench</th>
<th>The Bed</th>
<th>The Pile</th>
<th>The Bag</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Dig a hole, throw your stuff into it, cover with dirt and you are finished. You can plant on top of the compost pit after three to six months.</td>
<td>Just like the pit, except you start with a trench. Plant a row of seeds or transplants on either side of the filled trench.</td>
<td>Lay your kitchen and plant waste directly on top of a garden bed. Cover with leaves and a little bit of dirt and let it rot. Wait six months and then begin planting.</td>
<td>Easy and just like it sounds – pile everything up and it will make compost.</td>
<td>Throw everything into a black trash bag. Throw in a shovel of garden soil. Poke a few holes for air circulation. Loosely tie the open end.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Loading Pallet Bin</th>
<th>The Tomato Ring</th>
<th>The Can</th>
<th>The Pretty Bin</th>
<th>Store-Bought Composter</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Get three loading pallets (usually available for free) from a local warehouse or grocery store. Wire them together at the corners, leaving one side open.</td>
<td>Drive four poles into the ground. Surround the poles with chicken wire to make a cage. Plant tomatoes on the outside and dump your stuff into the cage.</td>
<td>Cut the bottom off of an old plastic trash can. Drill holes in the middle of the sides for air circulation.</td>
<td>Use plain, untreated lumber to make a three-sided bin. Add a gate to make it really attractive.</td>
<td>There are many styles of plastic bins. You can choose one that works with your house and fits in with your neighborhood rules.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
3. Compost Ingredients

Vegetable and fruit peels, leaves, grass, egg shells, coffee, tea, small sticks... the list of compostable items is long. Compost ingredients can be separated into two categories - greens and browns. **“Green”** ingredients provide nitrogen (N). **“Brown”** ingredients provide carbon (C). Mixed together they create just the right environment for decomposers, which are the organisms that turn your food waste into compost.

When adding items to your compost pile, layer the greens and browns, always ending with a layer of browns. Refer to the lists below to get you started.

**The “In” List**

- Fruit and vegetable scraps (N)
- Coffee grounds and filters (N)
- Tea bags and loose tea (N)
- Leaves, green (N) or brown (C)
- Wood chips (C)
- Straw & hay (C)
- Small sticks less than 1 inch in diameter (C)
- Newspaper and other paper (C)
- Grass and shrubbery clippings (N)
- Most weeds (C & N)

**The “KEEP OUT” List**

Although compostable, these items attract animals:

- Meat, bones or fish scraps
- Fat, in solid or liquid form
- Dairy products

These yard items will contaminate your compost:

- Weed seeds
- Anything treated with pesticides
- Persistent weeds
- Diseased plants
- Pet feces or bedding - these items can carry diseases.

**When in doubt, leave it out!**

**Carbon to Nitrogen Ratio**

The ideal C:N ratio is 30:1, however every material carries a different C:N ratio, which can get confusing. A good estimate for backyard composting is simply 1 part brown to 1 part green by weight.
Step-By-Step

1. Decide on the container you want to try.
Ideally, your compost bin will have an open bottom so that bacteria and other organisms can move into your pile where they will go to work for you. If you use a completely enclosed compost bin, make sure you throw in some dirt from your garden or the woods every so often.

2. Add your ingredients.
Review the Compost Ingredients section on the previous page. Be sure to layer your greens and browns, always ending with browns on top. Adding sticks of all sizes will make important air spaces in the pile (but they won’t rot quickly). Some weeds will grow in the pile—once you learn which ones do, avoid them in the future. Also avoid meats, bones and fats since they can attract animals.

3. Patience young composter.
The pile will gradually sink down as the stuff rots. Continually add new materials, covering food stuffs with leaves or plant clippings to keep flies and critters out of the pile. Turn as often as you wish (see “Managing Your Pile” for more).

4. Harvest the compost from the bottom of the pile.
You don’t need to wait until the entire pile has turned to dirt; simply take the finished compost from the bottom as you need it. Compost is ready when it looks like either mulch or soil. Spread it around your plants and mix it into the soil.

5. Be proud of your efforts!

Tools of the Trade

The beauty of composting is that it’s a natural process that will happen with very little help from you. You won’t need many tools, but the following may come in handy:

- Shovel or pitch fork to turn the pile.
- Wheelbarrow to haul compost ingredients to and from the pile and finished compost to your garden.
- Pruners or loppers to trim branches to put on the pile.
- Compost thermometer to check the temperature of the pile if you’re managing a hot compost pile.
- Aerator to get more air into the pile.
Managing Your Pile

Remember - the first rule of composting is that it will happen no matter what you do! Composting is simply speeding up the process of nutrient cycling that has always occurred in nature. That being said, compost can be managed a few different ways - either “hot” or “cold” depending on how much work you want to put into it and how quickly you want that finished product.

Hot Composting
If you are really interested in hot composting, invest in a compost thermometer with a long probe so you can check the temperature from time to time. You will notice that the compost temp tends to spike at around 150°F and then starts to drop. When the temperature starts to drop to around 100°F, it’s a good time to turn the compost. When the temp no longer fluctuates, the compost is ready. If you are in a hurry to produce compost to add to your garden, you might want to turn the pile before it reaches around 130°F. This will require turning your pile more often but, since the pile will be sustaining optimum temperatures longer, you will produce compost much faster.

Cold Composting
This is the method for the “relaxed” composters. Don’t worry about taking the temperature of your pile. Your compost will still rot, just more slowly. Many homes won’t produce enough yard and kitchen waste to make a pile that is large enough to heat up very much. Never fear the cold compost pile! It’s easier to just leave it alone and let it rot. You can turn it once a month, twice a year, or never! Keep in mind, however, that this method is slower than a hot compost pile. It may take up to a year to get your first load of finished compost. Remember that seeds and pathogens will not die in the cold compost, so it’s important to keep weed seeds and diseased plants out of the mixture.

Is it DONE yet?!
Once you’ve started a compost pile, you may be anxious to start reaping the rewards! Keep in mind that the more involved you are, the sooner you will have the end product. By turning the pile after the temperature spikes, and making sure you have good levels of greens and browns, you can produce rich compost in as little as three months. For less managed compost piles, expect it to take up to one year for the process to complete. To speed things up, add a layer of sticks between every six inches of food and yard waste to create air pockets.
Composting **Myths & Facts**

**Myth:** Compost piles are hard work and must be turned often.

**Fact:** Turning a compost pile adds air so it rots faster. If you throw in sticks every now and then, air pockets will form and you won’t have to turn the pile.

**Myth:** I have to water the compost pile often or it won’t work.

**Fact:** Sure, wet stuff rots faster than dry stuff, but concentrate on adding moisture in the form of nitrogen sources, or keep the lid off the next time it rains.

**Myth:** Lots of bugs in the compost pile will hurt my plants.

**Fact:** The critters you see in compost – worms, roly-poly bugs, centipedes – are working for you by decomposing the organic matter and making the nutrients available to plants in the form of compost.

**Myth:** It is necessary to purchase and add “compost starter”.

**Fact:** A shovel of regular garden soil or humus from the forest floor should be added to the compost pile when you start a brand-new pile. After that it works fine by itself.

**Myth:** Compost smells bad.

**Fact:** Only when there is too much wet material. Poke a smelly compost pile to get some air into it, add more browns, and the smell will become more like clean soil.

**Myth:** Lime, alfalfa pellets and other amendments must be added to make it rich in nutrients.

**Fact:** There is no need to buy anything to add to a compost pile. The nutrients from the decomposed organic matter are rich enough.

**Myth:** Compost piles must get very hot inside or they aren’t working.

**Fact:** A cold compost pile will rot just fine, but perhaps a bit more slowly than one that gets hot.
Simple Solutions to Common Problems

Given time, everything rots. With composting, it’s how things rot that can get confusing. Here are the most common composting problems and some very simple solutions.

What if...?

...my compost is not heating up. If you want hot compost, it requires volume and some work. The pile needs to be at least 3 ft. x 3 ft. x 3 ft. Make layers alternating green and brown materials. When the pile gets hot, turn it all over and let it heat up again.

...my compost is dry. Dig a hole in the pile and add wet kitchen scraps. There is no need to water it down with the garden hose. In the future keep it covered during dry spells to keep moisture in.

...my compost stinks. Poke it with a shovel to let some air circulate through it. In the future throw some dry leaves or straw on top of each layer of wet stuff to provide more carbon.

...my compost is only made of browns. Add some greens, or just let it be. A pile of leaves will break down slowly.

...my compost is only made of greens. Green ingredients all by themselves will rot, but they may stink. Add browns or some shredded newspaper; no more than one quarter of the total material should be paper. Add sticks throughout the pile to permit air circulation.

...my compost is attracting flies. Cover kitchen scraps with leaves, or bury them deep in the pile.

...my compost is attracting animals. Try using a closed container, cover with browns to reduce the attracting food smells. If still an issue, consider fencing or ordering a natural repellant like “Predator Pee”.

Compost is alive! There are all kinds of bacteria and microorganisms in your compost pile that are too small to see with the naked eye. Then there are the myriad animals that you can see. Pill bugs, millipedes, centipedes, ants, beetles, and all kinds of worms will populate your compost. Each of these is working hard for you, breaking down your yard and kitchen waste into nutrients that your plants can use. You won’t get any compost without these decomposers.

If you can’t find any life in your compost pile, then it may be so dry that the soft-bodied insects have tunneled into the earth for moisture. They will come back the next time you throw in some moist food waste. It is also possible that you accidentally poisoned the decomposers with pesticide- or herbicide-contaminated plants. Try adding some garden soil to the pile to introduce new life.
Compost Uses for Homeowners

Now that you’ve got it - here are all the common ways you can use it:

• When starting a garden bed, mix compost into the soil.
• When transplanting, place compost into the bottom of the planting hole.
• When mulching, put compost around the plants before you add mulch.
• When watering, add compost to the watering bucket and stir it up.
• When plants don’t look so good, surround them with compost.
• When container gardening, top off potted plants with a layer of compost.
• To establish a new lawn, put four to six inches of compost on the soil and till it under. For an existing lawn, apply a thin layer on the lawn and water it well. This will reduce watering needs and improve nutrient levels.
• To improve the quality of our Addison County clay, add compost to the ground to allow more air and water to get through, and to promote root development.

Did you know that compost can even reduce your need for pesticides?!

One of the many benefits of using compost is plant disease suppression! The microorganisms in compost are antagonists to plant pathogens, and in some plants, compost activates disease resistant genes! Soils lacking organic matter have low energy reserves for microorganisms and are susceptible to developing soil-borne diseases. Healthier soil means healthier plants, and lessens the need for pesticides.

Making Compost Tea

No one ever has enough compost! What can you do if you don’t have enough compost to fulfill all your gardening needs? You can stretch it out by making compost tea. Here is a simple recipe.

1. Place a handful of compost into the foot of an old pair of pantyhose or a sock. Tie shut and cut off the excess. This is your tea bag.

2. Put the tea bag into a bucket and add water. You can use the resulting tea immediately to water your seeds. This is especially good to use on new seedlings and transplants. Compost tea also makes an excellent foliar spray for houseplants.

3. Leave the tea bag in the bucket and use it over and over again.
Composting with Worms!

More formally called *vermiculture*, worm composting is lots of fun and easy to do indoors when you don’t have space or permission for an outside compost bin.

The basic idea is that you are keeping worms as your personal garbage disposal. Special worm bins can be expensive, but the worms will be just as happy in a bin you make yourself.

**Homemade worm composting bin materials**

- A plastic bin with a top—minimum of two square feet in size. The bigger the bin, the more worms; the more worms, the more food waste will be composted.
- A pan that fits underneath the worm bin.
- Window screen or other fine mesh metal or plastic screen.
- Shredded newspaper.
- Tools: scissors and drill.
- Food scraps.
- Red worms, aka red wigglers. These can be purchased online or from a fishing bait store. (Regular earthworms won’t work well in this environment.)

**Making your worm composting bin**

1. Drill holes in the bottom of the bin to allow for drainage. Drill more holes around the sides of the bin for air circulation.
2. Cut a piece of window screen or fine mesh to cover the inside of the bottom of the bin. This keeps the worms from falling out or attempting an escape!
3. Shred enough newspaper to provide about two inches of bedding at the bottom of the bin.
4. Moisten the newspaper so that it is about as wet as a wrung-out sponge. Worms need to keep their skin moist in order to breathe, but you don’t want to drown them.
5. Add worms. How many worms depends on how quickly you want your scraps to disappear. But you don’t need to start with a large number of worms. Besides eating, they will be reproducing! If you get too many worms, consider passing them on to your friends, neighbors, or local schools.

6. Now the fun begins! Feed your living garbage disposal by burying food scraps in the newspaper bedding. Start with a small amount of food, about equal to the amount of worms you have. Add more food as needed. The amount of food can be increased as the amount of worms in the bin increases. Keep the bin covered to prevent flies from laying eggs on the food.

The payoff comes when you harvest the worm castings—the poop. This is really easy and quite a bit of fun. Simply remove the lid, and the worms will burrow down to escape the light. Shine a light directly on the pile of food, castings, bedding and worms to make the worms move more quickly. Carefully scoop out the castings, which look like dirt. Use the castings in the same ways you would use compost.

Tips for Keeping Your Worms Working

- Don’t let the worms drown! Worm tea will leak out of the bin into the pan underneath. Empty the pan so the liquid doesn’t build up in the bin and kill the worms. Use the tea as a liquid fertilizer.
- Don’t let the worms fry or freeze! A good rule of thumb is to keep the worms at room temperature. Some dwellers keep a worm bin under the kitchen sink or in the laundry room. For best use, keep it near the place where you produce food waste.
- Don’t let other creatures take over the worm bin! If flies have laid eggs in the worm bin or other insects are taking over, dispose of everything and start over. Try using a more tightly fitting lid on the bin and use screening to cover all of the holes in the bin to prevent intruders.
- Don’t give up on your worms! You may lose a few helpings of worms before you get the hang of it.

How much should you feed your worms?

On average, each red wiggler will consume up to its body weight each day! Therefore, if you have one pound of worms, feed them one pound of scraps a day.
Can’t Get Enough?

Check out these books:


Or, contact:
Addison County Solid Waste Management District
1223 Route 7 South, Middlebury, VT 05753
Tel: 802-388-2333 | Hours: M-F 7AM - 3PM, Sat. 8AM - 1PM
Log onto our website for composting resources:
www.AddisonCountyRecycles.org

Looking to buy some supplies?
Come to the District Transfer Station to purchase a SoilSaver Compost Bin or a SureClose Kitchen Collector.

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Dig these images?! They are the handy work of Hannah Rand. Check out www.hannaharand.com for more.
Offered by the
ADDISON COUNTY SOLID WASTE MANAGEMENT DISTRICT
A User’s Guide to
Drop-Off Food Scrap Collection

That’s right! Now you can bring your food scraps to your local drop-off instead of putting them in the trash!

HOW?
Getting started is as easy as 1-2-3!

1. Get a bucket with a lid and a kitchen collector for your food scraps. See reverse for supplies from ACSWMD!

2. Fill your kitchen collector with food scraps and when full, empty in bucket.

3. Empty your bucket at your local drop-off during normal hours.

WHY?

• Take out your trash less often and reduce its smell!
• Keeping one 5-gallon bucket of food scraps out of the landfill is like reducing the amount of greenhouse gas emissions from 1 gallon of gas in a car.
• Comply with VT’s Universal Recycling Law early (by 2020 food scraps will be banned from the landfill).

The “IN” List

• Fruit & vegetable scraps
• Coffee grounds & filters
• Tea bags (paper only) & loose tea
• Meat, bones, shellfish & seafood*
• Bread & pasta, rice & grains
• Cheese & dairy*
• Soups and sauces
• Oils & fats*
• Eggs & egg shells*

*While these items should not be composted in your backyard, they are accepted at our Drop-Offs.

The “KEEP OUT” List

• NO Produce Stickers
• NO Twist ties
• NO Human or pet waste
• NO Plastic products of any kind
• NO Paper products (other than coffee filters, tea bags, & brown paper bags as bucket liners).
• NO ‘Compostable’ products such as plates and utensils (except certified BPI bag liners - MUST have this symbol!!

BPI®
Do NOT put the items below in your trash. Instead, you can bring them to the District Transfer Station for proper disposal!

ALL of the following items are accepted at the ACSWMD Transfer Station, and many at little or no charge.

Location: 1223 Route 7 South in Middlebury. Hours: Mon-Fri, 7 - 3 pm and Saturdays, 8 - 1 pm (for HazWaste hours, see red box on right). For disposal fees or for a list of landfill-banned items, call us or visit our website.

APPLIANCES (major) • AC units, dehumidifiers • washer/dryers • fridges • freezers • microwaves, stoves • woodstoves, etc.

BATTERIES • wet-cell • cell phone • automotive • small dry-cell, button cell • NIHM, NiCad • rechargeable • lithium, lithium ion

BOOKS hard and soft cover

DOCUMENTS for secure destruction

ELECTRONICS • computers, monitors & peripherals • TVs • video game consoles • answering machines • MP3, DVD & CD players • VCRs • stereo equipment • power supply cords

FOOD SCRAPs including meat and bones

FLUORESCENT LIGHT BULBS • compact fluorescent lamps • U-tube, circular or straight tubes • HID • UV, Neon or other specialty lamps • Light ballasts

HOUSEHOLD HAZARDOUS WASTE • including all paint, stains, cleaners, solvents, etc. *Taken during HazWaste Center hours

LEAVES & YARD DEBRIS Trimmings • garden plants • mulches • grass clippings, etc.

MERCURY DEVICES • thermostats, intact thermometers, etc.

PROPANE TANKS 1-lb camping, 20-lb grill size, etc.

SCRAP METAL • Any item at least 80% made from metal.

TEXTILES Clean, dry and in bags

TIRES including filters and cooking oil

WOOD • clean lumber & natural wood (no paint, stain, chemicals, or glue.)

APPLES & YARD DEBRIS

FLUORESCENT LIGHT BULBS

REUSE IT OR LOSE IT!

Our ReUse It or Lose It! sheds can house many goods that are no longer needed, but are still in readily usable shape for others. These items include dishes, kitchen items, picture frames, books, ski supplies, furniture, games, toys, weights, etc. NO mattresses, baby items, medical or safety supplies.

BUT WAIT, THERE’S MORE! For info on what to do with over 100 materials, visit our website and click on the A-Z disposal guide.

A Note on HazWaste

HazWaste Center Hours are Mon-Fri, 8 - 2 pm and Saturdays, 8 - 1 pm.

Household products with labels that contain the words “Warning,” “Danger,” “Poison,” or “Caution” DO NOT belong in the trash. Instead, bring these items to our HazWaste Center at no charge to District Residents:

Automotive & engine supplies & fluids
Home improvement supplies, including:
- paints
- stains
- thinners
- varnish
- adhesives
- tars
- Household cleaners, drain openers, etc.
- Garden supplies, fertilizers • pesticides
- Gas cylinders
- Mercury containing devices & lighting

PLEASE NOTE: Businesses with hazardous waste must register to receive an appointment time, and are responsible for all disposal costs.

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Common Blue Bin No-Nos:

- Greasy pizza boxes & unrinsed jars & jugs
- Shoes & clothing
- Automotive parts & other scrap metal
- Only metal food & beverage containers allowed in recycling bins. Recyclable only in scrap metal bin at District Transfer Station.
- Plastic bags, Styrofoam in any form
- Not accepted in blue bins! See Q&As for more info.

Q: Why aren't plastic bags recyclable in my blue bin? A: They get tangled in the recycling equipment, causing facility shutdowns. Many grocery stores accept them for recycling!

Q: Why aren't paper cups recyclable? A: They have an unrecyclable plastic or wax coating.

Q: Do I really have to rinse my plastic & glass recyclables? A: Yep. Recycling works because companies that buy recyclables to make into new products need those recyclables to be uncontaminated. Food & beverages are contaminants. Hint: Soak that peanut butter jar with rinse water from your dishes — It'll be easier to clean.

Q: Why isn't Styrofoam recyclable? After all, there's a number on the bottom, right? A: Pay no attention to the numbers! Not everything with a number is recyclable — and not everything without a number isn't recyclable. As for recycling Styrofoam, we don't produce enough in Addison County to make it economically or environmentally feasible to collect it and ship it to market. We recommend giving Styrofoam peanuts to local shipping companies or to those who regularly ship delicate items. For a list, visit AddisonCountyRecycles.org.

NOTE: All items should be at least 2” on any 2 dimensions.