

Bennington County Solid Waste Alliance

Arlington, Bennington, Dorset, Glastenbury, Manchester, Pownal, Rupert, Sandgate, Searsburg, Shaftsbury, Stamford, Sunderland, and Woodford

Solid Waste Implementation Plan and the Universal Recycling Law: In December of 2015, the Bennington County Solid Waste Alliance adopted a solid waste implementation plan or “SWIP” to comply with both the Universal Recycling Law (Act 148) and the materials management plan developed by the Vermont Agency of Natural Resources. The SWIP describes how the member towns will increase recycling, reduce the amount of materials sent to landfills, and provide outreach program for residents, schools, businesses and institutions to assist them in recycling. The Alliance provides information on their website (www.bcswavt.org) and Facebook page as well as in local newspapers.

School and Business Outreach: This past year, the Alliance provided outreach to Burr and Burton, Pownal Elementary and Stamford Elementary schools including assisting Pownal Elementary with on-site composting. The Alliance provided outreach to over 40 businesses on ways to increase recycling, manage food scraps, and properly dispose of hazardous materials.

Funding and Grants: The member towns provide most of the funding for programs. From July 1, 2016 to June 30, 2017 the Alliance received over \$25,000 in grants from the Agency of Natural Resources and from the Agency for Agriculture and Markets for sales of compost bins and for household hazardous waste events. The Alliance also received \$4,000.00 from the High Meadows Fund to assist the towns of Pownal, Searsburg, Shaftsbury and Stamford in starting food scrap collection at their transfer stations.

Programs and Events: The Alliance sponsors and supports many programs to assist residents, businesses, schools and institutions to properly dispose of materials. The following are some of our major programs.

- **Household Hazardous Waste Events:** The Alliance held two household hazardous waste (HHW) events in the spring and fall of 2017. The spring event was sponsored by the Town of Bennington and held at the Bennington Transfer Station. The fall event was managed by the Bennington County Regional Commission and held at the Dorset School. Over 400 households participated in the two events. In 2018, the Alliance will again hold two events for the 13 Alliance towns. One will be held in Bennington on May 12, 2018 and the second at the Dorset School on September 15, 2018.
- **Electronics Collections:** The Vermont E-Cycles program provides for free disposal of electronic devices including computers, monitors, printers, computer peripherals, and televisions, regardless of brand, age, or condition, for consumers, charities, school districts, and small businesses. Free collection locations in Bennington County include the Bennington, Northshire (Dorset), Pownal, Searsburg, and Sunderland Transfer Stations and

other sites listed at <http://dec.vermont.gov/waste-management/solid/product-stewardship/electronics>. The Dorset School also holds annual E-Waste Collection events.

- **Fluorescent Bulbs**: Vermont has also implemented a plan to accept used fluorescent bulbs and compact fluorescent bulbs (CFL's) at various retail. These bulbs contain mercury, which is a hazardous substance. Residents can dispose of bulbs at several hardware stores and other retail establishments and at several of the transfer stations. More information is available at <http://www.bcswavt.org/programs-and-projects/fluorescent-bulbs/>.
- **Paint Collections**: PaintCare Inc. is a non-profit organization established to assist paint manufacturers to plan and operate paint stewardship programs in the United States, including Vermont. Both latex and oil-based paint have been collected at HHW events and at special PaintCare events, and several local hardware stores accept paint. To find a location, residents may visit <http://www.paintcare.org/drop-off-locations/>.
- **Battery Recycling**: Primary (alkaline) batteries and rechargeable batteries are now accepted at many retailers and at the Bennington, Northshire, Sunderland and Pownal Transfer Stations. You can find locations at: <http://www.bcswavt.org/programs-and-projects/battery-recycling/>. For more information, visit Call2Recycle at <http://www.call2recycle.org/what-can-i-recycle/>.
- **Textiles**: The Bennington, Northshire, Sunderland, Shaftsbury and Pownal transfer stations have textile boxes where residents can donate clothing and shoes. Boxes are also located throughout the Alliance area. Visit www.bcswavt.org for locations. Goodwill in Bennington also accepts clothing donations as well as other household items, books and used electronic devices. Visit them at <http://www.goodwill-berkshires.com/>.
- **Leaf and Yard Waste, Food Scraps and Other Organics**: All transfer stations accept leaf and yard waste, clean wood and food scraps. Visit <http://www.bcswavt.org/programs-and-projects/transfer-stations/> for information on your transfer station.
- **Construction and Demolition Debris**: All transfer stations accept construction and demolition debris from builders and do-it-yourself homeowners. The TAM Pownal facility also accepts construction and demolition debris from residents and businesses.
- **Prescription Drugs**: Prescription drugs should be properly disposed when they are no longer needed as they can make their way into water sources and can pose a hazard in the home. The Bennington Police Department, the Manchester Police Department, the Bennington County Sheriff and Southwestern Vermont Medical Center accept prescription drugs. Go to <http://www.bcswavt.org/programs-and-projects/disposing-of-prescription-drug/> for more information.