

# Bennington County Solid Waste Alliance -2020

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

The Bennington County Solid Waste Alliance works to reduce the amount of waste disposed in landfills by promoting recycling and reuse as well as resource conservation. The Alliance offers education and outreach to businesses, schools, institutions, and event organizers in complying with the Universal Recycling Law and other solid waste management requirements primarily by increasing reuse and recycling. These programs help residents, businesses, schools, and institutions find solutions to recycling, food scrap diversion and the disposal of items such as electronic waste, fluorescent bulbs, paint, and others that are banned from landfills.

The Alliance website at [www.bcswavt.org](http://www.bcswavt.org) and Facebook page ([www.facebook.com/solidwastealliance](https://www.facebook.com/solidwastealliance)) provide information on:

- battery recycling through the Call2Recycle program
- disposal of used motor oil at retail establishments and transfer stations that accept motor oil
- recycling of paint through the PaintCare program, including retail stores that accept paint
- prescription drug disposal including drop-off locations
- recycling of textiles by the One World Center, Goodwill, and others
- events for disposing household hazardous waste
- disposing of fluorescent bulbs, compact fluorescent lamps (CFLs) and other mercury items at transfer stations, retail establishments and at household hazardous waste collection events
- disposal of E-Waste at area transfer stations, Goodwill, and retail establishments
- diverting food scraps by composting and annual sales of compost bins and kitchen containers

This past year the Alliance assisted 40 businesses as well as several major event organizers primarily via phone, email, and webinars due to COVID-19. Given COVID-19, meals and snacks in most schools are served in classrooms rather than lunchrooms. To help with this, the Alliance received 170 food scrap buckets from the Agency of Natural Resources that we distributed to 17 schools along with instructional signage to allow for food scrap collections within classrooms.

The Alliance held two household hazardous waste events with nearly 500 participating households. We also sold over 180 backyard compost bins and 60 green cones to residents. In 2021, we will hold three household hazardous waste events for residents and small businesses of all thirteen towns. The spring event will be in Bennington and the fall in Dorset. We will hold a third event for residents and businesses of Searsburg and Stamford given the long driving distance they have to either of our other events. Check the website above for updates and details. The Alliance receives most of its funding from the 13 towns, but this past year received grants from the Vermont Agency of Natural Resources and the Agency of Agriculture and Markets.