

Bennington County Solid Waste Alliance

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 launched an expanded website at www.bcswa.org and hosts a Facebook page (www.facebook.com/solidwastealliance) which 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 Apparel Impact, Goodwill, and others
- events for disposing household hazardous waste
- disposing of fluorescent bulbs, compact fluorescent lamps (CFLs) and other mercury items at transfer stations and retail establishments
- 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
- resources for businesses, schools, events, institutions and residents

During 2021 the Alliance assisted forty businesses, several major event organizers including Garlic Town, made a recycling presentation to summer campers at Lake Paran, and hosted tables at several farmers markets. On-site presentations were provided to Bennington Elementary and Sunderland Elementary schools to teach students about recyclable materials. Forty pieces of composting equipment were also sold through two distribution events.

The Alliance held three household hazardous waste events serving 666 households, a number that continues to increase each year. In 2022, three household hazardous waste events will be held for residents and small businesses of all thirteen towns within the Alliance. The spring event will be in Bennington and the fall in Dorset. A third event will be held for residents and businesses of Searsburg and Stamford to accommodate the greater distance they have to either of the other events. Visit bcswa.org for updates and details. The Alliance receives most of its funding from the thirteen towns along with grants from the Vermont Agency of Natural Resources and the Agency of Agriculture and Markets.