

# Solid Waste Alliance Communities (SWAC)

Communities working together to manage solid and hazardous waste issues in an economically and environmentally friendly manner.

## Newsletter

Spring 2017

Visit us on the web at:

[www.rutlandcountyswac.org](http://www.rutlandcountyswac.org)

Email: [rutlandcountyswac.org](mailto:rutlandcountyswac.org)

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For Residents of Benson, Chittenden, Fair Haven, Middletown Springs, Pawlet, Rutland Town, Shrewsbury, Sudbury, Tinmouth, and West Haven

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### 2017 Officers

Steve Sgorbati, Sudbury, Chair

Chris Hoyt, West Haven, Vice-Chair

Bonnie Rosati, Fair Haven,  
Secretary/Treasurer

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### UPCOMING HHW EVENTS

#### **SATURDAY, APRIL 8**

8:00 – 11:30 a.m. RUTLAND  
TOWN Transfer Station, Rutland

12:00 p.m. - 3:00 p.m.  
CHITTENDEN Transfer Station,  
Chittenden

#### **SATURDAY, APRIL 15**

8:00 – 9:30 a.m. – PAWLET  
Mettowee Community School,  
West Pawlet

10:30 a.m. – 12:00 p.m.  
MIDDLETOWN SPRINGS Transfer  
Station, Middletown Springs

#### **SATURDAY, APRIL 22**

8:00 - 10:00 a.m. – TINMOUTH  
Transfer Station, Tinmouth

11:00 a.m. – 1:00 p.m. – Fair  
Haven Transfer Station, Fair  
Haven

#### **SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 9**

12:30 p.m. – 3:00 p.m.  
SHREWSBURY Transfer Station,  
Shrewsbury

#### **SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 16**

8:00 a.m. – 9:30 a.m.  
BENSON Transfer Station, Benson

10:30 a.m. – 12:00 p.m.  
SUDBURY Transfer Station,  
Sudbury

1:00 p.m.- 3:00 p.m.  
FAIR HAVEN Transfer Station, Fair  
Haven

#### **SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 23**

8:00 a.m. – 11:30 a.m.  
RUTLAND TOWN Transfer Station,  
Rutland

**ANY** SWAC resident can take their HHW to **ANY** of the collection events not just the one scheduled in their town. SWAC contracts with the Rutland County Solid Waste District (RCSWD) for hazardous waste services. In addition to the collection events, SWAC residents can dispose of HHW at the RCSWD Hazardous Waste Depot on Gleason Road in Rutland during regularly scheduled operating hours. Please call 775-7209 for convenient hours.

### What Can I Bring?

- Household Pesticides
- Household Hazardous Chemicals
- Fluorescent light bulbs
- Latex Paint
- Batteries

**Cost to Residents:** No fees are charged to residents of SWAC. The fees for disposal of HHW are paid for by member municipalities.

**Businesses:** Businesses can contract with Rutland County Solid Waste District for hazardous waste services. Please contact RCSWD at (802) 775-7209 for more information.

Visit

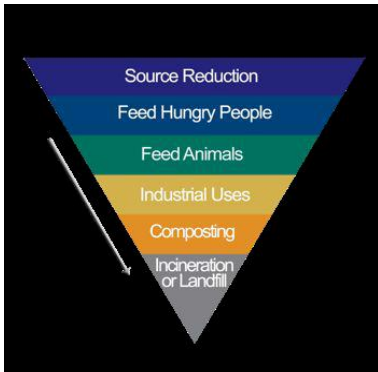
<http://rutlandcountyswac.org/what-do-i-do-with/> to find out more about disposal and management of different items.



## **UNIVERSAL RECYCLING (ACT 148) LAW**



Act 148 impacts **EVERY** person in Vermont - residents, visitors, schools, and businesses. There are phased-in mandates and bans in the law including mandatory recycling and landfill bans on leaf and yard waste and organics (food scraps).



### **What Has The Law Done?**

In 2014, transfer stations were required to accept recyclables at no charge. The phased in food scrap ban for businesses also began.

In 2015, mandatory state-wide unit based pricing took effect (pay-as-you-throw). Recyclables were banned from the landfill. Transfer stations were required to accept leaf and yard waste. Haulers were required to offer residential recycling collection at no charge. Public buildings had to

provide recycling containers next to all trash containers.

In 2016, leaf, yard and clean wood debris were banned from the landfill. Haulers were required to offer leaf and yard debris collection.

### **What Will The Law Do Next?**

In 2017, transfers stations will be required to accept food scraps. Haulers will also be required to offer food scrap collection.

**ALL Food scraps will be banned from the landfill** by July 1, 2020, including those from households.

Visit

<http://rutlandcountyswac.org/laws-regulations/universal-composting-and-recycling-law-act-148/> for more information on ACT 148.

### **Let's Feed People, Not Landfills**

#### **Reducing Food Waste Tips**

1. Write a list and stick to it;
2. Keep a healthy fridge;
3. Don't throw it away, repurpose when possible;
4. Use up your leftovers;
5. Rotate food to use older food first;
6. Serve smaller amounts;
7. Buy only what you need;
8. Freeze breads or leftovers, and
9. Compost.

### **Composting**

Now would be a great time to start backyard composting. It is an inexpensive, natural process that transforms your kitchen and garden waste into a valuable and nutrient rich food for your garden. It's easy to make and use.



About 40% of the waste we each create is food and yard waste. Composting allows you to repurpose your food waste while putting nutrients such as phosphorus, potassium, magnesium, zinc, manganese, iron and boron back into the soil.

Visit [www.](http://rutlandcountyswac.org/organics/composting/)

<http://rutlandcountyswac.org/organics/composting/> for more information on composting.

### **Business & School Outreach for ACT 148**

SWAC partners with Rutland County Solid Waste District in joint business outreach projects for ACT 148. The business outreach objective is to provide businesses with information and resources regarding ACT 148 through phone, email, and in-person communication. An informational series was utilized to advise businesses of laws and requirements pertaining to their business. Additional businesses from Rutland County can expect to be contacted within the first half of 2017 with Act 148 information.

SWAC has applied for a grant through the Agency of Natural Resources that

would provide six schools in the area with a STAR assessment program through the Northeast Resource Recovery Association (NRRRA). The assessment will provide the school with a comprehensive report on the schools recycling and waste reduction efforts. Schools will be contacted directly by NRRRA if the grant is awarded. SWAC's membership with NRRRA ([www.nrra.net](http://www.nrra.net)) entitles SWAC schools to access services available through NRRRA's School Club. This provides information about recycling, composting, lesson plans, activities, newsletters, fundraising and many other useful tools for your schools.

Looking for more help for your school? Check out <http://rutlandcountyswac.org/school-outreach/> for more information about what you can do for your school.



### 8 Steps to Manage Food Scraps for Schools and Businesses

1. Identify all areas where food scraps are produced;
2. Track what food is wasted;
3. Identify ways to reduce food waste;
4. Donate unsold or close-dated food to local food bank;

5. Separate items that cannot be donated;
6. Train Staff;
7. Schedule recurring training, and
8. Request assistance from your local Solid Waste Management Entity or town.

Visit

[www.rutlandcountyswac.org/organics](http://www.rutlandcountyswac.org/organics) for more information.



Donating your close-dated or unneeded food is a great way to divert food waste from the landfill and help your community. When donating food, it is important to remember that the donation is for human consumption and needs to be handled with care. If the food looks or smells bad, do not donate it – compost it!

Visit

<http://rutlandcountyswac.org/wp-content/uploads/2016/12/FOODSHELVESINTHERUTLANDAREA.pdf> to find a food bank near you.

### **BIOSOLIDS: WHERE DOES THE DIRTY WATER GO?**

When the wastewater flushed from your toilet, drained from your household sinks, washing machine, or dishwasher leaves your home, it flows into your septic system or your community's wastewater treatment facility.

When septic tanks are pumped out, the waste may be disposed of through land application (spreading any chemicals or heavy metals that are in the waste onto the fields as well), taken to the local wastewater treatment facility, or taken to a solid waste incinerator for disposal.

Your home may be connected to a wastewater treatment facility. The wastewater from homes, along with the wastewater from some septic haulers, businesses, industries and other facilities, is treated to reduce or remove pollutants.

### **How is the wastewater at a wastewater treatment plant treated?**

Wastewater treatment plants incorporate a series of processes to try to remove pollutants from water used in homes, small businesses, industries, and other facilities. All wastewater goes through a **primary treatment process**, which involves screening and settling out large particles. During treatment, solid, semi-solid, and liquid residues, or sludges/ biosolids, are removed from the wastewater. Sludges/ biosolids may be composted, land applied, incinerated, or landfilled.



The wastewater then moves on to the **secondary treatment process** where organic matter is removed by

allowing bacteria to break down the pollutants.

The treated wastewater is then usually disinfected with chlorine to remove the remaining bacteria.

Some communities go one step further and put the wastewater through an **advanced treatment process** to reduce the level of pollutants of special concern to the local waterbody, such as nitrogen or phosphorus.

### **What happens to the treated water when it leaves the wastewater treatment plant?**

The treated wastewater may be released into local waterways where it is used again for any number of purposes, such as supplying drinking water, irrigating crops, and sustaining aquatic life.

Wastewater treatment facilities are designed to treat organic materials, not hazardous chemicals. If you pour chemical down the drain they may end up in your local rivers, streams or lakes or spread on land.

### **What Can You Do to Protect Local Waterways and the Environment?**

**FLUSH RESPONSIBLY! Don't pour household products such as cleansers, beauty products, medicine, auto fluids, paint, and lawn care products down the drain. Properly dispose of them at the HHW events.**

To learn more about biosolids visit <http://rutlandcountyswac.org/organics/biosolids/>

This Newsletter is also available on the SWAC website in color with interactive links.

<http://rutlandcountyswac.org/newsletters/>

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### We're on the Web!

*See us at:*

[www.rutlandcountyswac.org](http://www.rutlandcountyswac.org)

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