

Winter 2017-2018 Newsletter from the Bennington County Solid Waste Alliance

The Bennington County Solid Waste Alliance (BCSWA) includes the Towns of Arlington, Bennington, Dorset, Glastenbury, Manchester, Pownal, Rupert, Sandgate, Searsburg, Shaftsbury, Stamford, Sunderland and Woodford and provides technical assistance to businesses, schools and institutions within the thirteen towns to encourage recycling and waste reduction.

2017 and 2018 Household Hazardous Waste Events: In 2017 BCSWA held household hazardous waste events in the spring in Bennington and in the fall in Dorset. Over 400 households participated along with three businesses. The Alliance will hold the next event on May 12, 2018 at the Bennington Transfer Station at [904 Houghton Lane](#) in Bennington from 8:00 AM to 1:00 PM for residents of the 13 Alliance towns.

Business and School Outreach: The Alliance provided outreach to 40 businesses in 2017. This free service provides guidance on methods of recycling, disposing hazardous materials, and properly diverting food scraps and organics from landfills. This past year, the Alliance worked with Pownal Elementary, Stamford Elementary and Burr and Burton on improving their recycling efforts. This included helping Pownal Elementary begin composting all food scraps on site. If your school, business or institution is interested in having someone visit to discuss better ways to handle solid waste, organics, recyclables and other materials, please contact Michael Batcher at [802-442-0713 x 2](tel:802-442-0713) or mbatcher@bcrcvt.org.

Transfer Stations Accepting Food Scraps: The Alliance received a grant of \$4,000 from the High Meadows Fund to assist the Towns of Pownal, Searsburg, Shaftsbury and Stamford to accept food scraps from their residents. The Northshire Transfer Station in East Dorset and the Sunderland Transfer Station in Sunderland also accept food scraps and serve the towns of Arlington, Dorset, Manchester, Sandgate, and Sunderland. The Bennington Transfer Station accepts food scraps from residents of Bennington and Woodford. For more information on services provided by the transfer stations,

visit <http://www.bcswavt.org/programs-and-projects/transfer-stations/>.

Reducing Food Waste: Visit <http://foodshift.net/blog/8-tips-reduce-waste-thanksgiving/> on ways to reduce food waste during the holidays. Better meal planning, creative cooking with leftovers, composting, and giving extra food to those in need can all help reduce waste and save money. The BCSWA website also has a new section on donating food to food pantries.

Sharps: If you use sharps including needles, and need to dispose of them, visit our Facebook page or web page on how to seal them in a sturdy container for disposal. Sharps can't be recycled and are dangerous if not disposed of properly.

Be Careful What You Put Down the Drain: Many materials, especially household hazardous waste, should NOT be poured down the drain, either to a septic tank or field or to wastewater treatment plants. These chemicals are toxic, will kill the organisms that break down waste, and will enter surface and groundwater supplies. Flushing prescription drugs down the toilet should also be avoided as these have been shown to harm fish and amphibians.

Visit <http://www.bcswavt.org/programs-and-projects/sludge-septage-residual-waste/> for more information that will protect our water supplies.

Batteries, Fluorescent Bulbs, E-Waste, Textiles and Paint: Many retail stores are accepting alkaline and rechargeable batteries, fluorescent bulbs, including both tubes and CFLS and latex and oil based paint for FREE! Goodwill in Bennington accepts clothing and has trucks on weekends in Arlington and Manchester for donations of clothing. There are textile boxes located all over Bennington County, including at the transfer stations, where you can donate clothing. Goodwill also accepts donations of clothing and other items. Visit them at www.goodwill-berkshires.com. The Bennington, Northshire, Pownal, Searsburg and Sunderland Transfer Stations accept E-Waste. Visit www.bcswavt.org to find locations for disposing these materials.

Phone Books? Unwanted phone books are a nuisance and a waste of resources. Virgin paper production for phone books in the U.S. uses an estimated 4.68 million trees worth of wood fiber annually. That is equivalent to clearing a forest

the size of 14 football fields every single day. You can opt out of receiving a phone book by taking the following steps:

1. Visit phonebookoptout.us/go
2. Enter your zip code and create an account.
3. After completing registration, click "opt out of or order directories."

Choose "opt out of all" option, then "save changes" and hit CONFIRM

Bulky Waste Collection: The Towns of Arlington, Bennington, Dorset, Manchester, Sandgate, and Sunderland are planning a bulky waste collection in the spring. Residents will be able to dispose of bulky items including tires at the Bennington, Sunderland or Northshire Transfer Stations.

Visit www.bcswavt.org this spring for more information.

Next BCSWA Board Meeting: The next BCSWA board meeting will be on Wednesday, March 14, 2017 at 4:00 PM with the location to be determined. An agenda will be at www.bcswavt.org at least two weeks prior to the meeting.

Need More Information? Visit www.bcswavt.org to find information on recycling, composting, disposing prescription drugs, and services offered by waste haulers. Many plastics as well as paper, cardboard, glass, electronic waste and other items are banned from landfills but are accepted by haulers and transfer stations. Talk to your hauler about recycling and how you can save money by disposing of materials properly. Check with your town hall to find out how you can access your town transfer station. Contact Michael S. Batcher at [\(802\) 442-0713 x 2](tel:(802)442-0713x2) or mbatcher@bcrcvt.org or visit the Alliance website at www.bcswavt.org for more information. You can also find us on Facebook.

Michael S. Batcher
Bennington County Regional Commission
111 South St., Suite 203
Bennington, VT 05201
[\(802\) 442-0713 x 2](tel:(802)442-0713x2)
mbatcher@bcrcvt.org