





# Universal Recycling Law

## TIMELINE

**JULY 1  
2014**

- Transfer stations must accept recyclables
- Food scrap generators of 104 tons/year (2 tons/week) must divert material to any certified facility within 20 miles

**JULY 1  
2015**

- Statewide unit based pricing takes effect, requiring residential trash charges be based on volume or weight
- Recyclables are banned from the landfill
- Transfer stations/Bag-drop Haulers must accept leaf and yard debris seasonally (April 1 - December 15)
- Haulers must offer residential recycling collection at no separate charge
- Public buildings must provide recycling containers alongside all trash containers in public spaces (exception for restrooms)
- Food scrap generators of 52 tons/year (1 ton/week) must divert material to any certified facility within 20 miles

**JULY 1  
2016**

- Leaf, yard, and clean wood debris are banned from the landfill
- Food scrap generators of 26 tons/year (1/2 ton/week) must divert material to any certified facility within 20 miles

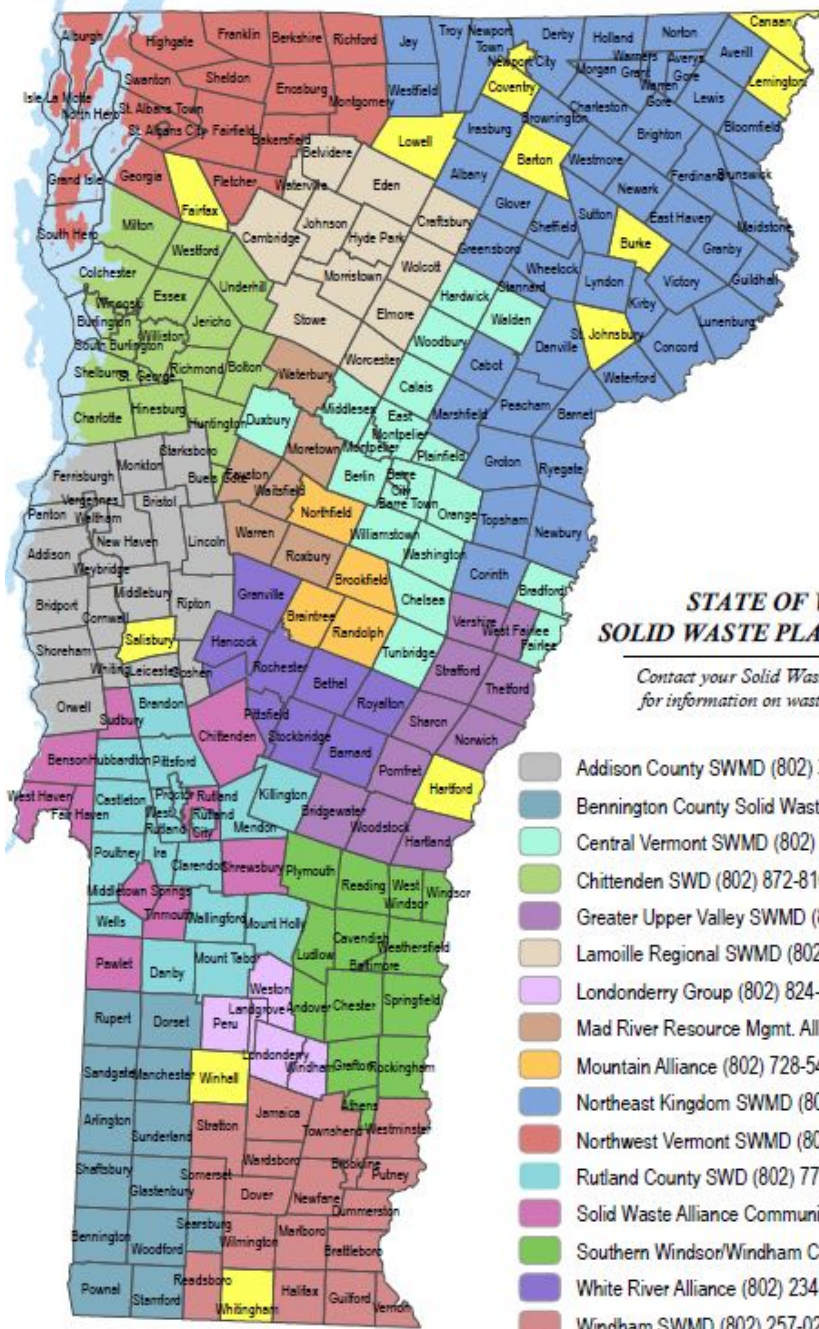
**JULY 1  
2017**

- Transfer stations/Bag-drop Haulers must accept food scraps
- Food scrap generators of 18 tons/year (1/3 ton/week) must divert material to any certified facility within 20 miles

**JULY 1  
2020**

- Food scraps are banned from the landfill
- Haulers must offer food scrap collection to nonresidential customers and apartment buildings with four or more residential units unless another hauler will provide that service





**STATE OF VERMONT  
SOLID WASTE PLANNING ENTITIES**

*Contact your Solid Waste Management Entity  
for information on waste services in your area*

- Addison County SWMD (802) 388-2333
- Bennington County Solid Waste Alliance (802) 442-0713
- Central Vermont SWMD (802) 229-9383
- Chittenden SWD (802) 872-8100
- Greater Upper Valley SWMD (802) 674-4474
- Lamoille Regional SWMD (802) 888-7317
- Londonderry Group (802) 824-3306
- Mad River Resource Mgmt. Alliance (802) 244-7373
- Mountain Alliance (802) 728-5433
- Northeast Kingdom SWMD (802) 626-3532
- Northwest Vermont SWMD (802) 524-5986
- Rutland County SWD (802) 775-7209
- Solid Waste Alliance Communities (802) 342-5701
- Southern Windsor/Windham Counties SWMD (802) 674-9235
- White River Alliance (802) 234-9340
- Windham SWMD (802) 257-0272
- Individual town with approved plan

# Department of Environmental Conservation

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## DEC Transitioning to Electronic Collection of Vehicle Information

The [Waste Transportation Vehicle Registration](#) is now available through our ANR Online system. This new electronic form will be used for submitting Annual Renewals, Five-Year Permit Renewals, and updating vehicle information. If you are a new food residual hauler, apply for a permit at the link above!

In order to streamline this change for haulers with a large number of vehicles, please provide your current vehicle information to DEC before completing your Annual Renewal or New Permit Application. [Click here for more information.](#)



### Who's Hauling Food Scraps?

View the Agency's most up-to-date list of haulers providing food scrap pick-up.



### All Registered Haulers

View a list of all permitted waste haulers in Vermont.

## WASTE HAULERS

Any party intending to haul solid waste (including food residuals), hazardous waste, regulated medical waste and/or residual waste to or from any location in Vermont for compensation must obtain a hauling permit from





## VERMONT FOOD SCRAP HAULERS

Updated Frequently  
Statewide haulers on page 4

### Addison & Rutland Counties

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#### Acker Waste Management

- Serves residents and businesses in select towns in Addison County
- 802-349-2414, [ackerwastemanagement@gmail.com](mailto:ackerwastemanagement@gmail.com)

#### Draft Trash

- Serves residents in Middlebury
- Contact: 802-377-0640; [DrivenbyDrafts@gmail.com](mailto:DrivenbyDrafts@gmail.com)

**Gauthier Trucking:** See next page.

#### Moose Rubbish and Recycling Services

- Serves residents and businesses in all of Addison County
- 802-897-5637; [br213@yahoo.com](mailto:br213@yahoo.com)

#### Music Mountain Compost

 Social media: @Music Mountain Compost Pickup

- Serves residential customers in Rutland County
- Contact: Zach Cavacas, 802-342-3834, [cavacasz@gmail.com](mailto:cavacasz@gmail.com)

#### R&L Services

- Serves residents and businesses in select towns in Addison County
- 802-388-6288

#### Seguin Services, LLC

 @SeguinServicesLLC

- Serves residential and commercial customers in Orwell, Benson, Fair Haven, and Castleton
- Contact: Sean Seguin, 802-948-2912, [seguinservicesllc@gmail.com](mailto:seguinservicesllc@gmail.com)

#### Thornapple Farm

- Serves residents in Bristol.
- Contact: 802-377-0001, [thornapplefarm@comcast.net](mailto:thornapplefarm@comcast.net)

# Free Resources



**Food Scraps are:**

- Parts of food not typically eaten** (peels, rinds, cores, shells, pits, seeds, bones, etc.)
- Food no longer good for eating** (like plate scrapings or leftovers gone bad)
- Coffee grounds and filters, tea and paper tea bags**
- Meat and bones UNLESS back-yard composting**

Food scrap drop-offs and pick-ups accept meat and bones; home composters can throw them in the trash

## Food Scraps

**All Food Scraps**  
Fruits, vegetables, dairy, bread, grains, meat & bones, oils, sauces, eggs

**Remove stickers from produce!**

**Coffee Grounds & Filters**

[www.VRecycles.com](http://www.VRecycles.com)

### Benefits of Keeping Food Waste out of the Landfill

**1 Feeds People**  
Rescued food donations **almost tripled** from 2014 to 2017 at the Vermont Foodbank.

**2 Reduces Greenhouse Gas Emissions**

**3 Supports Green Jobs**

**4 Compost Restores Soil**

**5 Reduces need for Landfills**

VT landfills — 77,000 tons of food scraps each year.

Composting the scraps instead of trashing them would... reduce greenhouse gas emissions as much as not driving ~115 million miles.

That's like driving around Earth 4,829 times!

April 2019

VRecycles.com > “Food Scraps” or “Download Materials” Buttons

# Tote Strategies

## Universal Recycling

## Food Scrap Diversion in Bear Country

It is possible to collect food scraps for a hauler without attracting nuisance bears.



### Tips for bear-proofing food scrap totes:



- 1. Minimize odors.** Bears have a strong sense of smell. To keep odors contained, cover food scraps with a thick layer of sawdust, straw, or another smell-capping compostable material. Ask your hauler what material they recommend.
- 2. Keep things clean.** Ensure no food scraps spill on the ground or on the outside of the tote.
- 3. Store food scrap totes where bears cannot access them.** If space allows, store totes in a shed or garage, and bring them outside immediately before pick-up. Consider at least bringing totes inside at night, when bears are most active.
- 4. Keep totes away from forest edges.** Most bears do not like to cross open areas, like yards and parking lots. Keeping totes near buildings may deter bears.
- 5. Latch totes closed.** Locks, bungees, zip ties, or other latches can deter bears (and other animals) from getting inside totes. Make sure that your hauler is aware of your latch system.
- 6. Surround totes with electric fencing.** Either top a wooden or chain-length fence with electric fencing



## For Haulers How to Collect Food Scraps

### 1. Ask your composter what they accept

- o **Most accept all food scraps:** meat, bones, seafood, shellfish and shells, all dairy, eggs and egg shells, spoiled food, baked goods, coffee grounds and filters, tea bags, fruits and vegetables, pasta and grains, soups, sauces, fats and oils (cooled).
- o **Some may accept:** waxed cardboard, dirty paper, paper napkins, paper plates, paper clam shells or to-go containers, compostable liner bags, compostable cups, bowls, and utensils that are certified compostable by the [Biodegradable Products Institute](http://www.biodegradableproducts.com) (BPI).
- o **Some avoid** compostable or paper products because they may look like trash and cause confusion about what the composter accepts. Also, certain compostable products prevent compost from being certified organic.
- o **All Avoid:** plastic bags, wrappers, plastic PLU stickers on produce, twist ties, or other plastic, metal, or glass.



### 2. Containers

- o **Most food scrap haulers** use plastic rolling carts, typically 32, 48, or 64-gallon capacity. Some use dumpsters. Some haulers use 5-gallon buckets with lids. A 48-gallon container of food scraps weighs an average of 200 lbs. or 4.2 lbs. per gallon. If carts are too big or full they can break and leak. Carts or totes can be purchased from various vendors. Contact the ANR Solid Waste Program, your [solid waste management entity](#), or another hauler to see what equipment has worked well for others and options for a bulk purchase.
- o **Some haulers** purchase and use certified compostable liner bags inside the carts to reduce the need to wash bins. Ask your composter if they accept certified compostable bags (visit BPI's website for options: [products.bpiworld.org/?search=&category=26&ty=pe=21](http://products.bpiworld.org/?search=&category=26&ty=pe=21)).



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### 3. Vehicles

Some food scrap haulers use trucks that lift and tip plastic carts into the sealed body unit of the truck. Others use box trucks with lift gates or trailers and swap out full carts for empties. Some collect food scraps with station wagons or bicycles.

[BioCycle Magazine](http://www.biocycle.com) has a lot of information on trucks for hauling food scraps. Some trucks and trailers have pressure washers to wash carts. Some haulers wash carts at the compost facility.



#### Winter Tips:

- o To keep food scraps from sticking to the cart, grease empty carts with used vegetable oil and add ~6 inches of sawdust or wood chips to the bottom.
- o Bang the sides of frozen carts with a rubber mallet to help dislodge frozen food scraps.
- o Tip carts upside down on a bed of wood chips in the sun or put carts in a warm space overnight to release frozen foods scraps.
- o Some food scrap haulers use a torch to melt and re-bond cracks in plastic carts.

#### Summer Tips:

To reduce odors and insects in the heat:

- o Provide customers with bins of sawdust, ground leaves, or wood chips to top off their food scrap carts each day. Two to three inches of sawdust keeps flies and odors down, which customers appreciate.
- o Provide customer with clean totes by washing them weekly or using liners. Keep the outside of totes clean.
- o Collect food scraps regularly.

#### Resources:

- o Annual [Vermont Organics Recycling Summit](#), where haulers and composters network and learn from each other. In 2019, the [Composting Association of Vermont](#) will host this event.
- o Annual Compost Operator Trainings, which ANR hosts and Compost Technical Services teaches ([composttechnicalservices.com](http://composttechnicalservices.com)).
- o The Highfields Center for Composting's website shares videos and other resources for hauling food scraps and composting: [highfieldscomposting.org/haulers/resources-for-haulers](http://highfieldscomposting.org/haulers/resources-for-haulers)
- o [Statewide Directory of Food Scrap Haulers](#): To be listed, please contact the ANR Solid Waste Program at 802-828-1138.

Solid Waste Program  
802-828-1138  
[www.VTrecycles.com](http://www.VTrecycles.com)

 VERMONT  
AGENCY OF NATURAL RESOURCES



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