

Bennington County Regional Solid Waste Solutions

Editor:
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SWIP Newsletter
April 2011

NEW VERMONT ELECTRONIC WASTE LAW!

As of January 1, 2011 electronics are BANNED from the trash.

The State of Vermont is establishing electronic waste collection centers that are scheduled to open on July 1, 2011.

Residents, charities, school districts and small businesses will be encouraged to drop-off their electronic waste for recycling at no charge at these state-wide collection centers.

Currently, there is a fee for the disposal of electronic waste in Vermont because the program is subsidized by the Vermont Solid Waste Districts. The electronics manufacturers will bear the cost of collection as of July 1, 2011.

With families upgrading their electronics every two to five years, electronic waste (E-Waste) is one of the fastest growing components of our

solid waste. Many of the electronics contain metals that can be toxic if they are not recycled or disposed of properly. Metals such as lead, mercury and chromium can be found in most electronics, as well as valuable metals like gold. Vermont Solid Waste Districts collected over 1.6 million pounds of e-waste in 2008.

Here is a list of banned items:

1. Answering machines;
2. Computers (CPU's, monitors, peripherals);
3. CRT containing devices;
4. Digital converter boxes;
5. DVD players;
6. E-device power cords and chargers;

7. Electronic game consoles (Xbox, Nintendo, Sony Playstations, , etc.);
8. Fax machines;
9. PDA's, MP3's (& other personal e-devices);
10. Printers;
11. Stereo equipment;
12. Telephones;
13. Televisions;
14. Wireless phones; and
15. VCR's.

For more information about the new legislation go to:

<http://www.anr.state.vt.us/dec/e-waste/index.htm>

Reduce Your Impact By Purchasing, Selling or Donating Used Items

Many of us are tightening our belts these days. There are many opportunities to buy second-hand or get something for free or in trade rather than purchasing something new.

As you clear out items you don't use or don't want anymore, there are many ways to pass those items along to others instead of disposing of them.

In addition to re-gifting, selling the items in a yard

sale, posting an ad at the general store, or listing the items in the local newspaper, here are some suggestions for donating, buying, selling or swapping used items:

1. FreeCycle
2. Craig's List
3. EBay
4. Vermont Business Materials Exchange
5. Salvation Army
6. Goodwill Industries
7. ERC Community Warehouse

8. Manchester Health Services Thrift Shop
9. Renew Building Materials & Salvage located in Brattleboro
10. Shaftsbury Swap Shed
11. Pownal Swap Shed

Important Dates:

**HHW Collection Day on
Saturday April 30, 2011
8:00 am until Noon**

At the Fisher Elementary School in Arlington VT. It is open to the residents and small businesses of **Arlington, Dorset, Manchester, Rupert, Sandgate and Sunderland.**

**HHW Collection Day on
Saturday May 14, 2011
9:00 am until 1:00 pm**

At the Shaftsbury Transfer Station. It is open to the residents and small businesses of **Shaftsbury, Stamford and Pownal.** Current landfill permits are needed to use this free service.

**Electronic Waste Collection
Saturday May 14, 2011**

9:00 am until 2:00 pm

Dorset residents can recycle their electronic waste at the Dorset School. There will be a fee for CRT monitors and TVs.

**Check out our website:
www.bcrsolidwaste.com**

- Download a design to build a compost bin in your back yard or buy an affordable compost bin from BCRC.
- Learn more about recycling and the transfer stations in your area.
- Discover where you can buy and sell used items.
- Learn how to stop junk mail.

Please do your part to reduce waste in Vermont.

According to the Environmental Protection Agency, Americans threw away 12.4 million tons of textiles in 2008 vs. 1.8 million tons in 1960. Textiles can be recycled and reused. Donate unwanted clothes and textiles to charities. See the locations listed in this newsletter for ideas of where you can bring your textiles.

Warm weather brings gardens and lawns. If you're composting, you will have some terrific free nutrients to use in place of buying chemical fertilizers. When you mow, leave your grass clippings on the lawn where they will decompose, disappear quickly and return nutrients to the soil, preventing the need for purchasing fertilizer.

Reduce your trash volume and your trash bill by composting!

Visit our website for ideas about how to build a home composting bin:
www.bcrsolidwaste.com/compost.html
If you aren't already composting, give it a try!

Recycle Your Maple Sap Tubing

Springtime means maple syrup production. If you are using plastic tubing for sap collection, please consider recycling your old tubing. Most newer tubing can be recycled. PVC tubing cannot be recycled. To determine if the old tubing is PVC plastic, cut a piece off and drop it into a glass of water. If the tubing floats it can be recycled, if it sinks it is likely PVC. Cut the mainline into 4' lengths, coil or bundle the tubing and store the tubing in large Gaylord boxes if possible.

Vermont producers can email Annie Macmillan at the Vermont Agency of Agriculture:
anne.macmillan@state.vt.us
or reach her by telephone at 802-828-3479 for more information about recycling tubing.

Buy Recycled Latex Paint

Leftover latex paint is collected, inspected for quality and sorted by color. The selected paint is re-blended, double filtered and poured into 5 gallon and 2 gallon buckets. The re-blended paint can be applied with a brush, roller or paint sprayer.

Both exterior and interior grades are available in matte finish. Since the colors vary from batch to batch, be sure to pick up enough paint to finish the job! The cost is less than half of the cost of new paint and is available at the ReBuild Building Materials and Salvage at 16 Town Crier Drive #2 in Brattleboro, VT. You can call them at 802-246-2400 or stop in Monday thru Saturday 9:00 am to 5:30 pm.

Fishing Can Be Lead-Free

Lead is toxic and harmful to humans. We have removed lead from our paint, plumbing and gas and it is time to remove it from our waters too.

Ducks, loons and other waterfowl can die from lead poisoning if they ingest lead sinkers.

Remember, it is illegal to fish with a lead sinker weighing one half ounce or less in VT.

Find out more information about how you can make a difference at:
www.vtfishandwildlife.com.

Greenup Day is May 7, 2011!

Please volunteer to pick up litter along the roads of your town. Visit your town office or www.greenupvermont.org to find out who your local Green Up coordinator is.

Remember that **every** day can be Green Up Day. Litter happens all year round and there's always a need to make Vermont even more attractive for all of us.

Fluorescent Bulbs

Fluorescent bulbs save energy and should be used in place of incandescent bulbs whenever possible.

All fluorescent bulbs contain mercury and should never be placed in the trash! Bulbs that aren't broken should be placed into boxes and taped shut. Write the number of bulbs on the outside of the box.

If you do break a bulb, first ventilate the area well. Do not vacuum. Use gloves to pick up the pieces, placing them in a puncture resistant container and sealing it closed. Store the broken bulb away from children or your home until you can bring it to your Transfer Station for proper recycling. According to the EPA, all components of a fluorescent bulb are recyclable.

To determine if a bulb contains mercury look for the symbol "Hg" within a circle stamped on the bulb. Other bulbs that contain mercury are: black lights, high intensity discharge (HID), mercury vapor, metal halide, high pressure sodium, ultraviolet and neon bulbs.

Please do your part to keep mercury out of our environment. For more information visit
www.epa.gov/cfl/cflrecycling.html.

What to do with flower pots?

Before your empty plastic flower pots and packs end up in a landfill or incinerator, offer them to a friend, neighbor, garden club or other organization that might be planning a perennial sale.

Small growers and nurseries have been known to occasionally take back empty pots for reuse but usually the risk of contamination is too great. It never hurts to ask!