Vermont’s Universal Recycling Law

Josh Kelly, Materials Management Section Chief
ANR Waste Management & Prevention Division
THE PROBLEM

~50% of trash could be recycled/composted

Residential MSW 2013

- Special Wastes 21%
- C&D 10%
- Organics 28%
- Paper 22%
- Plastic 11%
- HHW 0%
- Electronics 2%
- Glass 2%
- Metal 4%
2012 – BIG year for Vermont

Universal Recycling (Act 148) passes unanimously

Hey, you can compost that!

That’s recyclable!
Moving from “waste”
Comprehensive Solid Waste Leg.

- **Required Diversion (bans)** = **Motivation**
  - recyclables
  - leaf, yard, and clean wood
  - food scraps

- **Parallel Collection** = **Convenience**

- **Pay As You Throw** = **Incentive**

- **Recycling in Public Spaces** = **Lead by Example**
Baseline Recyclables

- **Metal**
  - Steel cans and containers
  - Aluminum cans, pie plates, clean foil
- **Paper**
  - Newspaper, office paper
  - Mail, magazines, paper bags, soft cover books
  - Cardboard, boxboard
- **Plastic**
  - #1 & #2
- **Glass**
  - Bottles and Jars
## Timing

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>MATERIAL</th>
<th>FACILITIES</th>
<th>HAULERS</th>
<th>BANNED</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Recyclables</td>
<td>2014</td>
<td>2015</td>
<td>2015</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Leaf &amp; Yard</td>
<td>2015</td>
<td>2016</td>
<td>2016</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Food Scraps</td>
<td>2017</td>
<td>2017</td>
<td>2014-2020</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Clean Wood</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>2016</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Food Scraps Summary

- Phases for larger food scrap generators, if there is a facility within 20 miles

- **2014**: > 104 tons/year, 2 tons/wk
- **2015**: > 52 tons/year, 1 ton/wk
- **2016**: > 26 tons/year, 1/2 ton/wk
- **2017**: > 18 tons/year, 1/3 ton/wk
- **2020**: All food scraps banned regardless of distance
Residents need not compost meat and bones if they compost at home.

Businesses/Institutions de minimis clause
Bill Emerson Good Samaritan Food Donation Act (1996) – helps protect food donors from liability associated with donated food.
Some of What We’ve Done

- Hauler Meetings
- Town/District Meetings
- Industry Outreach
- Site Visits
- Letters & Phone Calls
- Outreach Materials
- Webinars
- Small Grants
- Partnerships & Collaboration

Tote washing. Photo courtesy of CVSWMD
Materials Management Map
Food Scrap Generator

CHELSEA ROYAL DINER
Food Establishment
Restaurant

Estimated Tons Per Week: 0.63

Physical Address:
487 MARLBORO ROAD
BRATTLEBORO
05303

Telephone Number:
Website: http://www.chelsearoyaldiner.com
Facebook Link:

See something incorrect? Click to Submit Correction
View Additional Details
Edit Feature
Hartford C&D Landfill & Transfer Station

Facility Type: Transfer Station

Accepts:
- Recycling: YES
- E-Waste: YES
- Food Scraps: NO
- Leaf Yard Debris: YES

Trash: YES
HHW: NO
Clean Wood: NO
Specifics: 

*Please call to confirm what materials are currently accepted before visiting.

Physical Address:
Get Directions
2590 North Hartland Road
Hartford
05047

Telephone Number: 802-295-9353
Email:
Website: http://www.hartford-vt.org/content/recycling/

See something incorrect? Click to Submit Correction

View Additional Details

Edit Feature
20-mile radius tool
How much food waste do you produce?

Restaurant

\[
\text{# Seats} \times \text{Lbs./meal} \times \text{Meals/day} \times \text{days/wk} = \text{Lbs./wk}
\]

\[
65 \times 1.0 \times 3 \times 7 = 1,365
\]

0.68 tons/week = estimated 35 tons/year
How much food waste do you produce?

Institution
(prison, nursing home, hospital)

\[
\text{# Beds} \times \text{Lbs./meal} \times \text{Meals/day} \times 7 \text{ days/wk} = \text{Lbs./wk}
\]

\[
100 \times 0.5 \times 3 \times 7 = 1,050
\]

0.53 tons/week = estimated 27 tons/year
Where Things Stand

RECYCLING (ban 3 months in effect)
- All Facilities accept recyclables
- Haulers are rolling out recycling services
- Recyclables are up!

ORGANICS (off to a great start)
- 10 Composters, 11 Haulers, up to 17 farm ADs
- 2 ton generators diverting; 1 tons outreach ongoing
- Leaf & yard collection growing rapidly
- Food Donation up nearly 30%!!!
Compost etc.

Two AD Pilots in Gap Areas

★ Rutland

★ Randolph
CHALLENGES
- Lack of Funding
- Down Recycling Markets
- Rural State/Economies of Scale

OPPORTUNITIES
- More Attention Than Ever
- Partnerships, Connections, Leverage
  - (compost/AD coexistence)
- Rural State = Space & Existing Farm Infrastructure
Learning Lessons

- Engage Stakeholders Early and Often
- Ensure Level Playing Field
- Provide a Path Forward for Facilities
- Watch Markets
- Enforce Carefully
- Use Funding to Incentivize Greatest Needs
- Listen and Adapt
Use the SYMBOLS!

- State Standardized Symbols available for free.
- Search web for “Universal Recycling VT”

josh.kelly@state.vt.us  802.522.5897

Follow us on Twitter -- @VTrecycles