

Bennington County Solid Waste Alliance

Arlington, Bennington, Dorset, Glastenbury, Manchester, Pownal, Rupert, Sandgate, Searsburg, Shaftsbury, Stamford, Sunderland, and Woodford

The Bennington County Solid Waste Alliance works to reduce the amount of waste disposed in landfills by promoting recycling and reuse as well as resource conservation. The Alliance offers education and outreach to businesses, schools, institutions, and event organizers in complying with the Universal Recycling Law and other solid waste management requirements primarily by increasing reuse and recycling. These programs help residents, businesses, schools, and institutions find solutions to recycling, food scrap diversion and the disposal of items such as electronic waste, fluorescent bulbs, paint, and others that are banned from landfills.

The Alliance hosts a website at www.bcswa.org, and manages public outreach through social media at facebook.com/solidwastealliance, instagram.com/bcswa_vt, and youtube.com/@bcswa. The website and social media channels provide information to residents about:

- battery recycling through the Call2Recycle program (including a mail pickup)
- disposal of used motor oil at retail establishments and transfer stations that accept motor oil
- recycling of paint through the PaintCare program, including retail stores that accept paint
- prescription drug disposal including drop-off locations
- recycling of textiles by the Apparel Impact, Goodwill, and others
- events for disposing household hazardous waste
- disposing of fluorescent bulbs, compact fluorescent lamps (CFLs) and other mercury items at transfer stations and retail establishments
- disposal of E-Waste at area transfer stations, Goodwill, and retail establishments
- diverting food scraps by composting and annual sales of compost bins and kitchen containers
- resources for businesses, schools, events, institutions and residents

During 2022 the Alliance assisted 41 businesses, held composting and Recycling events at the Manchester Library, and hosted tables at several farmers markets. On-site presentations and/or curriculum were provided to Southshire Community School, the Dorset School, Mount Anthony Union Middle School, Mt. Anthony Union High School, and Molly Stark Elementary School.

BCSWA holds an annual sale of reduced price composting equipment to encourage citizens to remove food scraps from their landfill waste. In 2022 BCSWA sold 103 composters/digesters, and 22 composting accessories.

The Alliance held household hazardous waste collection events in Bennington, Searsburg, Dorset with 613 households participating. Also in 2022, BCSWA began the development of a permanent household hazardous collection waste facility to be located at the Bennington Transfer Station. The facility is expected to open in June 2023.

Visit bcswa.org for updates and details. The Alliance receives most of its funding from the thirteen towns along with grants from the Vermont Agency of Natural Resources and the Agency of Agriculture and Markets.