

Haulers & Facilities**Parallel Collection Fact Sheet**

This document is written to clarify the parallel collection requirements of the Universal Recycling law for solid waste haulers and certified facilities (transfer stations, drop-offs, landfills). It is also written to provide guidance from the Agency of Natural Resources (ANR) for the frequency of collection and the on-the-ground, day-to-day application of these requirements. **Parallel collection** refers to the requirement of solid waste haulers and facilities to collect recyclables, leaf and yard debris, and food scraps at the same location as trash.

RECYCLING

- A. The following recyclables (referred to as “listed recyclables”) are banned from the landfill July 1, 2015:
- a. **Metal:** aluminum and steel cans, aluminum foil and pie plates,
 - b. **Glass:** bottles and jars from foods and beverages,
 - c. **Plastics:** #1 and #2 (PET and HDPE resin types) containers,
 - d. **Paper:** corrugated cardboard, white and colored paper, newspaper, magazines, paper mail and envelopes, boxboard, and paper bags.

**Facilities and Bag-drop Haulers:**

- B. Facilities (transfer stations, drop-offs, landfills) and Bag-drop haulers that offer collection of solid waste, must offer collection of listed recyclables to all customers (except commercial haulers) by July 1, 2014.
- C. Facilities may charge separate fees for the collection of listed recyclables. Bag-drop haulers may not charge a separate line item fee to residential customers¹ for the cost of collection of listed recyclables, but may incorporate those costs into the charge for the collection of solid waste. Bag-drop haulers may turn away customers that only bring listed recyclables.

Curbside Haulers:

- D. Haulers that offer collection of solid waste, must offer collection of listed recyclables for all customers (including residents, businesses, and institutions) by July 1, 2015 or, subcontract with another Hauler who can provide these services to their customers.
- E. Haulers may not charge a separate line item fee to residential customers for the cost of collection of listed recyclables, but may incorporate those costs into the charge for the collection of solid waste. Haulers may adjust the charge for the collection of solid waste to account for collection costs for recyclables.
- F. Haulers may charge commercial customers for the collection of listed recyclables.
- G. If a residential customer requests curbside collection of listed recyclables **only** (without trash collection services) from a Hauler, the Hauler may charge a fee for that service call or stop.
- H. Recycling Collection Frequency: Haulers should collect recycling at least as often as trash is picked up and in a recycling container that is at least as large as the trash container provided.

¹ Residential Customers include: single family homes, multi-family dwellings, townhouses, condominiums, apartments, and mobile home parks. For purposes of implementing the Universal Recycling law, hotels, motels, campgrounds, and dormitories are not considered “residential customers.”

LEAF AND YARD DEBRIS, AND FOOD SCRAPS

- A. Leaf, yard, and clean wood debris are banned from the landfill July 1, 2016 and food scraps are banned from the landfill July 1, 2020.



Facilities and Bag-drop Haulers:

- B. Facilities and Bag-drop Haulers that offer collection of solid waste must offer at least seasonal (April 1 – Dec. 15) collection of leaf and yard debris by July 1, 2015 to all customers and may charge fees for these services.
- C. Facilities and Bag-drop Haulers must offer collection of food scraps by July 1, 2017 to all customers and may charge fees for these services.

Curbside Haulers:

- D. Curbside haulers that offer collection of solid waste must offer collection of food scraps to all customers by July 1, 2020. Haulers may charge for the collection food scraps from all customers, and may subcontract with another hauler who can provide this service to their customers.
- E. Frequency of Collection:
 - a. **Food Scraps:** Haulers should collect food scraps, at minimum, weekly during all warmer months (approximately May 1st –October 31st) and at minimum, every other week during all cooler months (approximately November 1st-April 30th). In no instance should food scrap collection frequency create a health hazard or nuisance.

ANR encourages the use of the **state standardized recycling symbols** for all containers and signage. Symbols are available for free download from the Universal Recycling Information webpage here: www.vtrecycles.com



Photos of Brattleboro’s curbside compost pilot collected by Triple T Trucking. (Image Source: Windham Solid Waste Management District)

FOR MORE INFORMATION CONTACT:

Department of Environmental Conservation

Waste Management & Prevention Division, Solid Waste Program

1 National Life Drive, Davis 1, Montpelier, VT 05620-3704

(802) 828-1138

VTrecycles.com

For information on local recycling ordinances and resources please contact your solid waste planning entity found in the link below, or contact your town manager. 802recycles.com