

Residents

Summary and FAQs

With the adoption of the Universal Recycling law Vermont has taken an ambitious step to reduce the amount of material that goes to the landfill. Universal recycling gives all Vermonters the opportunity to keep valuable materials out of the trash through convenient and consistent services for recycling and composting throughout the state. This summary sheet is to help you understand the elements of the law.

Summary of Universal Recycling Law

The new Universal Recycling law calls for trash to be charged on a per unit basis, often referred to as unit based pricing (charge per bag or by weight) and it phases in landfill disposal bans on listed recyclables, leaf and yard debris, clean wood debris, and food scraps. Universal Recycling will also provide more opportunities for residents to separate recyclables and food scraps, leaf and yard debris by requiring solid waste haulers, transfer stations and drop-off facilities to offer residential collection services for these materials. The phased timeline allows for the gradual development of services and infrastructure needed to recycle and compost all of these valuable materials before the bans take effect.

Timeline for Residents

Items that will be banned from trash disposal*:

- July 1, 2015:
 - Listed recyclables including:
 - Aluminum and steel cans
 - Aluminum foil and aluminum pie pans
 - Glass bottles and jars from foods and beverages
 - Plastics #1 and #2 (PET and HDPE resin types)
 - Corrugated cardboard
 - White and mixed paper
 - Newspaper, magazines, catalogues, paper mail, and envelopes
 - Box board
- July 1, 2016: Leaf, yard, and clean wood debris
- July 1, 2020: Food scraps



Unit Based Pricing must be implemented by all municipalities by July 1, 2015

*Other materials are already banned (<http://www.anr.state.vt.us/dec/wastediv/documents/LandfillBanPoster.pdf>) from landfill disposal in Vermont; this list is not a comprehensive list of the statewide landfill ban. Additionally, many solid waste districts already require recycling of these and other materials.

Frequently Asked Questions

1. Q: Why is the law needed?

A: Vermonters recycle or compost only half of the materials they could. These materials are valuable and throwing them out is a waste of money, energy, and shared resources.

2. Q: What are the benefits of the law?

A: There are several benefits. To name a few:

- Lowers Vermont's greenhouse gas emissions (estimated 38% improvement)
- Increases recycling (estimated increase from current rate of 33% to goal of 60%) and reduces the need for landfills
- More recycling conserves resources and reduces energy consumption
- Stimulates economic growth
- Supports the local food system
- Fosters stronger community connections

3. Q: What if I don't have collection or drop-off options for recycling, leaf and yard debris, or food scraps in my area?

A: All solid waste haulers and facilities are required to collect and accept listed recyclables, leaf and yard debris, and food scraps from residents by specific dates (see question 5). If these services are not offered by your trash hauler or transfer station call the Agency of Natural Resources at 802-828-1138.

Facilities and haulers can charge a combined fee for collecting trash and recyclables. They may charge fees for collecting leaf and yard debris and food scraps. To save money, composting food scraps, leaf and yard debris at home is encouraged.

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

www.recycle.vermont.gov

4. Q: Is anyone going to enforce the landfill bans?

A: Yes. The Agency of Natural Resources has enforcement authority and solid waste districts and towns also have enforcement authority. However, education and outreach will be the initial method of implementing Universal Recycling.

5. Q: What are the full specifications of the law for these materials?

A: Listed Recyclables:

- Facilities must collect starting July 1, 2014
- Haulers must offer collection on July 1, 2015
- Must be collected in public spaces (alongside trash containers) starting July 1, 2015
- Banned from the landfill starting July 1, 2015

Leaf & Yard Debris:

- Facilities must collect starting July 1, 2015
- Haulers must offer collection on July 1, 2016
- Banned from the landfill starting July 1, 2016

Food Scraps:

- Facilities must collect starting July 1, 2017
- Haulers must offer collection on July 1, 2017
- Banned from the landfill starting July 1, 2020

6. Q: Where can I find information on facilities or haulers who can collect my recycling, trash or food scraps? And other unwanted household products such as paint, e-waste or hazardous waste?

A: See our website for proper disposal information and for a contact list for you local solid waste district, alliance or town clerk:
<http://www.anr.state.vt.us/dec/wastediv/solid/swmdlist.htm>