

State of Vermont
Department of Environmental Conservation
Waste Management & Prevention Division
Solid Waste Program
1 National Life Drive, Davis 1
Montpelier, VT 05620-3704
Tel: 802-828-1138

AGENCY OF NATURAL RESOURCES

June 25, 2014

Town of Pomfret
Becky Fielder
5218 Pomfret Road
North Pomfret, VT 05053

Dear Vermont Municipal Official:

As a municipality you are one of the stakeholders affected by Vermont's Universal Recycling Law (Act 148). **Information in this letter is included to help identify your specific responsibilities under the law.** Municipalities, solid waste facilities and haulers, food scrap generators, residents, businesses, and institutions are all affected by the law. The Agency of Natural Resources (ANR) is creating materials to help each stakeholder group understand the objectives of Universal Recycling, and to provide ample notification for critical dates outlined in the law. Many of you may already be working with your solid waste district or alliance on these responsibilities.

Please find enclosed a Universal Recycling summary sheet for municipalities, as well as a summary and Frequently Asked Question (FAQ) sheet for residents. Please distribute these to municipal officials (Town Managers, Town Clerks, Select Board Members, Transfer Station employees, etc.) as necessary.

Below are key requirements for municipalities under the Universal Recycling Law. **Municipalities** must:

- Implement a variable rate pricing system* (also known as unit-based pricing) that charges for collection of trash from residential customers by volume or weight by **July 1, 2015**. Guidance is available from the Agency of Natural Resources (ANR) on our Universal Recycling webpage.
- Provide equal number of containers for listed¹⁵² recyclables alongside all trash containers in public spaces by **July 1, 2015**
- Comply with listed recyclables landfill ban by **July 1, 2015**
- Comply with leaf, yard and clean wood debris landfill ban by **July 1, 2016**
- Comply with food scraps landfill ban by **July 1, 2020**

*Variable rate pricing (also known as unit-based pricing or pay as you throw) is a rate structure where a person pays a set fee for each bag (e.g. volume unit), or for each pound (e.g. weight unit) of trash they throw away. These

¹⁵² Listed recyclables under Act 148 include: aluminum and steel cans, aluminum foil and pie pans, glass bottles and jars from food and beverages, PET and HDPE plastic bottles and jugs, corrugated cardboard, white and mixed paper, newspaper, magazines, catalogues, paper mail, envelopes, and box board.

Other materials are already banned from the landfill in Vermont; this list is not a comprehensive list of the statewide landfill ban. Additionally, many solid waste management districts already mandate recycling of these and other materials.



pricing systems have been shown as an equitable means to incentivize waste reduction and diversion of recyclables and compostable materials.

ANR has released a Variable Rate Pricing Guide for municipalities, which includes a “sample ordinance” municipalities may adopt to implement variable rate pricing in their region:



How do I get there? Go to www.recycle.vt.gov/Act148. Click on “Variable Rate Pricing Guide” and “Sample Ordinance for Variable Rate Pricing” under Universal Recycling Documents.

As a municipality, many stakeholders—including waste haulers, businesses, facilities, schools, and residents—may seek help from you on implementing their own requirements under the law. Please review the compliance dates for these stakeholders in the information below. Additional outreach materials for these groups can be found on our website at recycle.vt.gov (click on the Universal Recycling link in the left hand column).

Facilities that collect trash must also provide collection of:

- Listed Recyclables¹ by July 1, 2014
- Leaf and yard debris by July 1, 2015
- Food scraps by July 1, 2017

Trash haulers that offer curbside service must also collect:

- Listed recyclables¹ by July 1, 2015
- Leaf and yard debris by July 1, 2016
- Food scraps by July 1, 2017

Residents must separate and divert:

- Listed recyclables¹ by July 1, 2015
- Leaf, yard, and clean wood debris by July 1, 2016
- Food scraps by July 1, 2020

Businesses, institutions, schools, or other large food scrap generators:

- Producing 104 tons per year of food scraps must divert material from the landfill by July 1, 2014
- Must recycle all listed recyclables by July 1, 2015
- Producing 52 tons per year of food scraps must divert material from the landfill by July 1, 2015

Visit the Universal Recycling webpages at recycle.vermont.gov to view more compliance dates beyond 2015.

If you have questions please contact the Solid Waste Program staff by calling (802) 828-1138; or by emailing mia.roethlein@state.vt.us, or bryn.oakleaf@state.vt.us

Sincerely,

Mia Roethlein
Environmental Analyst IV

Residents**Summary and FAQs**

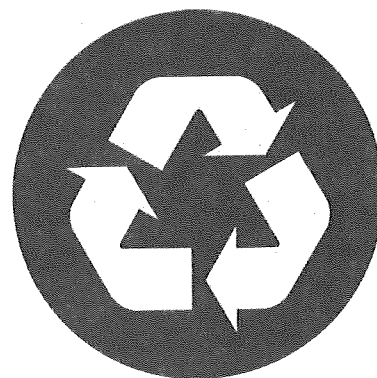
With the adoption of the Universal Recycling law Vermont has taken an ambitious step to reduce the amount of material that goes to the landfill. Universal recycling gives all Vermonters the opportunity to keep valuable materials out of the trash through convenient and consistent services for recycling 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>

Municipalities

Summary



Why is the law needed?

Waste diversion rates have plateaued in Vermont between 30 to 36% over the past 10 years. A major portion of the waste stream that is disposed is composed of recyclable items, leaf and yard debris, and food scraps that could be kept out of landfills and put to better use. Landfilling these materials (especially food scraps) contributes to climate change by producing greenhouse gas emissions, and takes up limited landfill space.

What is the goal of Universal Recycling (Act 148)?

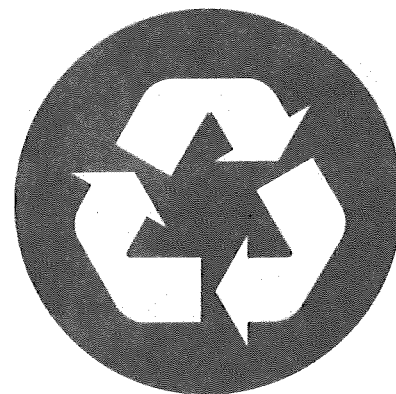
The goal is to keep these valuable materials from being landfilled and increase convenience for their collection. By establishing phased-in bans on these materials (recyclables, food scraps, leaf and yard debris) and by requiring parallel collection (collection of these materials at the same location where trash is collected), more of these materials can be kept out of the landfill. The bans adopted in Act 148 send a signal to markets and end-users that materials will be available for processing. Having a dedicated source of valuable material creates an incentive to invest in the infrastructure needed to meet a growing demand for their reprocessing. Universal Recycling will also develop convenient and consistent recycling and composting services for Vermont residents and businesses statewide.

What will Municipalities need to do?

- Implement a variable rate pricing system (a.k.a. unit-based pricing) that charges for the collection of MSW from residential customers by **volume** or **weight** by July 1, 2015. See “Variable Rate Pricing Guide” and a sample ordinance online for more information.
- Provide containers for listed recyclables alongside all trash containers in public spaces (except restrooms) by July 1, 2015
- Comply with listed recyclables landfill ban by July 1, 2015
- Comply with leaf, yard and clean wood debris landfill ban by July 1, 2016
- Comply with food scraps landfill ban by July 1, 2020
- Comply with the parallel collection requirements for any municipally operated solid waste hauling and facilities (transfer stations, landfills, etc.). See “Parallel Collection Fact Sheet” online for more information (link is on next page).

What is Variable Rate (or Unit-Based) Pricing?

Many communities in Vermont, the United States, and in other countries pay for their trash the same way that they pay for their electricity—based on the amount they use—or in this case, the amount of trash they produce. This payment system is commonly referred to as unit-based pricing (UBP), where a resident pays a certain fee for each bag/container (e.g. volume unit) or for each pound (e.g. weight unit) of trash they throw away. Unit-based pricing systems provide an incentive to generate less, which can save municipalities money on disposal costs.



Who are the other affected stakeholders and what will they need to do?

Facilities that collect trash must also collect:

- Listed recyclables¹ by July 1, 2014
- Leaf and yard debris by July 1, 2015
- Food scraps by July 1, 2017

Trash haulers that offer curbside service must also provide services for:

- Listed recyclables by July 1, 2015
- Leaf and yard debris by July 1, 2016
- Food scraps by July 1, 2017

Residents will need to recycle, compost and divert the following materials from the landfill by dates listed:

- Listed recyclables¹ by July 1, 2015
- Leaf and yard debris and clean wood waste by July 1, 2016
- Food scraps by July 1, 2020

Businesses, institutions, schools, and other large food scrap generators will need to divert the following materials from the landfill by the dates listed:

Listed Recyclables:

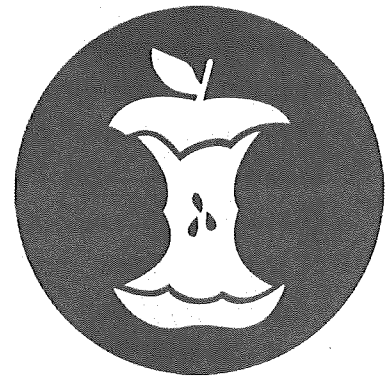
- All listed recyclables by July 1, 2015

Leaf & Yard Debris:

- Leaf and yard debris and clean wood waste by July 1, 2016

Food Scraps:

- Depending on the amount of food scraps generated and distance to a composting facility, deadlines range from July 1, 2014 (for those producing 2 tons or more per week) to July 1, 2020 (for all). Please see [Universal Recycling Timeline](#) for details.



See ANR's Parallel Collection Fact Sheet for detail on what services haulers and facilities are required to offer.

PARALLEL COLLECTION
FACT SHEET

HAVE QUESTIONS? Call 802-828-1138 or visit our website at recycle.vermont.gov



AGENCY OF NATURAL RESOURCES

¹ Listed recyclables under Act 148 include: aluminum and steel cans, aluminum foil and pie pans, glass bottles and jars from food and beverages, #1 and #2 (PET and HDPE) plastic, corrugated cardboard, white and mixed paper, newspaper, magazines, catalogues, paper mail, envelopes, and box board.

NOTE: Other materials are already banned (<http://www.anr.state.vt.us/dec/wastediv/documents/LandfillBanPoster.pdf>) from landfill disposal in Vermont; this factsheet does not include a comprehensive list of the statewide landfill ban. Additionally, many solid waste districts already require recycling of these and other materials. Contact your local solid waste entity or town manager for more information.