

Life Beyond Garbage E-Bulletin



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Keeping the Stakeholder Process Moving Forward

Last June the Agency of Natural Resources along with a diverse group of stakeholders released the report [Life Beyond Garbage, Vermont Waste Prevention and Diversion Strategies](#). The report recommended 27 strategies within five material categories: organics, electronics, construction waste, traditional recyclables, and household hazardous waste. Although the Waste Prevention Steering Committee was eager to start up, the Agency is first completing several other planning processes which will move the report's key strategies forward.

This electronic newsletter provides you with news and calendar items related to the report's key strategies. The electronic format both reduces waste and allows you to link to websites that provide more details on the programs highlighted.

Lastly we plan to bring the waste prevention stakeholders together early in 2009, to begin moving Life Beyond Garbage's recommendations forward.

*We'd especially like to hear from you.
Send us your ideas and announcements related to
waste prevention. Let us know what strategies and
specific areas of interest you want to work on.*



Life Beyond Garbage E-Bulletin

is produced by the Solid Waste Program. Our purpose is to continue to keep waste prevention stakeholders up to date about waste reduction planning and programs in Vermont. Let us know what articles you would like to see in future issues. To be placed on the mailing list, please contact:




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Vermont Product Stewardship Council Launched

On October 6th, a group of solid waste districts and alliances launched the [Vermont Product Stewardship Council](#) (VTPSC). Jen Holliday, from the Chittenden Solid Waste District, headed up the effort and was elected council chair. Product Stewardship or Extended Producer Responsibility is an important policy tool explains Jen Holliday. It increases the responsibility of manufacturers to reduce the entire life cycle impacts of their products, including end-of-life management. "The Vermont Product Stewardship Council (VTPSC) will be the vehicle for implementing this important tool."

Seven solid waste districts currently make up the VTPSC voting members and have started developing their work plan. The VTPSC work plan will start by focusing on:

-  education and outreach, including a logo, website, public relations, and recruiting new members and stakeholders
-  work plan development, including prioritizing which problem materials to address
-  drafting framework legislation

In addition, seven of Vermont's solid waste districts and alliances and the Agency of Natural Resources are members of the national [Product Stewardship Institute](#), and have signed off on its product stewardship principles. Two Canadian provinces, British Columbia and Nova Scotia, and three councils in the U.S. representing five states have started product stewardship councils as well.

The VTPSC is the first council in the eastern U.S.





Composting at the
New
England Culinary
Institute

Legislative Committees to Work on Solid Waste Issues

During last two years, the Legislature required that two committees form to address critical issues concerning solid waste. One focused solely on composting, the other on all types of solid waste. Both are required to report back to the legislature by January 15th 2009. The Agency of Natural Resources is convening the groups and the *Beyond Waste* report is a critical piece of the background materials provided.

[Solid Waste Working Group's](#) charge is to review the [Agency's Solid Waste Report to the Legislature](#), submitted to the Legislature last January, and to develop its own proposals and recommendations to improve upon it. The Agency report summarized the State Solid Waste Program recommendations on managing waste in the future. Participants in the Working Group represent a broad range of interests including solid waste districts, private businesses, non-profits, and municipalities.

[Compost Study Committee's](#) charges are to:

- provide recommendations on rules for compost facilities,
- recommend strategies for increasing public awareness about the benefits of composting , and
- provide information to the composting community to make it easy to start up or operate a compost business.



Association of Vermont Recyclers Hires New Director

The *Beyond Garbage* report identified education as an overarching theme in reducing Vermont's waste. The [Association of Vermont Recyclers](#) (AVR), a key organization educating Vermonters, hired Norm Staunton this summer as its new director. The organization is looking to expand the breath and depth of its programs, expand its geographic reach beyond Vermont, explore new partnerships, and work with local, state and federal agencies.

Agency of Natural Resources Secretary Signs MOU with Solid Waste District Managers

The Vermont Solid Waste District Managers' Working Group will work with ANR staff to develop recommendations for a new Vermont Solid Waste Management Plan. Both parties will also examine the statewide economic structure of solid waste management and the infrastructure needed to move forward to provide equitable solid waste management services statewide.

Composting Association Update

The [Composting Association of Vermont](#) (CAV) is completing its permitting project: [Legal Compost](#). The project provides a critical step for creating state level regulations that support organics diversion, resource recovery, composting, compost site development, and the use of compost as components of a sustainable economy. Stakeholders are expecting to give the final approval of the Legal Compost project report on November 14, 2008. At that time, the project report will be made available to the public.



Two New England Projects Supporting Waste Prevention Priorities Funded Through the [EPA's Resource Conservation Challenge](#)



[The Northeast Waste Management Officials' Association](#) (NEWMOA) received a \$25,000 grant to promote recycling and reuse of gypsum wallboard left over from construction, demolition and remodeling (C&D) projects.

The [Northeast Recycling Council](#) received a \$25,000 grant to work with the Vermont [Green Hotels program](#) to increase the "rescue" of food (in partnership with the [Vermont Foodbank](#)), to expand composting of food, and reduce hotels' use of toxic chemicals. Studies have found hotel rooms generate up to 28 pounds a day of waste a day.

Priority Material Updates

Household Hazardous Waste (HHW)

Last legislative session, the Vermont Legislature passed [H. 515](#). It required the existing Advisory Committee on Mercury Pollution (ACMP) to report back to the Legislature on whether the jurisdiction of the ACMP should be expanded to include review

Priority Material Updates (cont.)

Household Hazardous Waste (cont.)

of other toxic substances.

The legislatively-mandated Committee currently focuses solely on mercury issues. An expanded committee, if recommended to the Legislature and adopted as law, would address one of four recommendations from the Waste Prevention's household hazardous waste subcommittee, to "Establish a legislatively-appointed Advisory Council on Toxic Substances to assess hazardous, toxic, persistent, and bioaccumulative chemicals in consumer products and waste." The ACMP established a Subcommittee to develop the legislative report.

If the Subcommittee recommends expanding the jurisdiction of the ACMP, it will include recommendations on the types or categories of toxic substances to be included, and the statutory charges of the expanded Committee. Subcommittee meeting [minutes](#) are posted, and the report is due to the Legislature in January 2009.

Vermont to be a Partner in the National Waste Paint Stewardship Program

The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) estimates that about 10 percent of all paint purchased in the United States becomes leftover - around 64 million gallons annually.

The cost for municipalities to manage leftover consumer paint averages \$8 per gallon, making paint a half a billion dollar per year management cost. Retailers and manufacturers also manage millions of

gallons of surplus and off-spec paint, paint with damaged packaging, and paint returned by customers.

Chittenden Solid Waste District, the Vermont Agency of Natural Resources, and the Product Stewardship Institute will launch a pilot product stewardship program for waste paint in 2010. This collaborative effort with U.S. EPA, state and local governments, manufacturers, retailers, paint recyclers, paint contractors, and environmental/consumer advocates will develop solutions to manage leftover paint that are both financially and environmentally sustainable.

The program began last October, with the National Painting and Coatings Association signing a [Memorandum of Understanding](#) to develop a Paint Stewardship Organization (PSO) and to launch a state-wide "Demonstration Project" in Minnesota. The pilot collection program will work through critical issues and gather information to develop a functional, fully funded, environmentally sound, and cost-effective, nationally coordinated leftover paint management system.

Based on the results of the Minnesota Project, the plan is to roll out a phased-in national system in the rest of the United States. Vermont will be one of the first states to set up a program, slated to begin in 2010. *Stay tuned.*



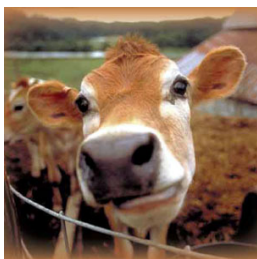
Priority Material Updates (cont.)

Organics

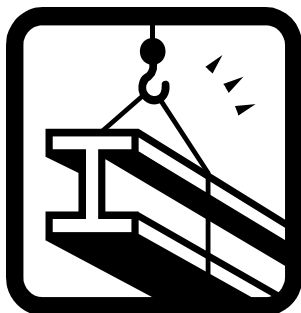
The Vermont Environmental Consortium, along with the Central Vermont Solid Waste District, and Vermont Technical College (VTC) have partnered to research a [new pioneering option](#) for organics in Vermont.

Thanks to Senator Patrick Leahy, this partnership was awarded a \$500,000 Department of Energy grant in December, 2007. The project

involves conducting a full feasibility study and creating engineering and architectural designs for a 260kW biodigester and electricity and heat co-generation facility on VTC's Randolph campus. Using 14 tons of clean food scraps daily and an equivalent amount of cow manure from VTC's 240 cows, the biodigester will provide saleable electricity and heat for the campus. The technology has the potential to revolutionize Vermont's energy portfolio and farm economy.



Construction Waste and Demolition Debris (C&D)



The C&D Waste Prevention subcommittee identified drywall as a priority material to reduce. Comprising over 25 percent of the construction waste stream, drywall is heavy and produces noxious hydrogen sulfide gas in landfills. While recycling options do exist in Vermont, they are expensive and markets are located

out of state. The Agency of Natural Resources awarded a \$10,000 grant to *Go-Green Recycling* of Shelburne to research on-site waste drywall recycling. The company will collect and process the scrap drywall from a new housing development in South Burlington and land apply the drywall at the construction site.

Unfortunately, Vermont's wet summer delayed the application of the drywall (it's difficult to till mud!) and the project will be completed next construction season.

Electronics

Across the U.S., state and local government purchase more than \$35 billion worth of technology equipment annually. The [State Electronics Challenge](#) is a voluntary program that encourages state, regional, and local governments, including schools and other public entities, to:

- Purchase greener electronic products.
- Reduce the impacts of electronic products during use.
- Manage obsolete electronics in an environmentally safe way.

The program provides resources to help state, local, and regional government and agencies to become leaders and face the new challenges posed by the electronics waste stream. The Town of Brattleboro, the Northeast Kingdom Solid Waste District, and the Agency of Natural Resources have already signed on to the State Electronics Challenge.





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To learn more about the waste prevention stakeholder planning process and stay abreast of next steps, visit the Waste Prevention website at:

[http://
www.anr.state.vt.us/
dec/wastediv/R3/
DECwpPLAN.htm](http://www.anr.state.vt.us/dec/wastediv/R3/DECwpPLAN.htm)

The Vermont Agency of Natural Resources, Department of Environmental Conservation, is an equal opportunity agency and offers all persons the benefits of participating in each of its programs and competing in all areas of employment regardless of race, color, religion, sex, national origin, age, disability, or other nonmerit factors.

Calendar of Events

[Master Composter Course](#) starts October 23. The course will be held for 6 Thursdays from 6-9 pm at various Interactive Television sites throughout Vermont.

[The Vermont Environmental Consortium's Fall Member Meeting](#) Monday, October 27th 2008, Northfield, VT.

[Getting to Zero CO2](#), Monday November 17th, Montpelier, VT. Learn valuable tools to help save money, reduce carbon emissions and create a healthier environment. Forum is geared toward procurement officers, managers and organizational leaders.

[Environmental Action 2008](#), Saturday November 15th, Randolph, VT.

As always, we want to hear from you as well. Let us know if you are interested in being involved around a priority waste prevention recommendation. Send us inspirational websites, articles, and other items related to preventing waste.

*Here's a great one from the Oregonian newspaper—
[Climate Change, Blame your Stuff](#)*

If you want to receive the *Life Beyond Garbage* E-Bulletin and other waste prevention notices, send an email to Carolyn.Grodinsky@state.vt.us. Please be sure to include your full name and organization.

To leave this list

You may remove your name from this list at any time by sending an email to Carolyn.Grodinsky@state.vt.us

The next Life Beyond Garbage E-Bulletin due out in early 2009