

Vermont Department of Environmental Conservation

Technical Support Options for Solid Waste Management Entities

Department of Environmental Conservation (DEC) Solid Waste Program staff, housed within the Agency of Natural Resources (ANR), provide guidance, outreach, and technical assistance on Vermont's Universal Recycling law, the new statewide Materials Management Plan, and subsequent Solid Waste Implementation Plan to Solid Waste Management Entities, businesses, academic institutions, and other interested or affected parties. Below is a list of available services.

Solid Waste Implementation Plan (SWIP) Support

The Materials Management Plan (MMP), adopted June 18, 2014, sets the standard for the effective management of materials statewide, including requirements outlined in the Universal Recycling Law (Act 148 of 2012). SWIPs are required from all Solid Waste Management Entities (SWME), and are written to meet performance standards listed in the MMP. Overarching documents to support SWIP development include:

- [SWIP Guidance](#) (July 2014)
- [SWIP Template](#) (July 2014)
- Public Survey (expected early 2015)

Department staff is available to review draft SWIPs, with a December 18th suggested submission request, and can provide individualized technical assistance at a SWMEs request. All final SWIPs are to be adopted by June 18, 2015. Technical assistance can include:

- Parallel collection:
 - o Assist in identifying available hauling services
 - o Strategizing on parallel collection implementation
 - o Provide recommended placement, size, color, and labeling for containers
 - o Provide recommended elements for request for proposals and contract drafting
 - o Written resources include:
 - [Solid Waste Hauler Exemption Guidance](#) (July 2014)
 - [Parallel Collection Fact Sheet](#) (July 2014)
- Variable rate pricing:
 - o Providing information on existing Variable Rate Pricing Vermont programs and options for implementation
 - o Networking SWMEs on variable rate pricing
 - o Presenting to municipal officials and SWME Board members on Variable Rate Pricing options
 - o Written resources include:
 - [Variable Rate Pricing Guide](#) (July 2014)
 - Sample ordinance (Included in Variable Rate Pricing Guide)

Outreach & Education on Universal Recycling

Since passage of the Universal Recycling Law, DEC's Solid Waste Program staff have worked with solid waste management entities (SWMEs) around the state to support implementation of the Universal Recycling Law. A few recent examples include:

- Two formal public meetings to gather comments on the draft MMP, including a 60 day formal comment period to submit written comments (Jan – Feb. 2014).
- 10+ hauler/facility meetings and presentations in partnership with SWMEs around the state.

- 10+ meetings and presentations to support town officials (in partnership with SWMEs) with implementation of universal recycling requirements, SWIP adoption, as well as Variable Rate Pricing.
 - o Ex. Worked with Northeast Waste Management Officials Association to develop Vermont case studies of Variable Rate Pricing programs for SWMEs to consider, including information on successful implementation in Newark, Canaan, and Vernon, Vermont.
- Regular attendance and presentations at SWME meetings, Recycling Coordinator meetings, and Household Hazardous Waste network meetings.

DEC has coordinated universal recycling implementation and streamlined the SWIP process through the following activities:

- Collaborated with SWMEs on message and outreach to stakeholders through the Act 148 Working Group. Universal Recycling symbols were developed (Nov. 2013).
- Coordinated with and informed SWMEs of direct outreach and communications to stakeholders (ex. disposal facilities, haulers, food scrap generators, institutions, etc.). As a result, the Department of Corrections' St. Albans facility diverted organics one year ahead of the deadline (May 2014).
- Created SWIP template and SWIP guidance document, providing clear expectations and reducing drafting time.
- Developing a baseline survey to assess general public knowledge of the Universal Recycling law, collection services, and proper separation and management of materials (early 2015).

Universal Recycling Guidance Documents:

- [Letter to all Haulers](#) – Summarizing requirements. Mailed and posted Sept. 2013.
- [Letter to all Transfer Stations](#) – Summarizing requirements. Mailed and posted May 2014.
- [Letter to all Municipalities](#) – Summarizing requirements. Mailed and posted June 2014.
- [Municipal Summary and Fact Sheet](#) – Posted June 2014.
- [Parallel Collection](#) for Haulers and facilities– Posted June 2014.
- Several other general information and stakeholder specific information sheets are posted as well.