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State of Vermont, Department of Environmental Conservation  
Waste Management & Prevention Division  
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## UNIVERSAL RECYCLING

(Act 148 of 2012)

### Summary of Exemptions and Variances

The existing Universal Recycling law (10 V.S.A. § 6607a(g)(3)) provides several exemptions and variances relative to the collection of (1) recycling, (2) leaf & yard residuals, and (3) food scraps. For more general information, see pages 9 and 10 of ANR's [Status Report](#) on Universal Recycling from December 2016.

**Haulers** may request an exemption from offering to collect recycling, leaf & yard residuals, and food scraps (10 V.S.A. § 6607a(g)(3)). The request must be made through the solid waste district or independent town's "Solid Waste Implementation Plan" (SWIP).

**Transfer stations** may apply for variances from offering leaf & yard residuals and food scrap collection (10 V.S.A. § 6613(b)). Variance requests must demonstrate the availability of convenient alternative services with sufficient capacity to meet local needs. No variance shall be granted except after public notice, an opportunity for a public meeting, and due consideration by ANR of the interests of all stakeholders. Note that a solid waste district or "independent town" (i.e. not a member of a solid waste district) that applies for both the hauling exemption and the transfer station variance would have to show some alternative location where folks could bring food scraps for drop off.

**Businesses and other producers of food waste** are permitted to dispose of a "de minimus" amount of food waste if they have an active composting program in place where staff have received instruction on separating food waste from trash (10 V.S.A. § 6605k(b)(1)).

**Residents** who compost at home are not required to compost meat and bones, which can be disposed of in the trash (10 V.S.A. § 6602(31)).

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