

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

June 24, 2014

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 listed<sup>1</sup> 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 pricing systems have been shown as an equitable means to incentivize waste reduction and diversion of recyclables and compostable materials.

---

<sup>1</sup> 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.



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](http://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](http://recycle.vt.gov) (click on the Universal Recycling link in the left hand column).

**Facilities** that collect trash must also provide collection of:

- Listed Recyclables<sup>1</sup> 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 recyclables<sup>1</sup> by July 1, 2015
- Leaf and yard debris by July 1, 2016
- Food scraps by July 1, 2017

**Residents** must separate and divert:

- Listed recyclables<sup>1</sup> 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](http://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](mailto:mia.roethlein@state.vt.us), or [bryn.oakleaf@state.vt.us](mailto:bryn.oakleaf@state.vt.us)

Sincerely,

Mia Roethlein  
Environmental Analyst IV