

Bennington County Regional Solid Waste Solutions

DSM Environmental
Services, Inc.

SWIP Newsletter

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New website launched for recycling, composting and solid waste issues in the region

The Bennington County Regional Commission (BCRC) has launched a new web page: www.bcrsolidwaste.com to provide residents and businesses of Arlington, Dorset, Manchester, Pownal, Rupert, Sandgate, Shaftsbury, and Sunderland with answers to questions about recycling, composting, trash disposal, household hazardous waste, transfer stations and other related waste management issues.

Shaftsbury, Pownal, Sunderland and E. Dorset / Northshire Transfer Stations have their own web pages where their hours of operation, fees for waste disposal, and how

to prepare materials for recycling are all presented. You can also check the transfer station pages to find information about Household Hazardous Waste (HHW) collection days.

The website also acts as an educational tool for waste reduction methods. Reduce, reuse and recycle tips are given to encourage you to think about how much waste you generate, and how you can reduce your impact on the environment.

For example, composting is an easy way to reduce the amount of waste you bring to the transfer stations. Examples of various compost bins are given and instructions on

how to build them can be downloaded.

You can also check the Transfer Station pages to see where you can bring construction and demolition material, or check the Reuse page for links to places you can donate or sell items.

Ham Gillett is the BCRC Solid Waste Coordinator. Ham works for DSM Environmental Services of Windsor, Vermont. DSM has a contract with BCRC to work on solid waste and recycling issues. Ham can be reached at 802-674-2840 or ham@bcrsolidwaste.com

if you have questions or comments about the website.



Educational presentation about recycling and composting is available for local schools

Ham Gillett from DSM Environmental Services is available to give presentations to the schools of the region about the general concepts of recycling and how to compost at home.

Teachers who are interested in a presentation should contact Ham at 802-674-2840 or ham@bcrsolidwaste.com to set up a time for Ham to visit the school. Ham will also call the schools to see who is interested.

There are many wonderful resources for teachers online. The US EPA has a page for teachers: www.epa.gov/teachers or a page geared for all ages: www.epa.gov/recyclecity.

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Check out the website:

- www.bcrsolidwaste.com
- Learn how to compost at home. It's easy to do.
- Discover what the region is recycling at the transfer stations in your area.
- Keep your analog television past Feb. 17, 2009.
- Learn ways to reduce or reuse your waste.
- Find out more about illegal dumping or illegal burning.
- Renovating or tearing down a house? Recycle the pieces of your old house with the links provided for building material recyclers.

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Deconstruction

Residential demolition activities produce an estimated 70 - 115 pounds per square foot. The disposal cost for construction and demolition debris is increasing each year. Many demolition waste materials are commingled, making separation at the landfill or transfer station difficult and costly. One method of increasing waste salvage, or reuse, and lowering disposal costs is called deconstruction. Separating materials before they are mixed is an important part of recovering them. Source segregation is the future of demolition.

Deconstruction is a process of building disassembly and material salvage. This process is not new but has recently increased in popularity due to the benefits that it offers, and the increased economic feasibility. Deconstruction means taking apart portions of a building and removing some or all of the contents for recovery. Materials such as equipment and appliances, metals, electrical fixtures, wood timbers and flooring, architectural features such as moldings, doors and knobs, masonry, and more can be salvaged if they are in good condition. Depending on the nature and condition of the materials, deconstruction may be a small part of the demolition process or may take the place of demolition activities.

US EPA Twelve Tips for Reducing Solid Waste

REDUCE

1. Reduce the amount of unnecessary packaging.
2. Adopt practices that reduce waste toxicity.

REUSE

3. Consider reusable products.
4. Maintain and repair durable products.
5. Reuse bags, containers, and other items.
6. Borrow, rent, or share items used infrequently.
7. Sell or donate goods instead of throwing them out.

RECYCLE

8. Choose recyclable products and containers and recycle them.
9. Select products made from recycled materials.
10. Compost yard trimmings and some food scraps.

RESPOND

11. Educate others on source reduction and recycling practices.
12. Be creative. Find new ways to reduce waste quantity and toxicity.

Benefits of Deconstruction

- Avoid replacement costs or create income from salvaged materials.
- Avoid landfill consumption
- Avoid disposal costs.
- Use smaller equipment in sites that may have limited access and clearance.
- Promote job training and economic development for communities.
- Reduce energy required to manufacture and produce new materials and associated pollution.
- Reduce site impacts such as dust, soil compaction and loss of ground cover.