



State of Vermont, Department of Environmental Conservation
Waste Management & Prevention Division
1 National Life Drive – Davis 1
Montpelier, VT 05620-3704

August 27, 2015

RE: Vermont's Universal Recycling Law: July 1, 2015 Summary

Dear Solid Waste Hauler,

As you know, Vermont's Universal Recycling Law (Act 148 of 2012) seeks to significantly increase diversion of recyclables and organics from landfills statewide. The law established phased-in landfill bans on listed recyclables, leaf and yard debris, clean wood, and food scraps. It also requires haulers and facilities that offer trash collection to also provide collection services for recyclables, leaf and yard debris (but not clean wood), and food scraps. This letter outlines what you need to do to comply with the law.

If you transport solid waste for compensation, you are considered a commercial solid waste hauler and subject to these requirements, regardless of the size of the vehicle you use to transport waste (see 10 V.S.A. Chapter 159, Section 6607a(b)(1)(B)).

RECYCLING REQUIREMENTS

- 1. Effective July 1, 2015**, listed recyclables are banned from disposal in trash
 - a. Paper** – white, mixed, newspaper, magazines, paper bags
 - b. Cardboard** – corrugated, boxboard
 - c. Aluminum** - cans, foil, pie pans
 - d. Steel** – cans and containers
 - e. Glass** – bottles and jars from food/drinks
 - f. Hard Plastics** – bottles, containers, and jugs #1 PET and #2 HDPE
 - 2. Effective July 1, 2015**, haulers that offer collection of trash must offer collection of listed recyclables for all customers (including residents, businesses, and institutions), or, subcontract with another hauler to provide these services to their customers.
 - 3. Residential Recycling – Bundled Service, Bundled Charge:** For residential customers, haulers must bundle (combine) the collection costs for trash and recycling, however, haulers may charge a stop fee for recycling collection services. Since all residents that produce trash also produce recyclables, all of a hauler's residential trash customers must have recycling collection services, and the cost of this service must be bundled with trash collection costs. The ANR/DEC Solid Waste Program considers "residential customers" to include: single family homes, multi-family dwellings, townhouses, condominiums, apartments, and mobile home parks. For purposes of implementing the Universal Recycling law, hotels, motels, campgrounds, and dormitories are not considered "residential customers".
 - 4.** Enclosed is a guidance document on how haulers and facilities can explain recycling costs to their customers. If a residential customer requests curbside pickup of recyclables *only* (without trash), a hauler may charge a fee for that service call or stop.
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5. **Commercial Recycling:** Haulers may charge commercial and institutional customers a separate fee for the collection of recyclables.
6. **Recycling Collection Frequency:** Haulers should collect recycling at least as often as trash is collected, and in a recycling container that is at least as large as the trash container.

LEAF AND YARD DEBRIS REQUIREMENTS

1. **Effective July 1, 2016**, haulers that offer collection of trash must offer collection of leaf and yard debris, or, subcontract with another hauler to provide these services to their customers.
2. Leaf and yard debris are banned from disposal in trash as of July 1, 2016.
3. Haulers may charge separately for the collection of leaf and yard debris.
4. Customers may choose to manage leaf and yard debris on their own property (compost, mow leaves in, etc.), or have it collected by haulers.
5. Haulers should collect leaf and yard debris at least 1-2 times per month in the spring and the fall, from approximately April 1st – May 30th and October 1st - November 30th. During summer months (June, July, and August), haulers should, at minimum, offer leaf and yard debris collection on an as-needed basis.

See the attached Leaf, Yard and Clean Wood Debris Guide for more detail.

To help you inform your customers of what is required to be recycled, a copy of a handout for residents and businesses is enclosed. You are also encouraged to utilize the **State Standardized Symbols** and other outreach materials that are available for free download from the ANR Solid Waste Program's website: www.recycle.vt.gov



If you have questions concerning Universal Recycling or your obligations under the law, please contact Mia Roethlein at (802) 522-5926 or by email at mia.roethlein@vermont.gov.

Thank you for your efforts to help Vermonters recycle.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Mia Roethlein".

Mia Roethlein
VT DEC Solid Waste Program

Enclosures:

Guidance on Explaining Recycling Costs
Leaf, Yard, and Clean Wood Debris Guide
Recycling Handout