



# State of the State 2021

## VORS 15<sup>th</sup> year!

Josh Kelly,  
Materials Management Section Chief  
May 3, 2021



# States with varying Organics Bans



CA



CT



MA



RI



VT

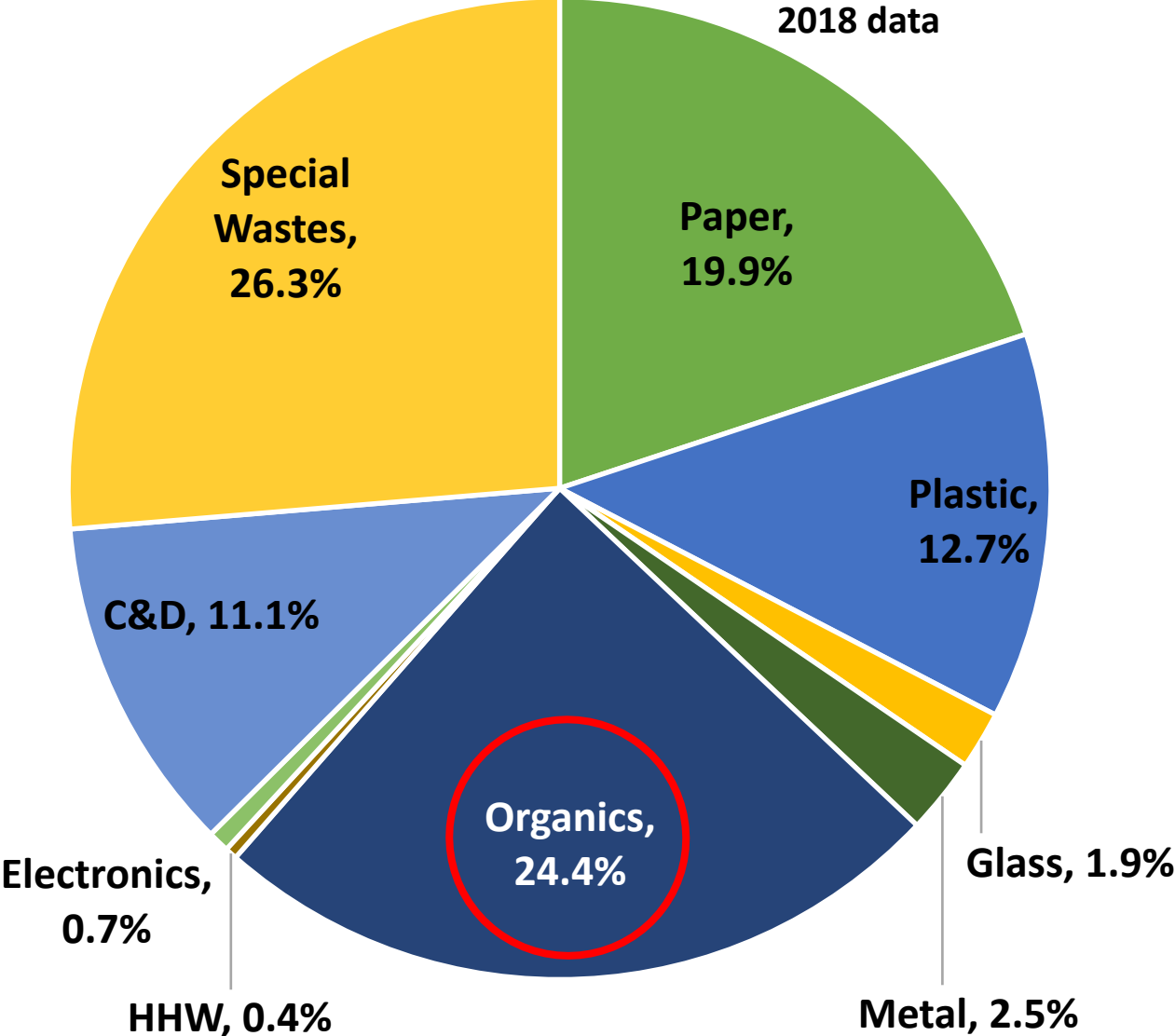


NY



NJ

# 2018 Waste Composition Study



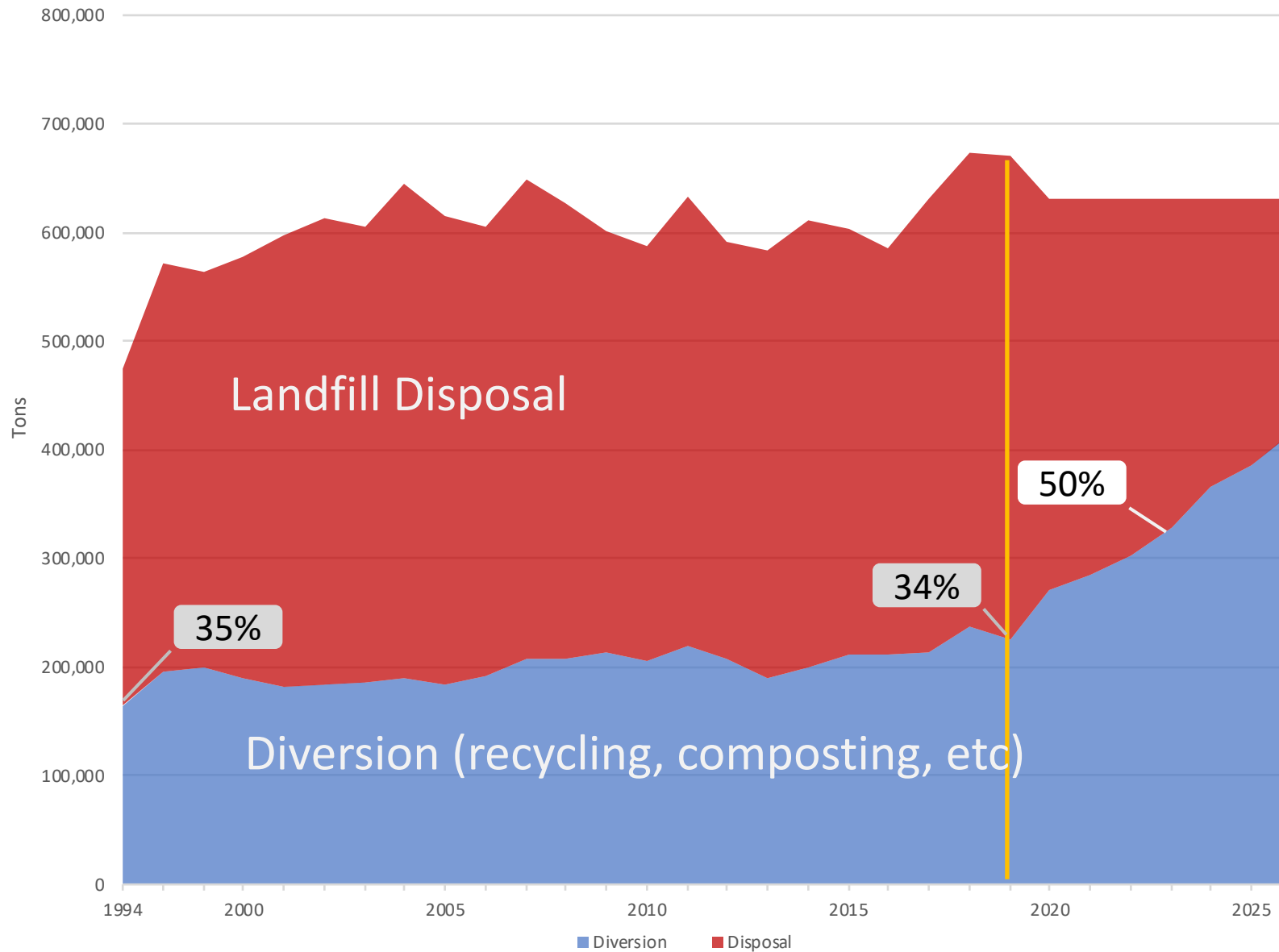
An estimated 20% of trash is food and food scraps (~77,000 tons/year).

Roughly half is residential.

Composting this would reduce emissions equal to taking over 9,500 vehicles off the road each year.

Next Waste Comp. in 2023

# Vermont State Diversion Goal



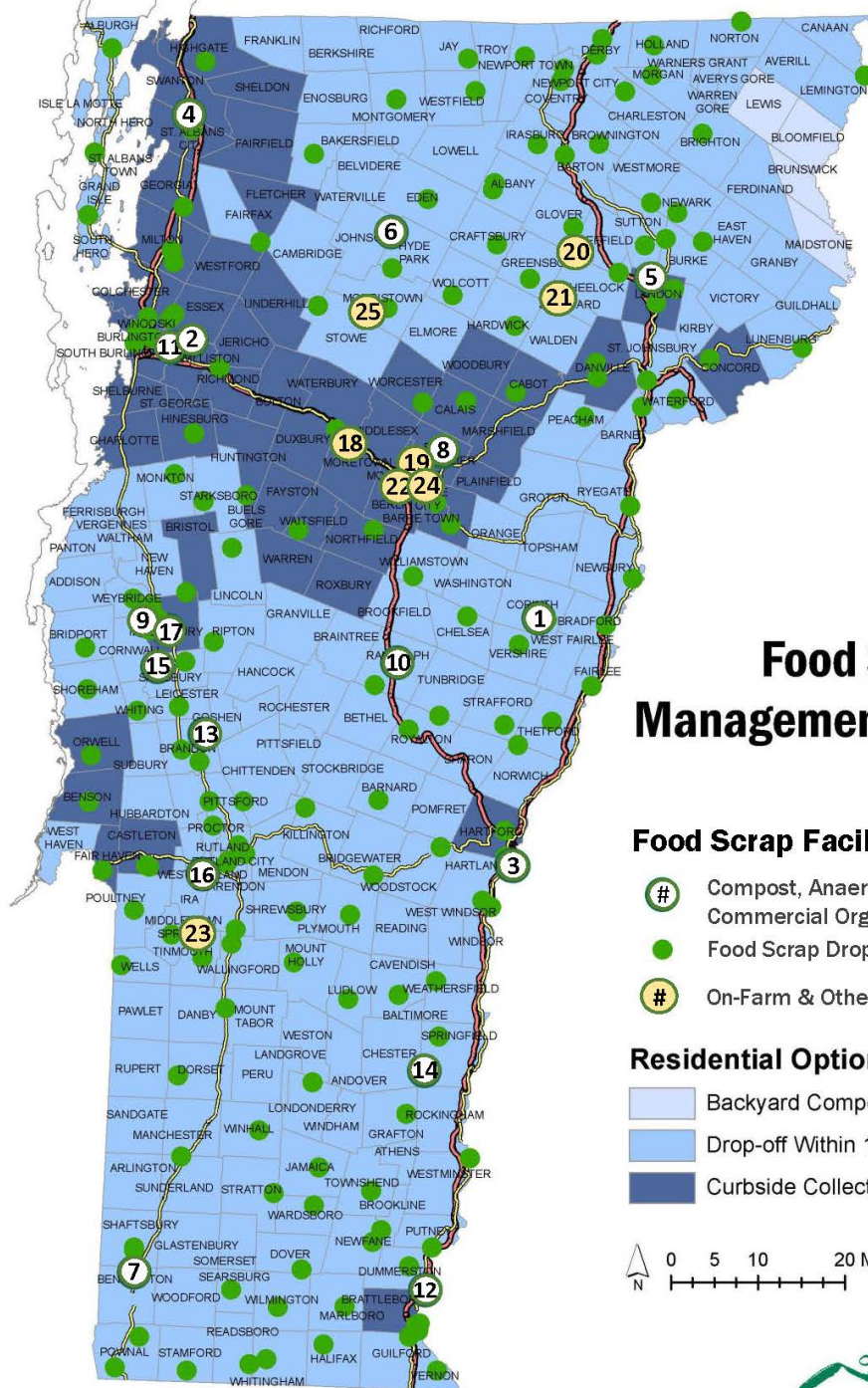


July 1, 2020 – Vermont state law now banned disposal of food scraps from trash and landfills.



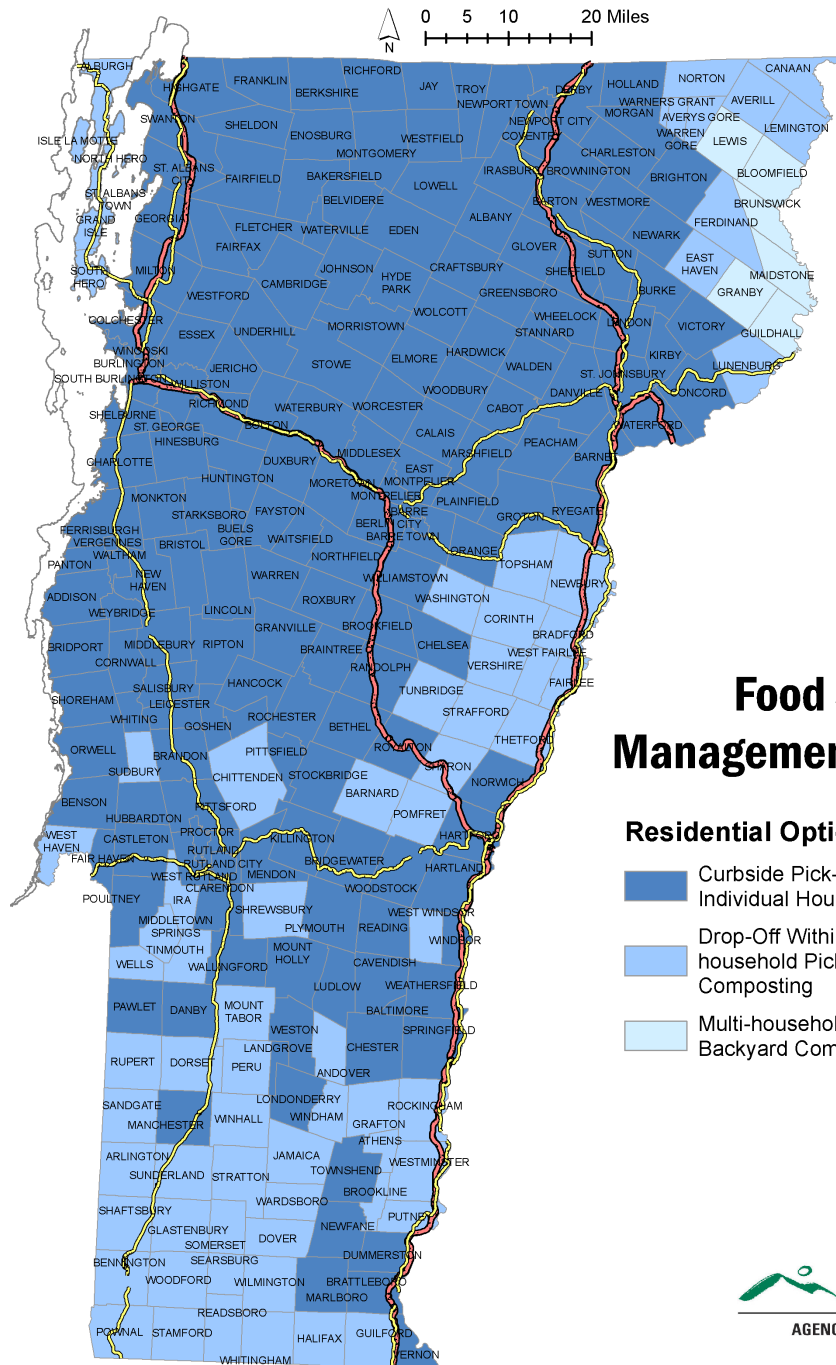
July 1, 2020 – Haulers of trash are required to offer food scrap collection to commercial customers & apartments of 4 units or more unless another hauler is willing to provide the service.

Bag-drop haulers are already required to offer food scrap collection



~2 dozen organics facilities (mostly compost facilities)

>100 Food Scrap Drop-off locations (most towns within 10 miles)



## Food Scrap Management in Vermont

### Residential Options

- Curbside Pick-up Available for Individual Households
- Drop-Off Within 10 Miles, Multi-household Pick-up, or Backyard Composting
- Multi-household Pick-up or Backyard Composting

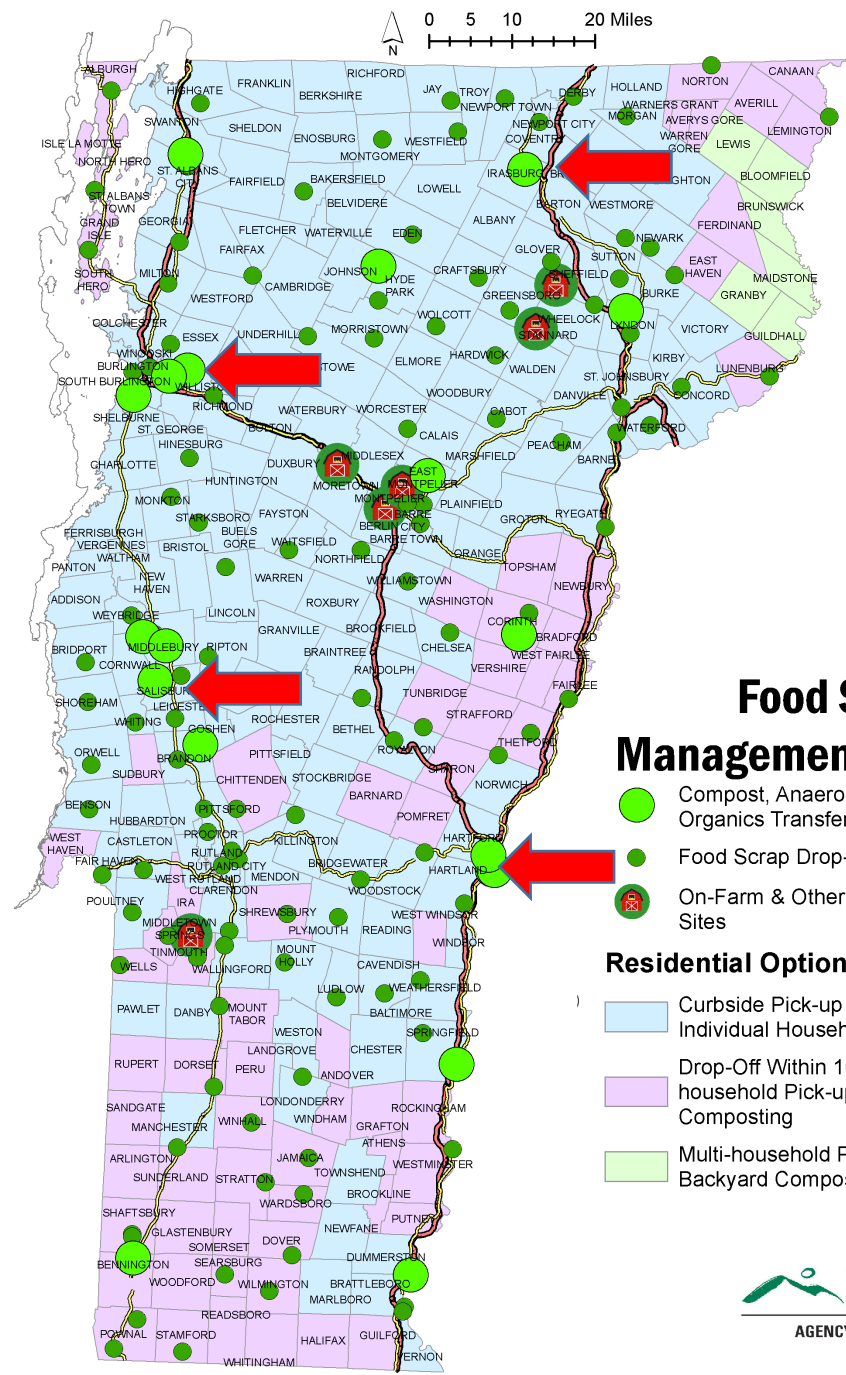
70% of VT towns have access to residential curbside food scrap pickup

Hats off to the Hauler community to for helping meet this need!



This map is based on how haulers advertise their services and local understandings of where service is currently available. ANR does not guarantee the accuracy of this map. Some residents may find that different options exist in their town. Some haulers may have expanded beyond the blue towns.





### Food Scrap Management in Vermont

- Compost, Anaerobic Digestion, or Organics Transfer Facility
- Food Scrap Drop-Off
- On-Farm & Other Composting Sites

#### Residential Options

- Curbside Pick-up Available for Individual Households
- Drop-Off Within 10 Miles, Multi-household Pick-up, or Backyard Composting
- Multi-household Pick-up or Backyard Composting



Since 2012 food scrap haulers have nearly tripled (~12 to ~44)

Several new facilities have opened in '20/'21

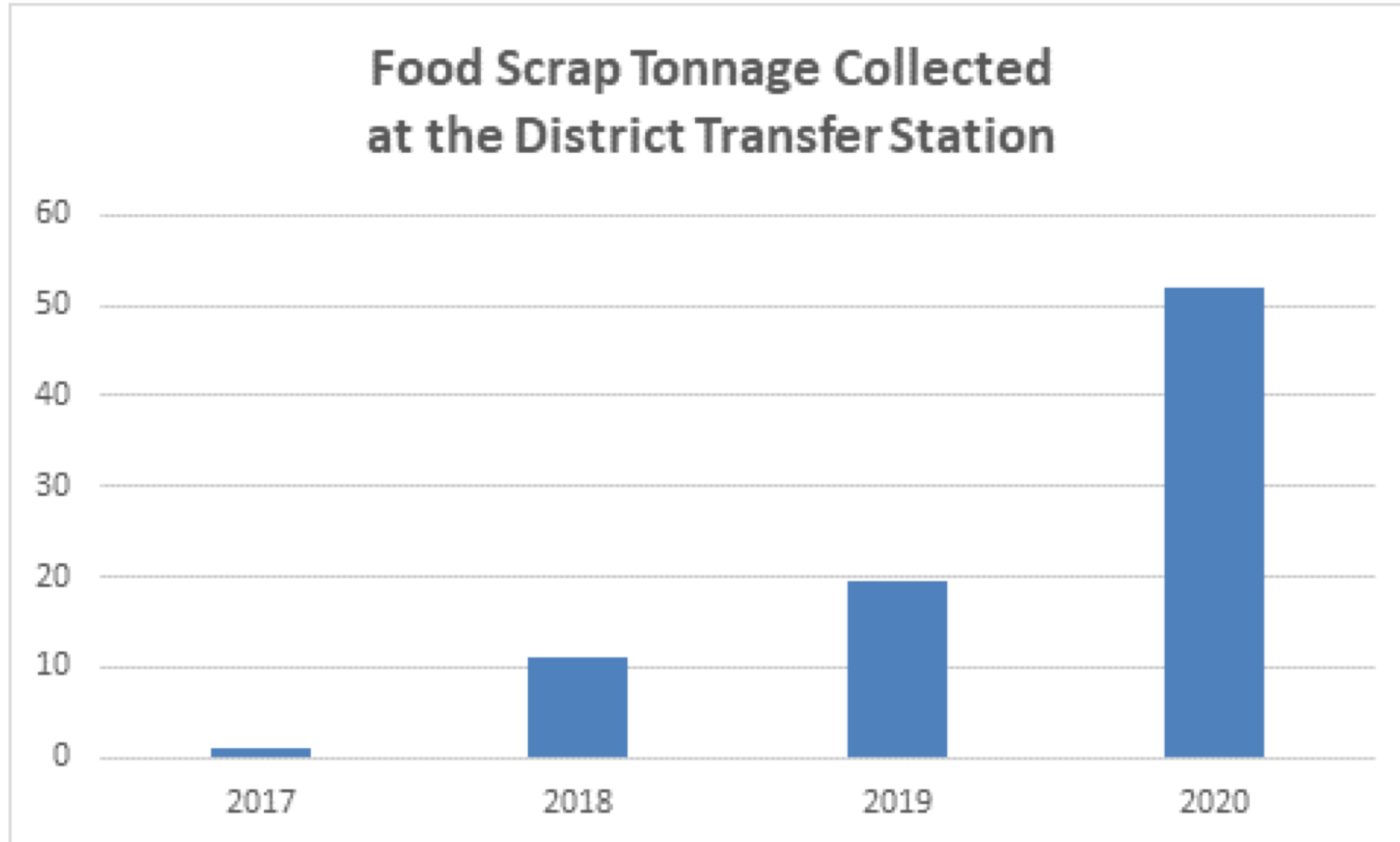
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# Food Scraps Pre/Post July 1

- NEKWMD: 96 totes June. 187 totes July. ~200-300/month Aug.-Oct.
- ACSWMD: 20 tons in 2019 and 50 tons in 2020
- LRSWMD Stowe: Q2: 9 tons. Q3: 29 tons!
- Londonderry: Q2: 10 tons. Q3: 19 tons.

REMARKABLE RESULTS AS THESE ARE NOT NEW PROGRAMS

# Addison Co. Solid Waste District



# DEC Solid Waste Rules

- Composting 42 cubic yards of food scraps or less is exempt
  - (2 cubic yards food scraps = ~1 ton)
- Employees can add food scraps to employer's food scrap bins if they allow it.
- Food Scrap Drop Offs – Registration and annual reporting

# What's Considered a "Food Residual"?

10 V.S.A. § 6602 (31) defines "food residual" as "...material that is derived from processing or discarding of food and that is recyclable, in a manner consistent with section 6605k [refers to feeding people, feeding animals, composting, and anaerobic digestion.]..."

We use this definition and sometimes contact composters or digesters to determine if they are willing to accept and process a material.

For example; whey powder.

# What's Considered a "Food Residual"?

- Infant Formula YES
- Meat, Seafood, Bones, Shells YES
- Fats, Oils, Grease YES
- Spent Brewery Grain YES
- Food & Beverages in Glass Packaging Case by Case
- Consumer Packaged Beverages Case by Case
- Food Stabilizers, Preservatives, Additives, Supplements Case by Case
- Contaminated Off-Spec Food (fire, biological, chemical) Case by Case
- Slaughter Waste (offal, hides, carcass, blood) NO
- Pet Food NO
- Pet Bedding and Manure NO

Re-launch



**Eat what you buy. Compost the scraps.  
Click to learn more.**



# TIPS TO REDUCE FOOD WASTE

Lettuce in the fridge. Potatoes in the pantry. Berries from bowl to belly and not in the trash.

**1. PLAN**



**2. STORE**



**3. COOK**



**4. SERVE AND EAT**



**5. WHAT TO DO WITH THE SCRAPS**





# Benton Wright from Addison County



Veggie trimmings in the freezer for stock

Kitchen collector with PLU stickers

**Has separating your food scraps made you notice anything about your eating or cooking habits? Have you made any changes as a result?**

Yes! I use much more of the vegetable or fruit when I am cooking or eating it. I try to buy things which are not in plastic from the store. I also save veggie trimmings in the freezer to make veggie stock once or twice a month.

**Please explain your system for collecting food scraps.**

I use a countertop tote lined with a paper bag or newspaper. I used to take it to the Addison County Solid Waste Management District (ACSWMD) transfer station weekly but now it is more like monthly or bi-weekly because of Covid. I take overflow that I am unable to drop-off in a sealed 5-gallon bucket that the transfer station supplied to me for free.

# Forrest Hammond VT F&W Bear Biologist

## **Have you had any problems? If so, what do you do to fix them?**

I have had no problems, really, once I realized I didn't have to do "hot" composting, but that "cold" composting would work fine for my needs. My compost doesn't smell any that I can tell, and it does not attract wildlife. To ensure of this, I place the tumbler inside the electric fence I already have for protecting my beehives from bears. My hard-plastic tumbler may have been "bear-proof" on its own, but since I already had an electric fence for my bees I keep my tumbler safely within the fenced area.

## **Do you use your finished compost on your yard or compost just as a way to manage food scraps?**

The finished compost goes into the vegetable garden and has become an important component of my garden management.

## **What do you like about composting?**

I like the fact that we can make use of our food waste and that none of it has to end up in the landfill. There is an initial cost to getting set up, but I take satisfaction in having an organic waste disposal system that works. I have always taken pride in living lightly on the land and this is one more way of doing that.



Composting tumbler and beehive behind solar-powered electric fence

# Sue and Art Stukey from Washington County



Food scrap bucket in the kitchen

Yes, the buckets are picked up year-round, though we don't put the buckets out early in the morning so they don't freeze.

## **Have you had any problems?**

No problems!

## **What do you like about composting or why are you still doing it?**

I love the convenience of it. I love having a place to put all those food scraps so they can be used to replenish the earth, with no bother for me!

## **What would you say to encourage someone who is hesitant to start composting?**

A good system like Earth Girl is very helpful! I find it very easy to manage and it feels as if we're doing the right thing for the earth.

## **Anything else you want to share or wish I had asked?**


We are very happy with our composting system, and probably wouldn't be as faithful about it without the bi-weekly pick up.



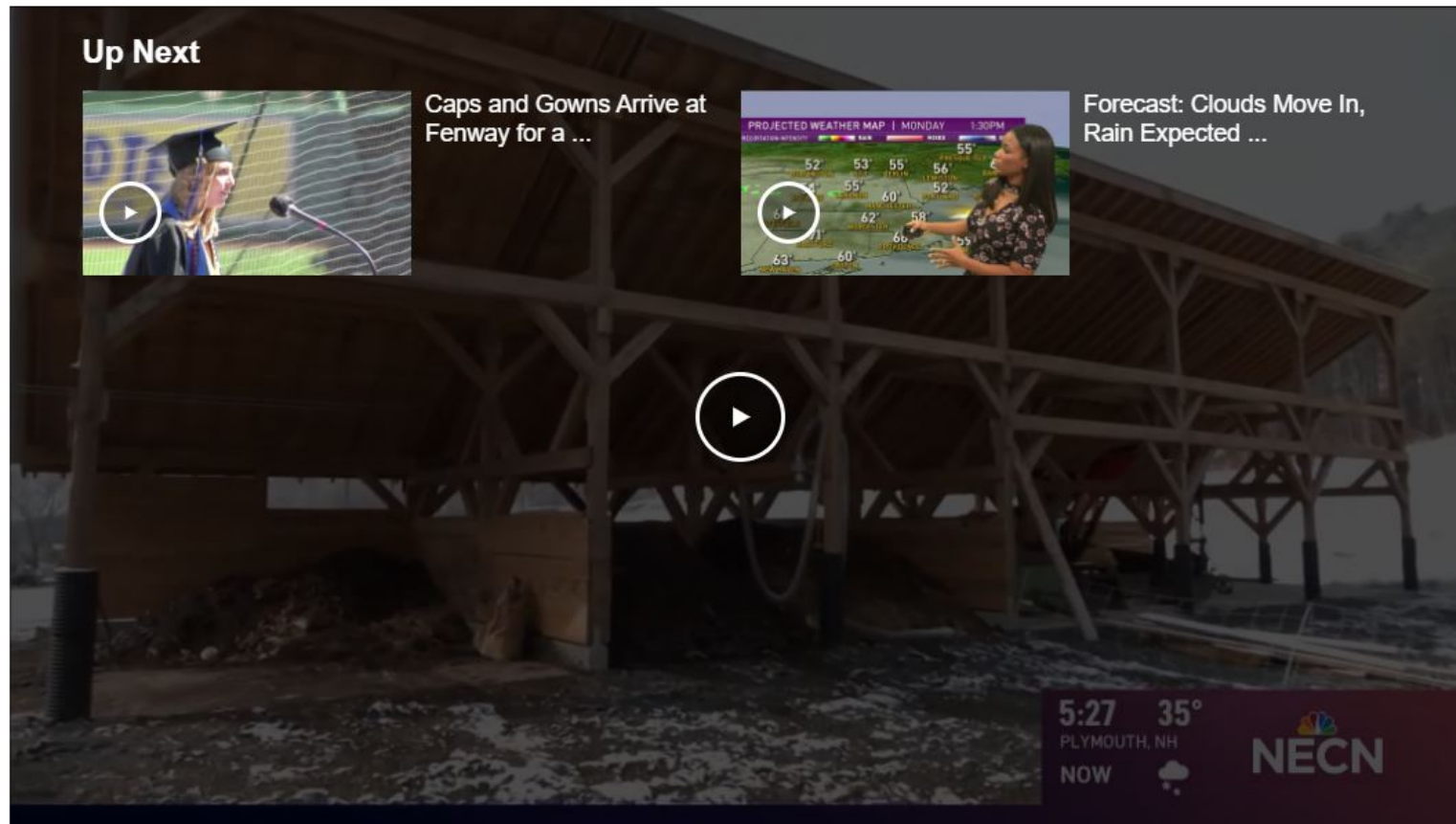
Full and ready for curbside pickup

<https://www.necn.com/news/local/composting-related-businesses-surge-following-vermont-food-scrap-ban/2452803/>




# NBC Willow Tree Compost/Sunrise Farm



 **NECN** | Composting, Related Businesses Surge Following Vermont Food Scrap Ban

By Jack Thurston • Published April 22, 2021 • Updated on April 22, 2021 at 7:45 pm



**Up Next**

-  Caps and Gowns Arrive at Fenway for a ...
-  PROJECTED WEATHER MAP | MONDAY 1:30PM  
52° 53° 55° 56°  
55° 60° 52°  
42° 58°  
63° 60°
-  Forecast: Clouds Move In, Rain Expected ...

5:27 35°  
PLYMOUTH, NH  
NOW   **NECN**

Since composting was mandated in Vermont last summer, food waste is plummeting and services that haul scraps are surging, officials say.

# Let's Celebrate Success

- You've accomplished so much during a VERY hard year.
- Food scrap collection became REAL, as did backyard composter sales
- Bears - DEC and F&W still try and prevent problems before they start
- DEC is working with State Parks.
- DEC is finalizing infrastructure grants with ~17 towns and districts for HHW, food scraps, and recyclables collection and management.
- We acknowledge and are grateful for the hard work of SWMEs and their collaboration with DEC on media, outreach, and more.
- We are grateful to organics facilities and to haulers who've stepping up to offer food scrap collection helping to fill in the residential gap.
- This work takes a village.

# Thank you!



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