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SUMMER 2020

SPECIAL POINTS OF INTEREST:

- RECYCLING REMINDERS
- SHOP ONLINE
- FOOD WASTE TIPS
- NEW CURBSIDE BROCHURE
- HOLIDAY CLOSINGS AND HHW
- OPERATIONS DURING COVID-19

New Guidelines are Available

The Curbside Recycling Guidelines for Tompkins County brochure covering July 2020 through June 2021 is now available. The guidelines include the curbside recycling collection calendar, illustrations of acceptable items, instructions for properly setting out curbside recyclables, and more.

The new guidelines are available at the Recycling and Materials Management office, the Recycling and Solid Waste Center, municipal offices, food scrap recycling drop spots and most major grocery stores in Tompkins County. They can also be viewed online and printed at RecycleTompkins.org. Get yours today!



A Few Recycling Reminders

Did You Know...

If you can't find an answer to your question at RecycleTompkins.org, use the Contact Us form to ask directly.

Please don't include these items in your recycling bin:

- Personal protective equipment (PPE) like masks and gloves do NOT belong in your recycling bin. Cleaning wipes, paper towels, and tissues are also not accepted for recycling. These materials should go in the trash.
- Meal delivery kit packaging and insulation are becoming pesky items for recyclers. Despite labeling to the contrary, the insulation and bags in meal delivery kits are not recyclable.



Photo courtesy The Recycling Partnership.

- Take-out dining generally produces more trash than cooking at home, but there are steps you can take to reduce that waste. Plastic take-out containers can be recycled if they are labeled #1, 2, or 5. Plastic utensils are too small to be recycled, so we recommend requesting that they be left out of your order in favor of using reusable utensils. Plastic bags can be brought to the grocery store or the plastic film drop off area to be recycled. Styrofoam is trash.



Holiday Closings

Independence Day

RMM Office closed July 3rd,
RSWC closed July 4th, no
change for curbside recycling
pickup schedule.

What Do I Do With...?

Use the What Do I Do With...? tool at recycletompkins.org to find out how to recycle, donate, and dispose of common items.

HHW Events

Upcoming Household
Hazardous Waste
Dropoff Events:

July 18th
August 15th

Sign up for an
appointment at
recycletompkins.org

Masks Required.

Shop Online

Did you know that you can buy trash disposal punch cards and coupons, solid waste permits, and more without leaving your home? RecycleTompkins.org has a Shop Online feature that residents can use to purchase disposal punch cards and coupons, yard waste punch cards and coupons, and solid waste permits. Purchased items are then sent by mail. To start, go to RecycleTompkins.org using an up-to-date browser and click "Shop Online" on the top right of the page. Mobile users can select this feature from the drop down menu on the right side of the screen.

Food Waste Tips for Social Distance Cooking

According to recent surveys, social distancing measures have increased the amount of time people spend cooking food. We wanted to highlight a few of our favorite tips for making the most of your groceries and reducing waste.

- Plan your **shopping list** based on how many meals you need to make before your next shopping trip. Consider how much you need when it comes to fresh foods, and if you will be able to use them up before they spoil.

- Learn how to **store your groceries** so they stay fresh longer.

SaveTheFood.com is an excellent resource for all food storage knowledge.

- Save your vegetable trimmings for **stock** by storing them in a bag in your freezer. Add the trimmings to boiling water, simmer for one hour, and strain to make your own delicious vegetable broth. Other food repurposing tricks are available at SaveTheFood.com.

- When all else fails, **compost** your food waste. Our Food Scraps Recycling Drop Spot program has 15 locations, and offers free toolkits.



Operations During COVID-19

Tompkins County Recycling and Materials Management remained operating through the start of the pandemic, with safety as a top priority.

The Department appreciates everyone taking the effort to follow health and safety guidelines, including wearing masks, staying at least 6 feet apart in the office lobby and at the facility, and using the Shop Online feature of our website whenever possible to reduce in-person trips to our office.



New Recycling Driver Robert waves from the food scrap collection truck.

Contact Us...

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