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Tompkins County Recycling and Materials Management (TCRMM) Vol. VII Issue IV

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TCRMM Office

122 Commercial Ave
Ithaca, New York
607-273-6632

RecycleTompkins.org



@recycletompkins

Recycling & Solid Waste Center (RSWC)
160 Commercial Ave
Ithaca, New York



Free Holiday Tree Drop-off

Holiday trees can be dropped off free of charge at the Recycling and Solid Waste Center (RSWC) during regular business hours from December 27, 2022-January 31, 2023, no permit required. All decorations, lights, and other objects must be removed. Synthetic trees will not be accepted. To drop off a tree, stop at the Weigh Station upon arrival at the RSWC and ask for a Holiday Tree Recycling Ticket, proceed to the yard waste drop-off area, hand the ticket to the attendant on duty, and drop off the tree. Happy holidays.



Proper Handling of Lithium-ion Batteries

Lithium-ion batteries are not accepted in recycling or trash because they can cause safety hazards including fires and explosions if handled incorrectly. Undamaged Lithium-ion batteries are accepted at the Recycling and Solid Waste Center (RSWC) electronics drop-off when both terminal ends are taped with either duct tape or black electrical tape. Damaged batteries are accepted by appointment at Household Hazardous Waste (HHW) Events hosted by Tompkins County Recycling and Materials Management at the RSWC throughout the year. For more information, contact Seth Dennis, Waste Reduction & Recycling Coordinator, at sdennis@tompkins-co.org.



Outbound Scale Replacement Update

Replacement of the outbound truck scale at the Recycling and Solid Waste Center (RSWC) will begin in early 2023. Installation of the new scale should be completed by the end of March, barring any weather restraints. Please use caution around the Weigh Station area and follow any changes in traffic patterns. We thank our customers for their continued patience while we complete this important upgrade.

Uncovered Loads are Against the Law

Violation of state and local laws pertaining to waste transportation may result in fines of \$1,500 or more. To avoid costly tickets and court appearances, cover your load while transporting solid waste, yard waste, or recyclable materials. Cover your loads to prevent creating litter along roadsides and private property. If you see an uncovered load, call the Recycling and Materials Management Office at 607-273-6632.



Holiday Closings

Office closed:

January 16

February 20

RSWC open:

January 16

February 20

RSWC remains open. No change to the curbside recycling collection schedule.

Winter Weather Preparedness

Winter weather is here. TCRMM offers many services throughout the winter, including curbside recycling collection, food scraps recycling drop spot locations, and recycling and waste disposal options at the Recycling and Solid Waste Center (RSWC).

For the most up-to-date information about closures or delays caused by hazardous weather, visit our website at recycletompkins.org.

NOTE ON COMPOST: If keeping a compost pile active through the winter doesn't seem achievable, recycle your food scraps into compost by using an indoor worm bin or utilizing the Food Scraps Recycling drop spot program.

Preventing Food Waste

This winter, try some of these tips to reduce food waste while saving money:

- Plan your meals—[Save The Food's Guest-imator](#) can help right-size your menu.
- Use clear storage containers so you can quickly see what is in the fridge.
- Consider an “eat first” shelf in your refrigerator to ensure items are eaten before spoiling.
- Incorporate leftovers into new dishes—[Save The Food's utilizer recipes](#) can help.

A food system is many things, but ultimately, it's the path food travels to get to you and me. Our food system includes how we produce, supply, consume, and dispose of food in Tompkins County. Sign the [Tompkins County Community Food System Pledge](#) to show your commitment to a resilient, equitable, and healthy food future.

Give Gifts of Experience

Instead of giving loved ones more stuff, give gifts of experience on birthdays and special holidays this year.

- Give a park pass or membership to a museum.
- Take a class together.
- Create a coupon book, offering your time or help with tasks.
- Share your favorite recipe.
- Volunteer in your community.

Gifts of experience last a lifetime.



TCRMM Outreach at Community Events

Our team participates in many community events in Tompkins County throughout the year, which allows us to engage directly with residents, share information about the services we offer, and receive direct feedback from the community. We also give presentations and tours of the Recycling and Solid Waste Center (RSWC). If you are interested in having us participate in your event or would like to schedule a presentation or tour of the RSWC, please call 607-273-6632.

Here are some highlights from our outreach work at community events last Fall.



Ithaca Apple Harvest Festival



Enfield Harvest Festival



Streets Alive! Ithaca