



# 4R Times

Tompkins County Recycling and Materials Management (TCRMM) Vol. VIII Issue I

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@recycletompkins

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



## Weigh Scale Replacement Update

The replacement of the outbound weigh scale should be completed by the end of April. Users of the Recycling and Solid Waste Center (RSWC) should still use caution when entering and exiting the facility while work is continuing. Thank you to all users of the RSWC for their patience as this project moves toward completion.



## ReBusiness Partners Program Evolves to Help Businesses Reduce Waste

In response to the evolving needs of local businesses, the Department is updating the ReBusiness Partners Program. New resources and tools will soon be available to meet businesses' needs in supporting programs to reduce, reuse, and compost. This includes a streamlined on-site or virtual consultation assessment, as well as phone and email assistance. Designed to help businesses, institutions, and other organizations in Tompkins County, the program can support a wide range of focuses – from starting recycling and composting programs to incorporating reusable packaging or implementing food waste prevention techniques. More information will be coming soon. Visit our [website](#) or [contact us](#) today to learn more.

## Residential Food Scrap Drop Spots

The Department of Recycling and Materials Management organics program provides composting services to residents of Tompkins County through the food scraps recycling drop spot program. Currently, there are 17 drop spot locations that are open on at least a weekly basis, covering a wide geographic distribution of the county. In 2022, Tompkins County residents used the drop spots a total of 82,000 times, generating over 534 tons of material. The food scraps are collected and brought to the food scraps transfer station at the RSWC before being delivered to Cayuga Compost in Trumansburg.



## Holiday Closings

### May 29

- Office CLOSED
- RSWC CLOSED

\*Curbside recycling collection delayed by one day

### June 19

- Office CLOSED
- RSWC OPEN

\*NO CHANGE to curbside recycling collection schedule

## HHW Events

APR. 29

MAY 20

JUL. 15

AUG. 19

OCT. 21

NOV. 18

(Appointment required)

[RecycleTompkins.org/HHW](http://RecycleTompkins.org/HHW)

## Solid Waste Annual Fee

The Solid Waste Annual Fee funds the cost of Tompkins County's recycling and waste reduction programs. It also pays for closed landfill maintenance and monitoring. Records from the County Assessment Office are used to determine fees. They are based on a rate per unit for single-family houses, two-family residences, mobile homes, and apartments. Non-residential properties are billed on a square footage basis. The Solid Waste Annual Fee for 2023 is \$80 per household.

## Extended Product Responsibility in NY

Extended producer responsibility (EPR) ensures manufacturers establish infrastructure for end-of-life handling of their products to minimize health, safety, environmental and social impacts. In NY, laws ensure recycling for materials such as electronics, pharmaceuticals, and rechargeable batteries. Recently, a carpet EPR law was passed in NY to establish a program for the collection and recycling of carpeting.

The governor's current budget proposal also includes packaging EPR to "transfer the onus of recycling to the producer – not the taxpayers." Not only would packaging EPR provide support for the local recycling system, but it would also encourage producers to consider end-of-life in design, planning for reductions in packaging, and increased recyclability.

## Household Hazardous Waste Events

In 2022, the HHW program diverted 54.4 tons of hazardous materials from landfills and waterways. Under a new contract, TCRMM looks forward to successful partnerships to maintain and grow the HHW program in 2023. As Tompkins County Recycling and Materials Management approaches the completion of a thorough Request for Proposals procurement process for the operation of the County's Household Hazardous Waste Management Facility, we have confirmed dates for HHW Events in 2023. Learn more at [www.RecycleTompkins.org/HHW](http://www.RecycleTompkins.org/HHW).

## Surviving Without Kitchen Trash Bags

For those who are used to using plastic grocery bags to line trash bins, the NY Bag Waste Reduction Law has limited access to these convenient kitchen trash liners. Before buying bags to line a bin, consider this: Most of the wet stuff that ends up in trash is actually compostable material like food scraps, paper towels, and napkins. When possible, first reduce food waste, then compost what is left - either at home or at a Drop Spot. This will make trash bins less messy, possibly eliminating the need for liners altogether. If necessary, line bins with newspaper. Visit [RecycleTompkins.org/dropspots](http://RecycleTompkins.org/dropspots) to learn more .

