



NEED TO KNOW

CLOSURES

The TCRMM Office & RSWC are closed **Monday, Dec. 25, 2023**, for Christmas, and **Monday, Jan. 1, 2024**, for New Year's Day. There will be no Curbside Recycling on either day. Curbside Recycling resumes on Tuesday, Dec. 26, and on Tuesday, Jan. 2, operating on a one-day delay for the rest of week.

On **Monday, Jan. 15**, the TCRMM Office will be closed for MLK Day. The RSWC will be open, and Curbside Recycling will be on schedule.

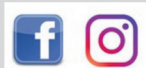
The TCRMM Office will be closed on **Monday, Feb. 19**, for President's Day. The RSWC will be open, and Curbside Recycling will be on schedule.

RecycleTompkins.org

TCRMM OFFICE
122 Commercial Ave.
Ithaca, N.Y. 14850
607-273-6632

**RECYCLING & SOLID
WASTE CENTER (RSWC)**
160 Commercial Ave.
Ithaca, N.Y. 14850

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NY Recycles Day tours a success; additional spring tours planned



Tompkins County Recycling & Materials Management

To mark New York Recycles Day on Nov. 15, Tompkins County Recycling & Materials Management Department (TCRMM) hosted 19 participants for informational walking tours of the Tompkins County Recycling & Solid Waste Center (RSWC) in Ithaca.

Leo Riley, TCRMM Director, led the tours, with assistance from TCRMM and Casella Recycling staff.

The tours took participants behind the scenes of the RSWC facility, which received and transferred for processing 10,420 tons of recyclables in 2022.

More tours will be announced in the spring.

"I learned new things and left with a real appreciation of what goes on behind the scenes."

BOB RITER

✦✦✦ Sustainable celebrations

American households generate 23% more waste in December than in other months. Here's how to reduce holiday waste:

- Give handmade, secondhand, or experiential gifts. Avoid gifts with batteries, and swap unwanted gifts with friends.
- Decorate with compostable materials such as pinecones and berries. Avoid plastic decorations and tinsel.
- Use a meal prep tool to minimize food waste, use reusable dishes, and have guests bring containers for leftovers.



GO LINERLESS

Food waste is the single largest contributor to landfills, making food scrap recycling a great way to help the planet.

We no longer provide free compostable liners, but participants can buy BPI-certified compostable liners through retailers, or go “linerless.”

Here’s tips to keep your food scraps bin clean and odor-free:

- Line bin with paper towel or newspaper.
- Store food scraps in freezer.
- Drop off food scraps more often.

To learn about food scraps recycling and to find a nearby Drop Spot scan the QR code or visit recycletompkins.org/dropspots



BY THE NUMBERS

TCRMM held the final Household Hazardous Waste event of the year in November.

In 2023, TCRMM provided 1,324 Tompkins County residents with safe disposal of hazardous household waste.

Registration for the April 2024 HHW event will be announced in spring.



Barb Eckstrom, retired TCRMM Director

Eckstrom honored with Lifetime Achievement Award

The New York State Association for Reduction, Reuse & Recycling (NYSAR3) recently honored Barb Eckstrom, longtime TCRMM Director, with the 2023 Lifetime Achievement Award. The award was presented during NYSAR3's Annual Conference in Cooperstown.

Eckstrom was hired as the first Solid Waste Manager in Tompkins County in 1988 and tasked with closing the county’s last landfill. Within 20 years, Eckstrom’s leadership helped the county reduce waste by 60%.

During her 37 years leading the department, Eckstrom established critical infrastructure focused on the 4Rs — Reduce, Reuse, Recycle, and Rethink. The Recycling and Solid Waste Center became a key component for processing recyclables and transferring waste, as well as accepting food scraps, yard waste, electronics, and household hazardous waste.

In a statement, Eckstrom said, “My contributions were hiring excellent and engaged staff, creating strong partnerships with non-profits, the private sector and DEC, creating financial incentives, providing strong customer service and extensive community education.”

Congratulations, Barb!



Recycle holiday trees for free

Holiday trees can be recycled for free starting on Tuesday, Dec. 26, 2023, through Wednesday, Jan. 31, 2024, at the Recycling and Solid Waste Center. There’s no permit or fee required; just stop at the scale house and ask for a Holiday Tree Recycling Ticket.

All lights and decorations must be removed from the tree. Synthetic trees will not be accepted.