

# 4R TIMES

REDUCE, REUSE, RECYCLE, RETHINK

## HOUSEHOLD HAZARDOUS WASTE (HHW) DROP-OFF EVENTS

- **Saturday, August 16, 2025**
- **Saturday, October 18, 2025**
- **Saturday, November 15, 2025**

Solid Waste Permit and  
appointment required.

**Register** >>

## IMPORTANT DATES & HOLIDAYS

### Labor Day -

**Monday, September 1, 2025**

Office and RSWC closed,  
recycling collection on one day  
delay.

### Indigenous Peoples' Day -

**Monday, October 13, 2025**

Office is closed, RSWC open,  
and the recycling collection is  
on schedule.

### Veterans Day -

**Tuesday, November 11, 2025**

Office is closed, RSWC open,  
and the recycling collection is  
on schedule.

### TCRMM OFFICE

122 COMMERCIAL AVE  
ITHACA, NEW YORK  
607-273-6632

## NEW 2025-2026 CURBSIDE RECYCLING GUIDELINES



The **2025-2026 Curbside Recycling Guidelines** are now available at the TCRMM Office, the Recycling & Solid Waste Center public drop-off area, municipal offices, Food Scraps Drop Spots, and select grocery store service desks throughout Tompkins County.

You can download a copy from our website:

[\*\*Curbside Recycling Guidelines\*\*](#)

Recent changes to acceptable materials for curbside and drop-off recycling include the removal of **food & beverage cartons** (such as milk, juice, and soup boxes) and **black plastic containers** (like takeout trays and sushi containers).

Acceptable items include:

- Plastic containers labeled #1, #2, or #5 (e.g. yogurt cups, milk jugs, detergent bottles).  
No black plastic
- Cardboard & mixed paper
- Glass food and beverage containers
- Metal cans & foil

To help reduce waste and avoid non-recyclable packaging, consider the following alternatives:

- Bring your own container for leftovers
- Buy loose products and refill containers to reduce packaging waste
- Select products packaged in recyclable materials when alternatives are available
- Contact manufacturers to encourage more sustainable packaging design

Thank you for helping us keep recycling clean and effective in Tompkins County!

## ENFIELD COMPOST CLUB LAUNCHES

This spring, TCRMM staff collected feedback from Enfield residents about the Enfield Drop Spot and determined that **switching to a Compost Club model** may better serve the community's needs.

The Compost Club allows residents to register for use of a locked food scraps drop-off mini-shed, located at the **Enfield Town Clerk's Office**. Once admitted, participants receive a combination code to access the shed at their convenience. Codes are updated periodically and shared through the Compost Club newsletter to maintain secure and responsible use.

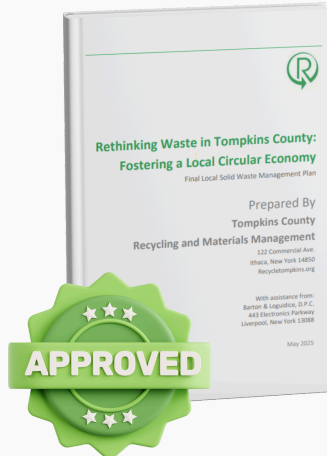
This new model helps TCRMM reduce operational costs while providing a flexible and convenient option for residents who want to divert food scraps from the landfill.



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## RETHINKING WASTE IN TOMPKINS COUNTY: FOSTERING A LOCAL CIRCULAR ECONOMY



With recent approval from the New York State Department of Environmental Conservation, Tompkins County's **Local Solid Waste Management Plan (LSWMP)** is now final, setting the course for how we reduce, reuse, recycle, and rethink waste over the next decade.

The plan outlines bold, community-driven strategies to **reduce daily waste generation from 2.96 lbs to 1.32 lbs per person by 2032**. It reflects the County's commitment to environmental leadership, equity, and innovation—focusing not just on what goes in the bin, but how we can prevent waste in the first place.

From strengthening food scraps recovery to supporting reuse initiatives and increasing participation in recycling, the LSWMP is a blueprint for progress rooted in the **4 R's: Reduce, Reuse, Recycle, and Rethink**.

Read the full plan and learn how you can be part of building a cleaner, more sustainable future: [Read the plan](#)

## USDA ON-FARM WORKSHOP

In partnership with **Todd McLane** of the **TC3 Farm** and **Jean Bonhotal** of the **Cornell Waste Management Institute**, and funded by a grant from the **USDA, TCRMM** organized an informational and hands-on workshop focused on composting for small-scale farms.

The project provides **technical assistance** for local farms to compost on-site and scale with confidence. By turning food scraps into valuable compost, farms can enrich their soil, reduce waste, and even engage their surrounding communities to source more food scraps or carbon sources. Since the workshop, at least one participating farm has begun accepting food scraps from CSA members, creating a closed loop for nutrient management while also feeding the soils.

Composting is not only a circular way to handle food waste, but it also helps retain soil moisture, builds long-term fertility, and boosts your farm's resilience. Stay tuned to our newsletters for more information about composting and food scraps recycling in Tompkins County.



## BRING YOUR OWN BAG!

Reduce waste and avoid fees by remembering to **BYOB—Bring Your Own Bag** when you shop. It's a simple habit that makes a big difference.



## WHERE DOES THE 5¢ BAG FEE GO?

When you pay 5¢ for a paper bag, the state collects the fee. A portion goes toward providing durable reusable bags to residents with limited income. These are distributed through local partner agencies.



## INCREASING ACCESS

Reusable bags from this program are available through partner agencies serving people with limited financial resources.



## TIPS TO REMEMBER

- Keep extra bags in your car, backpack, or purse
- Storing bags by your door will help you remember them
- Remind your family, friends, and neighbors to BYOB
- Pat yourself on the back for doing your part to reduce waste!