

SUSTAINABLE HOME SURVEY FAQ

The Central Vermont Solid Waste Management District is offering a limited number of free sustainable home surveys to residents in our 19 member towns: Barre City, Barre Town, Berlin, Bradford, Calais, Chelsea, Duxbury, East Montpelier, Fairlee, Hardwick, Middlesex, Montpelier, Orange, Plainfield, Tunbridge, Walden, Washington, Williamstown, Woodbury. *Only residences in these towns are eligible.*

WHAT IS A "SUSTAINABLE HOME SURVEY"?

We will join you on a tour of your home from basement to attic looking for hard to dispose of materials like household hazardous wastes, e-waste, bulbs, batteries, recyclables, and other items that may require special handling or attention. After the walk-through, we'll generate a report, including the closest drop-off sites to manage your materials, and recommendations for reducing waste.

WHY IS CVSWMD OFFERING THIS SERVICE?

We are developing a digital tool that will help people do their own sustainable home surveys. We are kicking off the project by providing a limited number of site visits by trained CVSWMD staff to get a better idea of what kinds of waste people have and which items are difficult or confusing to deal with.

WHY SHOULD I SIGN UP FOR A SUSTAINABLE HOME SURVEY?

Have you ever had trouble figuring out what to do with something you bought or something the last person who lived at your house left? Many products and items found around the house are hazardous, toxic, or flammable, and can present dangers to you, your family, pets, and the environment. We will help you identify these and make sure you know how to handle and dispose of them properly and safely.

WHAT'S IN IT FOR ME?

During the survey, you can ask us about specific items that you would like to dispose of properly. We will be available to answer questions related to trash, recycling, food scraps, household hazardous waste and more. After our visit, we will write you a report about items we found and we may have some recommendations for you on how you can manage them properly. We also have some goodies for participants, including a recycling bin and a compost pail. We can also help you replace mercury-containing devices if we find them.



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WHAT DO I NEED TO DO TO PREPARE FOR A SUSTAINABLE HOME SURVEY?

For starters, you don't have to clean the house for us! We're interested in the waste you generate and how you manage it, so we'll want to see your trash, recycling, food scraps, and all the stuff you never show your guests. Please make sure we can access the different rooms in your house and if you have anything you are curious about, feel free to make a list and let us know when we arrive.

WILL YOU GO INTO EVERY ROOM IN MY HOME?

We respect your privacy. We will only enter your home if invited, and we will only enter spaces within your home with your permission. If you have rooms you do not want on the walk-through, just say so and we'll keep out.

WHO IS ELIGIBLE?

We welcome renters, home owners, families, single-person homes, young, old, with pets, without pets. All types of living situations welcome: you can participate if you live in a trailer, an apartment, a duplex, a single-family home, a mansion, a tiny house, or any other dwelling. You must live in a CVSWMD member town.

WILL I BE SELECTED FOR A SUSTAINABLE HOME SURVEY?

Maybe! We can't come to everyone's house, and we want to get a broad sample of the kinds of waste people struggle with, so, due to time constraints, we may not be able to visit your home, no matter how beautiful it may be. We will let you know whether your home has been selected or not. If you are not selected for an assessment, stay tuned as we develop the tool and you can do your own waste assessment when it is finished!

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