



THE SCHOOL ZERO WASTE CORNER

from the Central Vermont Solid Waste Management District

Your guide to a sustainable, zero waste lifestyle in school and at home!

Volume 1, Edition 2

April 2022

Both Remote & On-campus Programing & Support are Available:

- * [Virtual/Remote Support](#)
- * **Classroom Visits** (school visitation COVID protocols permitting)
- * **Outdoor Schoolyard Visits** (an option if in-person classroom visits are not possible, due to school visitation COVID protocols in-place)

Visit the [CVSWMD School Program](#) pages for more information, and contact John Jose, School Zero Waste Coordinator, with any questions or to book a program.

Student Support is Available:

Support is available for individual students, Green Teams, and other groups working on initiatives to enhance management of recyclables, trash, and food scraps. Please reach out anytime to John Jose with questions or to request support.

School Community Zero Waste Topic: *It's HHW Collection Season!*

CVSWMD 2022 Household Hazardous Waste (HHW) Collection Events will take place on the following Saturdays, from 9:00 a.m.-1:00 p.m. (please note, these events are **open to residents of CVSWMD member municipalities* only**. Please refer to the opposite column for a list of member municipalities).

April 9, 2022 - Barre Town Garage
June 11, 2022 - Tunbridge Transfer Station
July 9, 2022 - Bradford Town Garage
August 27, 2022 - Hardwick Town Garage
October 29, 2022 - Montpelier Dept. of Labor

Residents: \$20 per carload. Businesses/schools call ahead to register; additional fees apply.

In This Issue:

- ♦ Remote & On-campus Learning Opportunities P. 1
- ♦ Student Support is Available P. 1
- ♦ Zero Waste Topic: 2022 HHW Collection P. 1 (also see enclosed flyer)
- ♦ School Spotlight: Walden School Water Bottle Fill Station Initiative P. 2
- ♦ Zero Waste Tip: Wood Shavings for Your Compost Pail P. 3 & 4

Contact Info:

John Jose (he, him)
School Zero Waste Coordinator
Office: 802.229.9383 x 111
Cell: 802.461.9246
Email: johnj@cvswmd.org

For more info, see the flyer at the end of this newsletter, visit our [HHW collection events page](#), call 802-229-9383, or email operations@cvswmd.org.



***CVSWMD member municipalities include:** Barre City, Barre Town, Berlin, Bradford, Calais, Chelsea, Duxbury, East Montpelier, Fairlee, Hardwick, Middlesex, Montpelier, Orange, Plainfield, Tunbridge, Walden, Washington, Williamstown, and Woodbury. Residents of other municipalities, click [here](#) to find your local solid waste management entity and the hazardous waste disposal options available in your area.



THE SCHOOL ZERO WASTE SPOTLIGHT

Walden School is *going sustainable* with new water bottle fill stations!

While **single-use water bottles** are generally recyclable, even greater environmental benefit is achieved **when we use reusable water bottles**, which can be refilled again and again and potentially last for years.

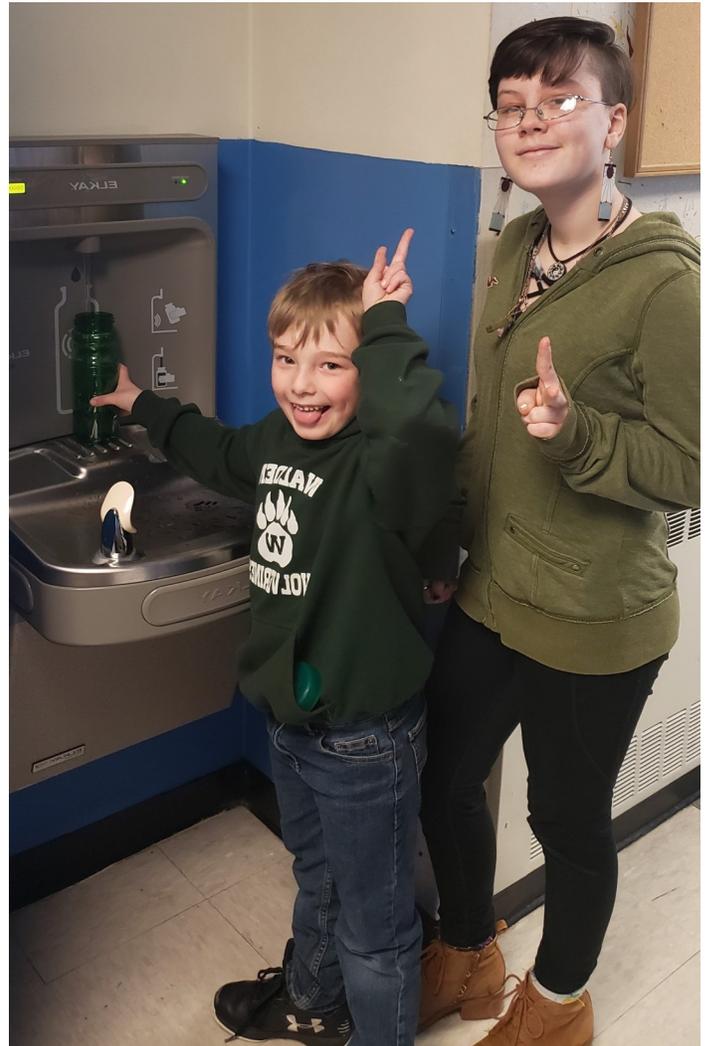
Most, if not all, CVSWMD member schools now have at least one **water bottle fill station** installed to support their school communities in the use of reusable water bottles. Most recently, with financial support from a CVSWMD **School Zero Waste Grant***, the [Walden School](#) purchased and installed two fill stations.

The school obtained additional funding from an **ESSER II grant to purchase a reusable water bottle for each student and staff member**, a great idea to encourage use of the newly installed fill stations by everyone!

Schools can work to **identify areas where students and staff do not have ready access to a water bottle fill station and consider installing any needed additional fill station(s)**. Financial support, through a CVSWMD School Zero Waste Grant*, can be obtained to support purchase of both fill stations and reusable water bottles for school communities.

Additionally, where lead in school drinking water is a concern, a **properly filtered fill station can effectively remove lead**, as was demonstrated in a [2018 Vermont State pilot study involving 16 schools](#) (see page 9 of the report).

*For more information, visit the CVSWMD [School Zero Waste Grant](#) page. Note: The maximum grant amount that can be awarded, per water bottle fill station, is \$1200.00.



Walden School students Evan Thompson and Willow Stuart refill a reusable water bottle, provided by the school, at one of two newly-installed water bottle fill stations.

Contact Info:

John Jose (he, him)
School Zero Waste Coordinator
Office: 802.229.9383 x 111
Cell: 802.461.9246
Email: johnj@cswmd.org



SCHOOL COMMUNITY ZERO WASTE TIP

Use wood shavings for an easier-to-manage compost pail!

The [Vermont Universal Recycling Law](#) bans food scraps from being land-filled, and with the success of local and state initiatives to provide more sustainable alternatives, Vermonters now have [options to select from](#), depending on their particular circumstances and needs, regarding food scrap disposal.

If your food scrap disposal involves temporary storage in a pail, using **wood shavings** can help **reduce odors** and create **a cleaner pail that needs less cleaning!**

Shavings can be obtained from **woodworking shops**, or purchased in **bales** from retailers that sell pet and livestock supplies, such as hardware and home and garden stores.

The bales I obtain from a local farm and garden store contain white pine shavings, which are more typically used for animal bedding, but work very well in a compost pail.

A 2.8 cubic foot bale, which will expand when opened, costs about **\$5.00 and should last for months**. I checked with the manufacturer of the shavings I typically purchase and they confirmed that their **shavings are a byproduct of lumber production in a sawmill** and that white pine trees are not being harvested simply to be turned into shavings.

The Upsides & Downsides of using wood shavings in your compost pail:

The Downsides: 🙅

1. The need to store the wood shavings: To minimize mess and to conveniently store and access shavings, I empty a new bale into a large plastic bin with a lid for storage, and keep a small pail with shavings - which I fill from the large bin, as needed - in a convenient location in my kitchen. A bale can also be shared with family or friends, to reduce the amount of shavings you need to store.

2. A little messy: The shavings and sawdust mixed in with them can introduce some mess, when transferred from storage pail to countertop food scrap pail. You can minimize this by holding your wood shaving pail directly over your food scrap pail, when adding shavings.

3. Loss of pail capacity: Adding wood shavings means less room for food scraps. To address this, I have a back-up pail for times when my primary pail reaches capacity.

The Upsides: 👍

1. Odor reduction: If food scraps in a countertop pail start to smell, adding a layer of shavings can help to address this, as the carbon in the shavings absorbs the odors. Whenever the “stink factor” in my food scrap pail kicks up, I simply add more shavings.

2. Cleaning made easier: The shavings also absorb moisture, which helps to keep food scraps from sticking to the bottom and sides of a food waste pail, making cleaning a pail much simpler. When I start with a layer of shavings on the bottom of my empty food scrap pail and add shavings as I make additional food scrap deposits, **I find the entire contents of my pail will often slide out when emptied, leaving me with a pail that does not need to be cleaned.**

3. Shavings are a “brown” for those with a compost bin:

Food scraps are a relatively high-nitrogen-containing organic material. Adding “browns”, carbon-containing materials, helps to maintain a more favorable carbon:nitrogen ratio in a compost bin. So shavings combined with food scraps in a compost pail equates to more balanced additions of pre-mixed organic materials to a compost bin!

See page 4 for images illustrating this process.



SCHOOL COMMUNITY ZERO WASTE TIP

Use wood shavings for an easier-to-manage compost pail! (cont'd)



A bale of shavings can be stored in a bin (see image on left) indoors, where space permits, or in a garage or on a porch, etc. The small pail with shavings can be kept in a convenient location, near to where your kitchen food scrap pail is kept. **The food scrap pail in the middle image** has just been emptied. Although not spotlessly clean, it is clean enough to be pressed back into service without being washed. If it does need to be washed, clean-up will be easier, than if shavings were not used. **A fresh layer of shavings has been added to the bottom of the pail (image on right)**, before any food scraps are added.



Contact Info:

John Jose (he, him)
School Zero Waste Coordinator
Office: 802.229.9383 x 111
Cell: 802.461.9246
Email: johnj@cvswmd.org

With each fresh deposit of food scraps, another layer of shavings is added, until your food scrap pail is full and ready to be emptied, then the process starts over again. Eventually you will need to clean your pail, but using the shavings ensures you won't have to engage in the unpleasant task of washing your pail as often!

**For 2022 Household Hazardous Collection Season Information,
see the flyer below...**



CVSWMD 2022 HOUSEHOLD HAZARDOUS WASTE COLLECTIONS

All events are held 9 am - 1 pm

NEW ENTRANCE
79 PITMAN ROAD

April 9	Barre Town Garage
June 11	Tunbridge Transfer Station
July 9	Bradford Town Garage
Aug 27	Hardwick Town Garage
Oct 29	Montpelier, Dept of Labor

- \$20 per car - CVSWMD RESIDENTS ONLY*
- Exact change or check only
- Remain in vehicle
- Masks recommended
- Hazwaste must be in trunk or truck bed
- No containers will be returned
- No garbage bags
- No pets allowed
- No smoking
- No batteries, bulbs, propane tanks, mercury devices, or electronics
- Businesses, Towns, and Schools must register one week ahead

Proof of residency
required

Events for residents of CVSWMD member towns ONLY.* If you live in a different town, please contact your local waste district for HHW collections near you.



*CVSWMD District Towns: Barre City, Barre Town, Berlin, Bradford, Calais, Chelsea, Duxbury, East Montpelier, Fairlee, Hardwick, Middlesex, Montpelier, Orange, Plainfield, Tunbridge, Walden, Washington, Williamstown, Woodbury.

CVSWMD.ORG | 229-9383

CENTRAL VERMONT SOLID WASTE MANAGEMENT DISTRICT

HOUSEHOLD HAZARDOUS WASTE (HHW) FEES: \$ 20 PER CARLOAD - DISTRICT RESIDENTS ONLY*

What is Household Hazardous Waste?

Look for the signal words "DANGER," "POISON" or "CAUTION/WARNING" on the label. If you see any of those words, consider it household hazardous waste. Go to cvswmd.org/what-is-hazardous-waste for details.

Examples include: Bleach products (including tub, tile & toilet cleaners), drain openers, oven cleaners, floor wax, solvents, tar, adhesives, pesticides, aerosols, moth balls, gasoline, kerosene, used or contaminated oil, degreasers, polishes, transmission fluid, brake fluid, spray paint. **We also accept paint.**

Why is there a fee?

Household Hazardous Waste is expensive to dispose of properly. CVSWMD must contract with a company specifically trained to handle hazardous materials. The fee we charge is a small fraction of the total expense. CVSWMD subsidizes the remainder of the cost for residents of its member towns.

Proof of residency?

Proof of residency in a CVSWMD member-town is required.*

Examples: Driver's license, property tax bill, utility bill, or mail with physical address. Events for residents of CVSWMD member towns ONLY.* If you live in a different town, please contact your local waste district for HHW collections near you.

Instructions for Organizational Haz Waste

Businesses, Schools, Municipalities, Farms, and other Institutions **MUST REGISTER** for these collections at least 1 week ahead. To register, call 229-9383. We will need your *EPA Site Identification number* and a detailed inventory of the materials you are bringing. Pricing is based on the materials you bring. Additional fees apply. If you need assistance call the number above.

We do not accept batteries, bulbs, mercury devices, propane tanks or electronics at HHW collections.

*CVSWMD District Towns: Barre City, Barre Town, Berlin, Bradford, Calais, Chelsea, Duxbury, East Montpelier, Fairlee, Hardwick, Middlesex, Montpelier, Orange, Plainfield, Tunbridge, Walden, Washington, Williamstown, Woodbury.



CVSWMD.ORG | 229-9383

@VTZerowaste

