



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 2, Edition 2

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FEATURED PROGRAMMING:

Wormsplorations! Emily Winters, Union Elementary School, Montpelier, and her 1st-grade students recently received a worm bin, for classroom vermiculture, prepared by John Jose, CVSWMD School Zero Waste Coordinator.

During his visit, John provided interesting factoids about worms and answered the students' thoughtful questions about maintaining their bin.

With a classroom worm bin, students experience the complete cycle of going from food scraps, to worm castings, to using the castings to grow more food (or flowers, herbs, etc.).



Union ES students check out their new classroom worm bin, after adding worms to it.

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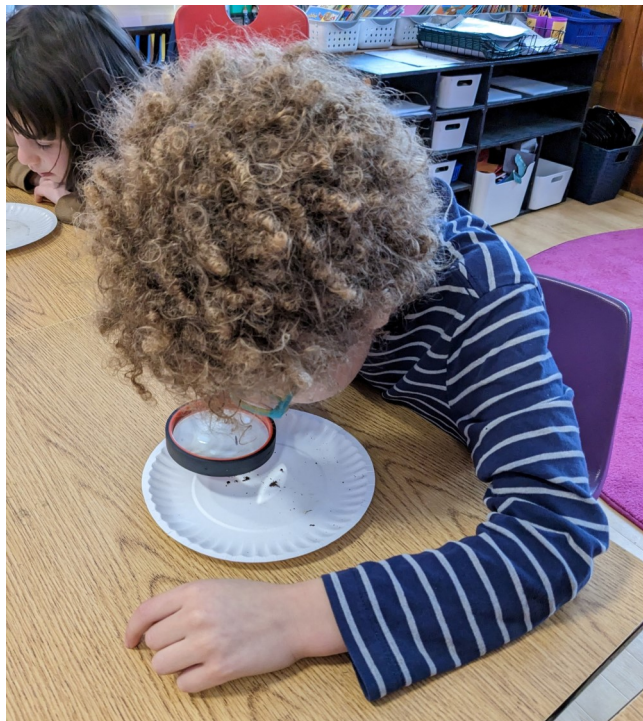
A Union ES student visually exploring and experiencing a "red wiggler" composting worm, before it is added to a classroom vermiculture bin.

Wormsplorations (cont'd):

This school year, eight classrooms, spread throughout CVSWMD, have received worm bins. Eventually, the worms in a bin will consume not only food scraps fed to them, but all their bedding as well. At that point, another classroom visit is made and students are guided in conducting a harvest of worm castings, by separating castings from worms.

The **harvested castings will be used by the students to supporting growing plants in their classroom or school garden.** The worms are brought back to CVSWMD offices in Montpelier and placed in a larger bin system, until the following school year, when the cycle starts again, with bins placed back in classrooms.

Image on right: A Union ES student experiencing the use of a new scientific tool, a magnifying glass, as they make observations of a composting worm.



THE SCHOOL ZERO WASTE SPOTLIGHT

A Colorful Collection at Barre City EMS:

John Jose, CVSWMD School Zero Waste Coordinator, recently presented **Barre City Elementary Middle School** with a certificate of recognition for the school's highly successful efforts to collect used markers for recycling.

Led by kindergarten teacher Allyson Healey, the initiative, which took place over the last few school years, netted **38 lbs. of markers!** Mrs. Healey and her students accepted the certificate on behalf of all the students and teachers at BCEMS.

The markers will be recycled through the [Bic Stationary Free Recycling Program](#), a program CVSWMD offers to the public at the [Additional Recycling Collection Center \(ARCC\)](#) in Barre.

Well done BCEMS - keep up the great work!

Image top right: BCEMS kindergarten teacher, Allyson Healey, and her students accepting a certificate of recognition on behalf of the BCEMS school community.

Image bottom right: The 38 lbs. of markers collected for recycling in this initiative.



THE SCHOOL ZERO WASTE SPOTLIGHT (CONT'D)

East Montpelier ES Battery and String Light Collection

East Montpelier Elementary School brightened up the holidays with string lights and used batteries collected as part of a holiday/winter drive. **A box of string lights and a full box of batteries**, neither of which should ever be placed in with [blue bin recyclable items](#), will be recycled through the [CVSWMD Additional Recyclables Collection Center \(ARCC\)](#) in Barre.

For safe storage, the batteries were kept in [Call2Recycle](#) boxes. These boxes are available for free to schools that enroll in the Call2Recycle Collection Partner program, and there is no cost to ship full boxes for recycling. Interested schools can contact Tyrone Biljan, Call2Recycle, at TBiljan@call2recycle.org.

Kudos to Arlyn and the EMES community for making the extra effort to help ensure the lights and batteries are kept out of the landfill and get recycled!



Arlyn Bruccoli, Library/Media and Tech Integration Specialist at East Montpelier ES, with string lights and used batteries collected as part of a holiday/winter drive she oversaw.

NOTE: When placed in a school, a Call2Recycle battery collection box is intended for use by **school staff only** to recycle batteries from home and batteries used in school. This is **not an appropriate battery collection program for students to participate in**, due to the potential fire risk associated with students transporting batteries, particularly lithium-containing batteries, from home to school. With this in mind, a Call2Recycle box in a school should be stored away from areas with student traffic.

SCHOOL COMMUNITY ZERO WASTE TIP

Black Plastic Food Containers Are Not Blue Bin Recyclable



Rigid, black plastic food containers, including those often used for take out food by food retailers, **should not be placed in our recycling bins.**

For the following reasons, black plastic food containers are not blue bin recyclable:

- Where scanning technology is used in a MRF (Materials Recovery Facility) to identify and separate plastics, the scanners can't "read" and identify plastics dyed black
- Relatively speaking, there is little black plastic produced and little demand for it in the recycling market.
- When mixed in with other types of recyclable plastics, plastics that are dyed black can reduce the value of those other recyclables.

So unless you can find a way to repurpose them, black plastic food containers are destined for your trash bin.



IT'S HAPPENING AT THE ARCC!

The Additional Recyclables Collection Center at 540 N. Main Street (the old Times Argus building) in Barre City

An amazing place, staffed by wonderful, friendly people, accepting dozens of different types of items for recycling that would otherwise be landfilled!

The Following Items are FREE for Residents to Recycle at the ARCC:

- Household batteries, up to 11 lbs. for individual batteries and under 300Wh
- TVs, computers, and computer peripherals, such as monitors, desk-top printers, and scanners. Fees may apply for some non-residential customers with more than seven devices.
- Household paint, stain, and tile sealer (no marine/automotive paint, solvents, or spray paint)
- Fluorescent bulbs and tubes: 10 or fewer tubes and unlimited CFLs are free; fee of \$0.15/foot applies to more than 10 non-CFL tubes.
- Mercury containing thermostats



[Click here](#) to download an ARCC brochure!

Contact Info for the ARCC:

Phone: 802.476.1900

Website: www.cvswwmd.org/arcc

Email: stefan@cvswmd.org, Stefan Malner, ARCC Facility Manager

Hours: Monday, Wednesday, & Friday, 10:30 a.m.—5:30 p.m., and the 3rd Saturday of every month.

Closed for lunch break daily 1:00-2:00 p.m. Closed most holidays—check website for closure notices

Address: 540 N. Main St, Barre, VT, 05641 (behind the Dollar General)

