



## ACCESSIBILITY AND SENSORY GUIDE

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## 1. General Overview

This Accessibility Guide was created to help address sensory and accessibility needs while visiting our facilities. Customers can use this guide to assist with navigating the various sensory stimuli and physical requirements at our different sites.

Feel free to use this guide to plan a sensory-friendly and accessible trip to one of Chittenden Solid Waste District's drop-off centers (DOCs), the Organic Recycling Facility, and the Environmental Depot.

## 2. Before your Visit

Amenities – Please plan to use the restroom before your visit. We do not have public restrooms at our facilities

Parking – Our facilities have numerous receptacles for various materials and limited parking. Guests may have to move to different spots throughout the facility for accessible access. Additionally, folks with mobility devices or challenges can park closer to the recycling and trash compactors to be more centrally located.

Accessibility – Ask a staff member if you have any needs that we can assist you with, including:

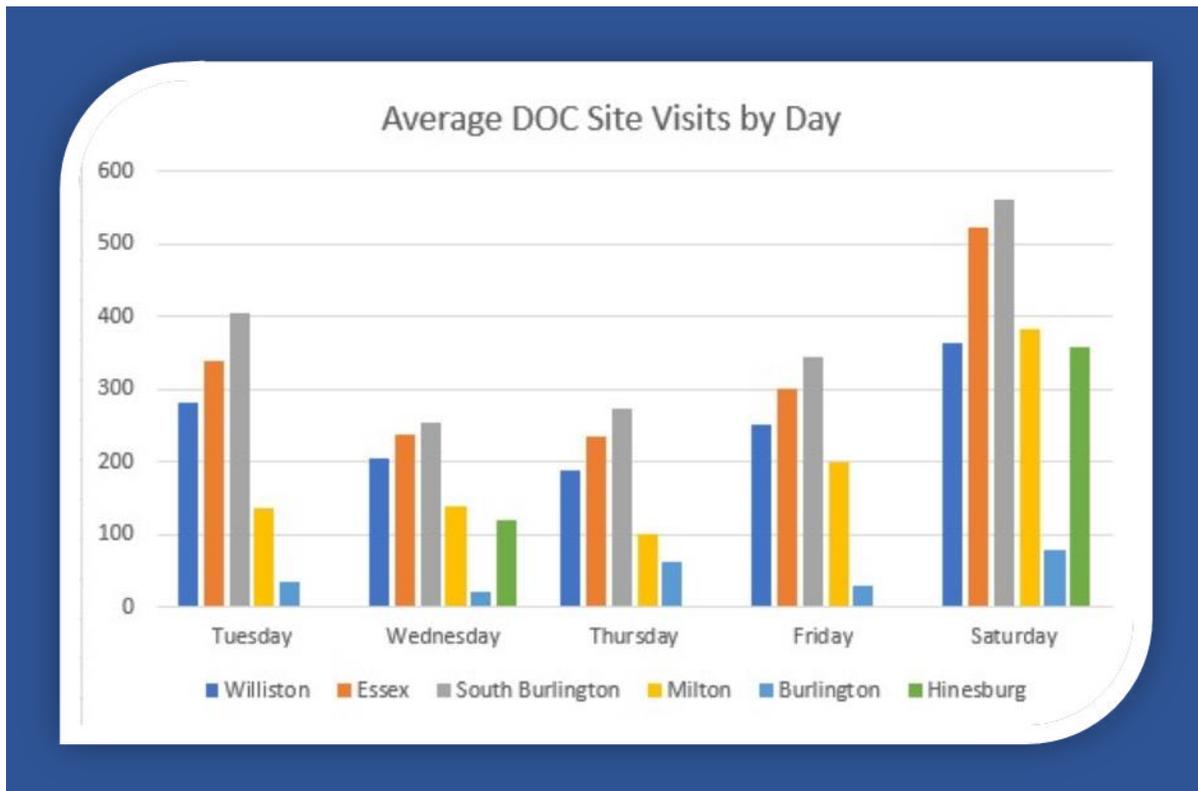
- Help locating where to place items on site.
- Are Deaf, hard of hearing, or would like to view a [visual aid](#) handout.
- Would like to request ear plugs for blocking out sounds.

\*Our Drop-Off Centers are self-serve facilities. We would love to be able to help everyone, but safety and liability concerns and staffing limitations prevent us from helping customers remove and carry items from their vehicles. Please bring physical assistance to help recycle or dispose of your items.

Items to bring – Our outdoor facilities contain glass and other hazardous material, so guests are advised to wear closed toe shoes and dress for any active weather conditions.

### 3. Timing Your Visit

- All drop-off centers tend to be busiest on Saturdays.
- On average, all drop-off centers are slower during the middle of the week, either on Wednesdays or Thursdays.
- Burlington and Hinesburg are the slowest sites on average.
- The Environmental Depot is by appointment only. Make an appointment during a designated time slot [here](#).



## Drop – off Centers

### WILLISTON

**Slowest Time:** Wednesday mornings

**Slower:** Wednesdays and Thursdays

**Busiest:** Saturday afternoons



### ESSEX

**Slowest Time:** Thursday mornings

**Slower:** Mornings

**Busiest:** Saturday 10am to close



### SOUTH BURLINGTON

**Slowest Time:** Tuesday and Thursday mornings

**Slower:** Wednesday and Thursday

**Busiest:** Saturday



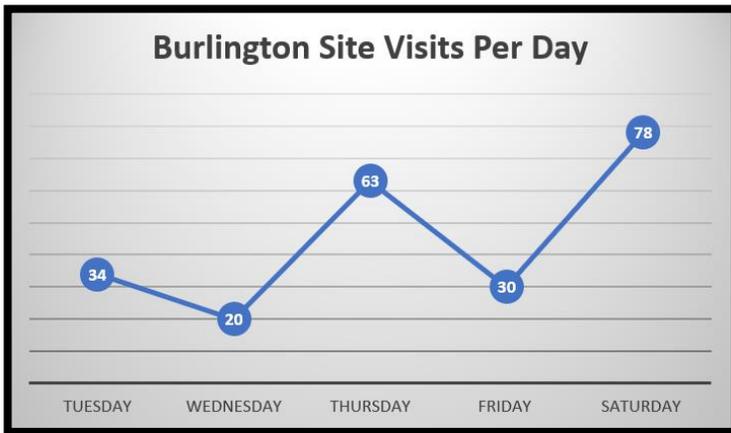
Drop – off Center

## MILTON

**Slowest Time:** Thursday

**Slower:** Tuesday, Wednesday, and Thursday

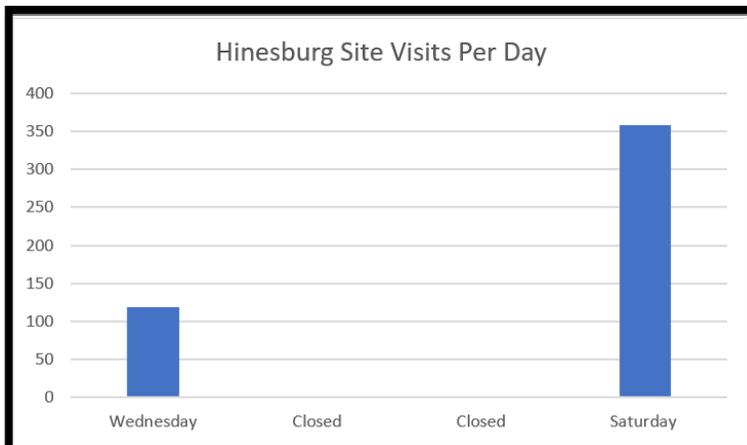
**Busiest:** Late mornings on Saturday



## BURLINGTON

**Slower:** Tuesday, Wednesday, and Friday

**Busiest:** Saturday mornings to the afternoon



## HINESBURG

**Slower:** Wednesday

**Busiest:** Saturday

## 4. Sensory Guide

### Auditory Stimulation



All drop-off centers contain Metal Compactors or large metal bins. Materials thrown into metal compactors make unexpected and loud sounds.

- When turned on, compactors make a buzzing and scraping noise.

F35 jet planes fly everyday over **South Burlington** and **Williston**.

- Have loud and thunderous engines

Hauler trucks, loaders, and fork-lifts are in and out of the DOC facilities all day.

- Machinery makes beeping noises and other mechanical sounds.

There is a privately owned gun range near the **Hinesburg** Drop Off Center.

- Loud popping sounds can be heard when the gun range is being used.

The **Organic Recycling Facility**

- Attracts squawking birds that are deterred with a pop gun infrequently.

**\*Quieter times: Mornings**

**\*Quieter sites: Burlington and Milton**

## Odor Stimulation



All DOC's contain trash compactors that can be smelly during the summer months.

Also, compost at all facilities is strongest smelling in the summer and when compost bins are full.

- The **Environmental Depot** can smell like sulfur from the Wastewater Treatment Plant. This smell is worse in the winter.
- The **Organic Recycling Facility** emits the strongest odors from the compost leachate, food scraps, and compost process.

\*Less smelly times: Winter & cold months. (except for Environmental Depot)

## Physical Requirements



All sites require visitors to walk from their vehicle to the compactors and bins for disposal. Additionally, all sites require visitors to lift and carry items for disposal or recycling that have been brought to the Drop Off Center.

- **Burlington** – There are steps around accessing metal bins for disposal of recycling; A handicapped parking spot is marked and available.
- **Essex** – Has a smaller parking lot for vehicles to maneuver; The road into the DOC is not paved; There are curb steps and cutouts for wheelchair access.
- **Hinesburg** – There are steps around accessing metal bins for disposal of recycling; The road into the DOC is not paved.
- **Milton** – There are steps around accessing metal bins for disposal of recycling; Guests might have to step up to enter large metal containers for disposal of tires, electronic waste, and mattresses; the road into the DOC is not paved.
- **Organic Recycling Facility** - There is rougher, unpaved terrain exiting this facility.
- **South Burlington** – Has a smaller parking lot for vehicles to maneuver; There are curb steps and cutouts for wheelchair access.
- **Williston** – There are steps around accessing metal bins for disposal of recycling; Guests might have to step up to enter large metal containers for disposal of tires, electronic waste, and mattresses.
- **Environmental Depot** – Guests drive through and assist with unloading items.

\*Larger sites (more walking): Williston and Milton

\*Smaller sites (less walking): Burlington and South Burlington.

#### 4. Color Guide

\*Blue = Recycling



\*Green = Food scraps



\*Black = Trash



\*Orange = Special materials



We hope this resource has helped you get a sense of the CSWD facilities to make your visit more accessible.

If you have any questions or concerns, don't hesitate to reach out to us.

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