Contamination Policy Year 1

JULY 1, 2024 - JUNE 30, 2025

All Hauler Contamination Report

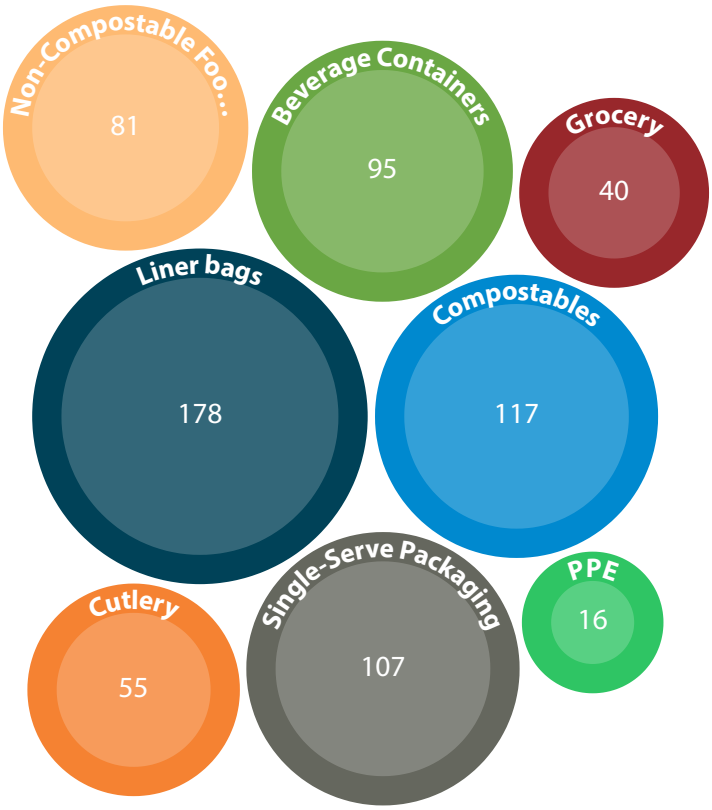
As we mark one year of implementing the contamination policy at CSWD's Organics Recycling Facility (ORF), we want to thank you for your ongoing partnership in reducing plastic and non-compostable materials in the food waste stream. Thanks to the collective efforts of haulers and generators alike, the majority of loads delivered to the facility are coming in well below the 5% contamination threshold. Let's keep building on this!

Your Loads This Past Year

- Total visits to the Organics Recycling Facility: 3543
- Inspected Loads: 324
- Fined loads: 42
  - **Accepted Loads: 309**
  - **Excessively Contaminated Loads (>10% contaminated): 6**
  - **Contaminated Loads (between 5-10% contaminated): 9**
  - **Incidental Contamination Loads (non-volumetric problem contaminates): 29**

Your Food Waste

Below is a breakdown of contamination categories seen in your inspected loads. Load reports that are marked as "Accepted" (below 5% contamination) still have contaminates. Your hauler folder contains all completed load reports and accompanying photos. Reviewing these can help haulers identify generators or problem areas to address before fines are ever assessed.



Common Contaminants We See

Haulers are in the best position to set expectations with generators. Reinforcing proper bin labeling, sharing visual guides, and calling out issues early helps prevent contamination from becoming routine. Clean loads not only reduce costly rejections and fines, but they also build credibility for your services and strengthen long-term participation in organics diversion.

Non-Compostable Liner Bags

More and more film plastic liner bags are ending up in compost loads. Many of these bags are labeled things like "biodegradable," "plant-based," "recyclable," or just simply made of green plastic. While those claims sound promising, they do *not* mean the bags are compostable.

Only **certified compostable bags** are accepted.

Compostable Food Service Ware

Since 2022 CSWD's ORF has not accepted compostable products other than certified liner bags. Cups, plates, to-go boxes, straws, and cutlery marked as compostable does not belong at our facility and is considered contamination.

Food scraps and certified liner bags only.

Single-Serve Food Packaging

Source-separated organics are especially vulnerable to contamination. Entire plates often get scraped into the organics bin — including small plastic wrappers and other non-compostables. Clear, consistent bin labeling can reduce this risk.

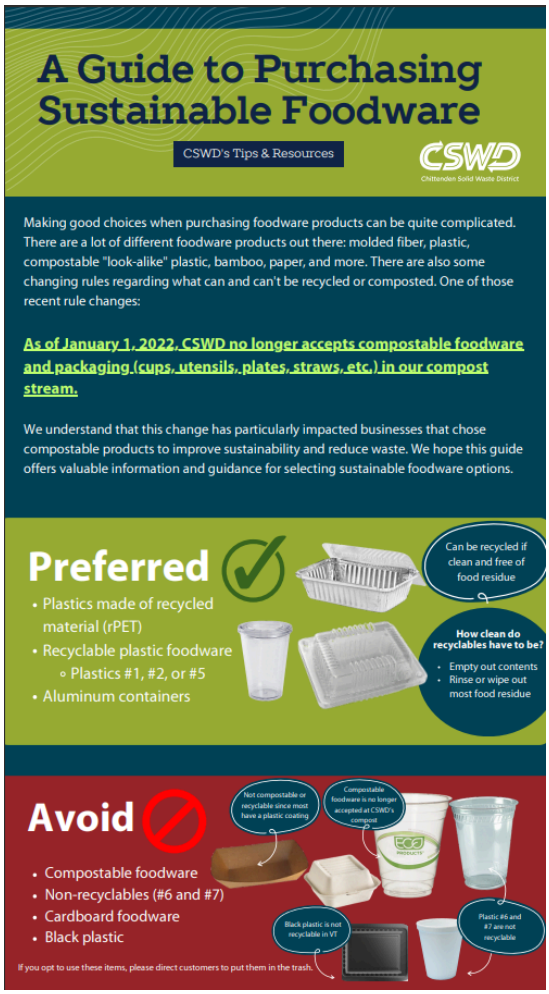
Use the resources below to help your customers keep their organics stream clean.

Available Sharable Media

We know many of your customers are doing their best to source-separate and follow guidelines, and we want to support those efforts. CSWD offers a variety of resources that you can share with generators, including signage, bin stickers, and outreach materials that help clarify what belongs (and what doesn't) in compost. Reach out directly or click here to order stickers, posters, etc.

FOOD SCRAPS
Plus certified compostable liner bags
Scan for details or go to cswd.net
compostable
BPI
COMPOSTABLE

STOP!
Is your bag really compostable?
YES:
Compostable bags have this symbol on them.
BPI
COMPOSTABLE
THIS BAG IS
COMPOSTABLE
NO:
Biodegradable does not mean compostable.
THANK YOU
THANK YOU
THANK YOU
REUSABLE, RECYCLABLE & BIODEGRADABLE
CSWD
Chittenden Solid Waste District


A Guide to Purchasing Sustainable Foodware
CSWD's Tips & Resources
CSWD
Chittenden Solid Waste District
Making good choices when purchasing foodware products can be quite complicated. There are a lot of different foodware products out there: molded fiber, plastic, compostable "look-alike" plastic, bamboo, paper, and more. There are also some changing rules regarding what can and can't be recycled or composted. One of those recent rule changes:
As of January 1, 2022, CSWD no longer accepts compostable foodware and packaging (cups, utensils, plates, straws, etc.) in our compost stream.
We understand that this change has particularly impacted businesses that chose compostable products to improve sustainability and reduce waste. We hope this guide offers valuable information and guidance for selecting sustainable foodware options.
Preferred
• Plastics made of recycled material (rPET)
• Recyclable plastic foodware
◦ Plastics #1, #2, or #5
• Aluminum containers
Can be recycled if clean and free of food residue
How clean do recyclables have to be?
• Empty out contents
• Rinse or wipe out most food residue
Avoid
• Compostable foodware
• Non-recyclables (#6 and #7)
• Cardboard foodware
• Black plastic
Not compostable or recyclable since most have a plastic coating
Compostable foodware is no longer accepted at CSWD's compost
Black plastic is not recyclable in VT
Plastic #6 and #7 are not recyclable
If you opt to use these items, please direct customers to put them in the trash.

CSWD's Guide To
FOOD SCRAPS
of any kind
NO PIZZA BOXES
NO PLASTIC BAGS
NO FOOD CONTAINERS OR UTENSILS
NO STICKERS
MORE INFO: (802) 872-8100
www.cswd.net/scrapfoodwaste
CSWD
Chittenden Solid Waste District
PLUS
BACKYARD
DROP-OFF
PICKUP

[More here]

Why Contamination Control is Essential

Haulers play a key role in keeping contamination low. Just like with recycling, clear guidance to customers makes all the difference. Clean organics loads mean fewer hassles, fewer rejected tons, and a better end product everyone can stand behind.

Want to see our facility in action? Schedule a tour today!

Big Emissions Savings
In 2024, about 4,500 tons of food scraps were composted here in Williston instead of trucking them to the Coventry landfill avoiding **over 2,000 metric tons of CO_2-equivalent.**

That's equal to taking **450 cars off the road for a year**.

Lower Costs for Everyone
Composting tip fees are **about half** the cost of landfilling. Keeping food scraps out of the trash saves money and extends landfill life.

You're Delivering More Than Scraps
Clean food scraps become Green Mountain Compost products which support local farms, gardens, and landscapes.
Contamination turns a valuable resource into waste. Your efforts to reduce non-compostables help ensure we're making real compost, not just moving trash around.

Contact

Feel free to reach out to us at cswd_compost_support@cswd.net.

CSWD's Organics Recycling Facility home of Green Mountain Compost

Address: 860 Redmond Road, Williston, VT 05495

Phone: 802-503-7926

Website: www.cswd.net

Chittenden Solid Waste District