

## Haulers Summary

The purpose of this fact sheet is to help you understand the requirements of Act 148. As you may have heard, Act 148, a landmark universal recycling law, was passed by the Vermont Legislature in June of 2012. The law bans mandated recyclables from the landfill and phases in a landfill ban on leaf and yard debris, food scraps, and clean wood. The goal of this law is to keep valuable materials out of the waste stream and provide convenient and consistent recycling and disposal options to Vermont residents and businesses. **All haulers who provide trash collection will eventually be required to also offer collection of recyclables, leaf and yard debris, and food scraps -- or sub-contract with another hauler to provide these services to customers.**

Vermont residents and businesses will be looking to you, their solid waste haulers, for information about these changes and for assistance with their waste reduction needs. The staff of the VT DEC Solid Waste Program, together with the Solid Waste Entities of Vermont (regional solid waste districts and alliances), will work with you to provide this assistance. Over the coming months, we will provide more detailed information, as well as consumer-outreach tools such as flyers and posters. In the meantime, we hope this fact sheet will answer some of your initial questions.

### Summary of Act 148 Requirements

The new law phases in collection of mandated recyclables, leaf and yard debris, clean wood debris, and food scraps.

Mandated Recyclables under Act 148 include:

- Aluminum and steel cans
- Aluminum foil and aluminum pie pans
- Glass bottles and jars from foods and beverages
- PET and HDPE plastic bottles and jugs
- Corrugated cardboard
- White and mixed paper
- Newspaper, magazines, catalogues, paper mail, and envelopes
- Box board

### Implementation Timeline

Mandated Recyclables:

- Must be collected at facilities starting July 1, 2014
- Must be collected at curbside by haulers starting July 1, 2015
- Must be collected at curbside by municipalities starting July 1, 2015 (with variable weight pricing)
- Must be collected in public spaces (alongside trash containers) starting July 1, 2015
- Banned from the landfill starting July 1, 2015

Leaf & Yard Debris:

- Must be collected at facilities starting July 1, 2015
- Must be collected at curbside by haulers starting July 1, 2016
- Banned from the landfill starting July 1, 2016

**Clean Wood Debris:**

- Banned from the landfill starting July 1, 2016

**Food Scraps:**

- Generators of 104 tons/year must separate food scraps starting July 1, 2014
- Generators of 52 tons/year must separate food scraps starting July 1, 2015
- Generators of 26 tons/year must separate food scraps starting July 1, 2016
- Generators of 18 tons/year must separate food scraps starting July 1, 2017
- Must be collected at facilities starting July 1, 2017
- **Must be collected at curbside by haulers starting July 1, 2017** Amended to July 1, 2020
- Banned from the landfill starting July 1, 2020

**How facilities & haulers can charge for new services**

Facilities cannot charge a separate fee for the collection of mandated recyclables from residential customers, but they can charge commercial haulers for this service. Facilities can also charge for the collection of leaf and yard debris and food scraps.

Haulers cannot charge a separate fee for the collection of mandated recyclables from residential customers, but the costs of collecting these items can be included in residential trash collection fees. Haulers can also charge for the collection of leaf and yard debris and food scraps.

The law requires municipalities to implement variable-rate pricing (aka “Pay As You Throw”; based on volume or weight) for their residential customers starting July 1, 2015. Haulers will also be required to utilize the variable-rate pricing systems that are implemented by municipal entities (including solid waste districts, towns and town groups).

ANR will review facility and hauler residential rate structures to ensure that rates are transparent to customers.

**Where to get more information**

In addition to this fact sheet, the Department of Environmental Conservation (DEC) Solid Waste Program is developing new website information specific to haulers. This information will include informational materials, such as flyers and posters, that you can pass along to your customers. You can find these resources at the following link:

<http://www.anr.state.vt.us/dec/wastediv/solid/home.htm>.

In order for Act 148 to be successful, we need input and collaboration from haulers, facilities, municipalities, residents and businesses. The DEC Solid Waste Program and local Solid Waste Entities will be hosting informational meetings in various regions around the state. If you have any questions or comments, you can contact DEC or your local Solid Waste Entity. We welcome your feedback.

**CONTACT:** Mia Roethlein, Environmental Analyst IV  
[mia.roethlein@state.vt.us](mailto:mia.roethlein@state.vt.us); 802-522-5926

Department of Environmental Conservation  
 Waste Management & Prevention Division, Solid Waste Program  
 1 National Life Drive, Davis 1, Montpelier, VT 05620-3704

