

A brochure is being developed to post on the Norwich website and to distribute at the Transfer Station on the implementation of Act 148 that will include some of the following information.

In 2012 Act 148 was passed “An act relating to establishing universal recycling of solid waste” that will significantly change how waste is handled in Vermont with the goal of significantly reducing the amount of waste going to landfills. The Act uses a combination of mandates and financial incentives to increase recycling and diversion of Municipal Solid Waste (MSW), household hazardous waste (HHW) and organics from the waste stream. The highlights are:

- A requirement that all households and businesses have equal access to recycling collection and solid waste collection beginning in 2015;
- Variable rate pricing of solid waste to encourage households and businesses to recycle instead of dispose of recyclables in refuse, with the cost of recycling embedded in the cost of refuse collection by July 2015;
- A ban on leaf and yard residuals disposal at landfills in 2016;
- Implementation of public space recycling throughout Vermont beginning in July 2015; and,
- Mandated source separation of food residuals, and a ban on landfill disposal, by 2020, with a phased in requirement for large generators of food residuals to begin separating food residuals as early as 2014.

The Agency of Natural Resources had a study done of the Impact of Act 148 on Solid Waste Management in Vermont.

Among the findings are the following:

“Act 148 has the potential to raise materials recovery rates to between 63 and 68 percent , and to divert roughly 60 percent of the food residuals, yard residuals and compostable papers for composting, animal feed, and energy (through anaerobic digestion). This increased diversion comes with concomitant reductions in GHG emissions of roughly 23,500 to 27,300 metric tons carbon equivalent per year over the existing system once Act 148 is fully implemented.”

“However, to achieve the highest recovery rates and the greatest environmental benefits, Vermonters will have to spend more than they are currently spending on solid waste management. As illustrated by Table 58, while System 2, with Universal Single Stream recycling and no bottle bill has the lowest overall system-wide cost over the nine year analysis period, this system still results in an estimated increase of \$7.8 million per year in new costs, exclusive of separate trips which have been eliminated from all systems in Table 58. Increasing diversion above the levels projected in System 2 through the use of deposits on beverage containers increases annual costs by another \$5 to \$10 million per year.”

The report is on-line at:

[http://www.anr.state.vt.us/dec/wastediv/solid/documents/FinalReport\\_Act148\\_DSM\\_10\\_21\\_2013.pdf](http://www.anr.state.vt.us/dec/wastediv/solid/documents/FinalReport_Act148_DSM_10_21_2013.pdf)

There are currently no funds available from the State to assist local facilities in complying with these new requirements. There was legislation proposed in the last legislative session that would have increased the franchise fee, paid to the State for every ton of MSW transported from the Transfer Station, but it did not pass. The fee would have increased Norwich's costs and the monies would be used to help compliance with the new requirements.

Some of the things that Norwich has been mandated to do or will be mandated to do in the near future are:

- Effective July 1, 2014 not charge for taking mandated recyclables but may add the cost of handling recyclables to the cost of disposal of MSW.
- Effective July 1, 2015 prohibit the disposal of mandated recyclables in the trash compactor.
- The mandated recyclables are:
  - Metal: aluminum and steel cans, aluminum foil and pie plates
  - Glass: bottles and jars from foods and beverages
  - Plastics: #1 and #2 (PET and HDPE resin types) containers
  - Paper: corrugated cardboard, white and colored paper, newspaper, magazines, paper mail and envelopes, boxboard, and paper bags
- Effective July 1, 2015 implement a variable rate pricing system based on volume or weight.

ANR has suggested some options for complying with the variable rate pricing system which include the following:

- Imprinted Trash Bags – Residents purchase colored plastic bags imprinted with a unique identifier, such as the name or seal of the municipality. 30-35 gallon bags are most common.
- Stickers – Residents purchase stickers at their municipal office and/or local retail stores to affix to a specific sized bags or containers (30 gallon sticker for kitchen sized bags and 50 gallon stickers for “contractor bags” for example). Only bags with these stickers are collected or are accepted for disposal at drop-off facilities.
- Per Bag Punch Cards – Residents purchase punch cards at their municipal office and/or local retail stores priced based on the number of dots or bags offered on the card. Drop-off facility operators punch the dots for each bag of trash a resident brings for disposal. Only residents possessing a punch card are permitted to deposit trash at the drop-off facility.

All of the options depend on materials being brought to the transfer station in bags. The change to selling bags is to comply with the requirement to implement a variable rate pricing system and will become common in Vermont.

In addition Norwich, or our solid waste district, is required to pass an ordinance that includes language similar to the following that applies to private hauler curbside pickup.

“Each Service Provider shall establish a unit-based price to be charged for the Collection/drop-off disposal of each unit of MSW from residential customers; for example, a price per pound or a price for each 30-gallon bag or 30-gallon container that is collected or disposed of by a resident. Each larger unit of MSW, such as a 64-gallon container or a 50-gallon bag, shall carry an increased price.”

It is expected that the cost of curb-side pickup will increase as a result of Act 148.

Norwich is required to report to ANR on compliance with these new regulations.

In addition, in 2013 Act 58 was passed creating the Vermont Paint Stewardship Program that accomplishes the following.

- When paint is purchased in Vermont there is a fee added to fund a program to remove paint from the waste stream. Nationally about 60% of HHW is paint and paint related products.
- The Norwich Transfer facility now takes oil and water based paints at no cost. This does not include solvents and thinners.

Norwich is working with Hanover, Lebanon, Hartford and the Solid Waste District to improve the frequency and handling of HHW and to develop a system for handling organics.