

## Textile Recycling Comes to Norwich

Textile recycling will be available starting the week of March 8<sup>th</sup> at the Norwich Transfer Station / Recycling Center. The Norwich Solid Waste Department, in conjunction with Southeastern Vermont Community Action (SEVCA) will initiate this program for Norwich residents.



### Textile Recycling Program Benefits Vermont Communities

Textile recycling and reuse programs allow our communities to reduce the waste that enters their landfills. Diverting waste from our landfills helps lower operating costs and the amount of land and resources required for landfill expansion. In addition, these programs help reduce the consumption of the raw materials and energy required for new textile manufacturing.



For over 12 years, Southeastern Vermont Community Action (SEVCA) has recycled the clothing, linens and shoes that didn't sell in our "Good Buy" Thrift Stores located in Windham and Windsor counties. In November 2007, SEVCA purchased an industrial baler, opened a warehouse, and invited other organizations to send over their recyclable clothes, shoes and other textile materials. Recycled textiles become polishing cloths, insulation, and lining, fibers for new products or clothing for people in Vermont or developing countries. We do open and sort every bag that is put in these collection sheds to ensure that any wearable clothes are available for your neighbors in need.

In May 2008, SEVCA partnered with the Southern Windsor/Windham Counties Solid Waste Management District to expand the textile recycling program. SEVCA set up four textile collection sheds within the Transfer Station and Recycling Centers for Cavendish, Plymouth, Rockingham, and Weathersfield. SEVCA's staff routinely empties the collection sheds and delivers the textiles to the warehouse in White River Junction. "SEVCA has helped our residents to divert many tons of clothing and shoes from the landfill." stated Mary O'Brien, the Recycling Coordinator for the SWMD.

Now the textile recycling program is growing again to include more towns whose leaders realize the value of diverting textile waste from their landfills and the numerous benefits of keeping our state green. The towns that recently decided to collect textiles for recycling through SEVCA's program include Brattleboro, Ludlow, Moretown and Stowe.

Since November 2007, SEVCA has recycled more than 800 tons of clothing and shoes that would have been disposed of in our local landfills. The proceeds from the recycled textiles and sales in the Good Buy Thrift Stores help support SEVCA's programs that assist local residents who are in crisis or struggling with the hardships of poverty to meet their basic needs of housing, heating fuel, utilities, food, clothing, and furniture. For example, last year SEVCA provided vouchers for free clothing and household goods to more than 210 families (486 people) and weatherization for 288 households.

Items that we recycle include clean and dry clothing, shoes (please bag separately from clothing), blankets, sheets, towels, curtains, mittens, gloves, purses, belts, coats, socks, and stuffed animals. All items that are not re-usable due to rips or stains will be recycled.