

RECYCLING SURVEY

State Name: Vermont

Agency Name: Agency of Natural Resources, Department of Environmental Conservation

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1. Please indicate whether recycling of household or residential recyclables is mandatory, voluntary or perhaps both (mandatory for some materials and voluntary for others) in your state.

There is not a state law mandating recycling. However, many solid waste management districts and towns have enacted mandatory recycling ordinances. Approximately 90 % of VT's population is subject to these ordinances. The materials that are covered vary some from district to district, but generally the ordinances cover metal, cans, glass, plastic containers, paper, and cardboard.

2. Is there a State Law(s) that mandates, encourages, or otherwise facilitates the recycling system or programs in your state and what is the reference for that section of your state code?

Not directly but there is a requirement on VT landfills that they can only take waste from municipalities that are implementing a solid waste plan which includes recycling.

3. Does your state law (or other directive) mandate, encourage or otherwise specify a state goal for the rate of recycling or diversion (e.g. percentage of overall waste stream, etc.) If so, what is the statutory reference?

VT does not have state law; however, the legislature has adopted a Solid Waste Management Plan which does mandate a 50% diversion of materials from disposal by 2005.

4. Please indicate how your state measures recycling rates? (Are there reporting requirements? who reports and how frequently?) What wastes are captured in the measurement of your recycling/diversion rate? (e.g. residential garbage? yard waste? commercial and industrial wastes? Waste tires? white goods? automobiles? etc?).

We measure a MSW diversion rate which is discussed in a report which I have attached. See the executive summary for the sources of data. The waste measured are detailed in the report. It does include materials/waste from the commercial and industrial that normally falls into the MSW category. Does include white goods. Does not include C&D, tires, auto's.

5. What association does commercial, institutional, and industrial recycling have with the household or residential recycling in your state? Are recycling activities from these sectors factored into your overall state recycling rate?

I'm not sure what the first part of the question means. All of these sectors are factored into our overall diversion rate.

6. What is your most recently measured rate of recycling or diversion for your state? (Please indicate the time frame for this measurement. e.g. calendar year, fiscal year, etc.)

30% in 2002, its been decreasing since 1999 when it was 35%.

7. What are the most commonly employed systems in your state for collecting residential recyclables. Are different sized communities required or encouraged to meet a certain standard of recycling services?

All communities have recently been required to update their solid waste management plans, and specifically state how they would move towards 50% diversion. The largest urban areas of the state, and many smaller rural communities, are served by curbside collection. Other towns and districts use drop-off facilities, where residents self-haul their materials.

8. Do you have rural communities in your state that have developed and are maintaining successful residential recycling programs? What type of "system" are these successful communities employing?

There are many small rural communities that are running successful programs. Many towns have joined with their neighbors to form solid waste management districts, pooling their recyclables and achieving economies of scale otherwise unavailable to them. Some independent towns

(usually due to the effort of one or two dedicated individuals) have been able to run successful programs on their own. There is also a regional organization set up to assist towns in marketing their materials (NRRRA). These small communities employ both curbside collection and drop-off facilities.

9. What incentives (grants, loans, tax incentives, etc.) are offered in your state for recycling and to whom are these incentives available? (state government, local governments, private companies, universities and institutions, etc.) How are these grants or loans funded?

VT offers grants for developing reuse, recycling, or waste prevention programs to all of the listed entities. The grants are funded through a tax of \$1.00 per ton of waste disposed in VT.

10. Does your agency or state have a "recycling program," ? In what agency is the program housed and how many full time employees are dedicated to recycling program activities?

The VT recycling program is housed in the Agency of Natural Resources, Department of Environmental Conservation, Waste Management Division. Currently we have only 2 full time employees in the program; these folks are supervised by a section chief who also has responsibility for two other programs.