



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

March 24, 2020

Dear Solid Waste Management Entities,

ANR has received several questions and requests about Solid Waste Implementation Plan (SWIP) requirements due to the COVID-19 and the Vermont State of Emergency.

Below is our response and specific waivers of 2019 MMP SWIP requirements as noted:

1. HHW Events for Spring 2020

ANR will not enforce against any SWME that does not host a spring 2020 HHW collection event. SWMEs should consider how they will provide adequate HHW collection services to their residents and small businesses, once the state of emergency has ended and how they will communicate changes to their residents and businesses. Thus, SWMEs may choose to cancel, post-pone, or wait and see about whether to hold spring HHW collection events. ANR encourages, but will not require, SWMEs that choose to cancel or post-pone their spring HHW collection events, to provide collection services at other times of the year that can meet the needs of their constituents. That could be summer events, longer events in the fall, or multiple events.

2. Public Meetings for New SWIPs

Draft SWIPs are still due July 1, 2020 and made easy to draft using the [SWIP Template provided on the VTrecycles planning page here](#). If you need assistance drafting your SWIP please contact us at our direct lines here: <https://dec.vermont.gov/waste-management/contacts>

- a. **Public Meetings:** Public meetings are not required to be held prior to submittal of your draft SWIP before July 1, 2020. Two public meetings must be held in the late summer or fall of 2020 once SWMEs have received pre-approval on their draft SWIPs from ANR. No public meetings are required before July 1, 2020 and SWMEs should engage their public via social media as much as possible while social distancing remains in effect. If social distancing is still required after July 1, 2020 and once pre-approval of draft SWIPs have been issued, then ANR would consider a public meeting being held via skype or some other virtual online meeting platform as being acceptable for holding public meetings.
 - b. **Board Approval of Draft SWIPs:** Board approval of draft SWIPs is also not required prior to submittal of your draft SWIP on July 1, 2020. SWMEs can submit a draft SWIP for ANR review and then have their board meeting on the pre-approved SWIP after July 1, 2020. Further SWMEs can email your draft SWIP to your board members for input.
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3. School Outreach

In person school outreach is not able to be conducted at this time. SWMEs should conduct school outreach once schools are back in session. SWIP Reporting for school outreach (that is conducted during calendar year 2020) is not due until July 1, 2021, so SWMEs should have sufficient time to complete outreach efforts later in 2020, during the next school year.

4. Business Outreach

ANR acknowledges the closure of many businesses around the state and empathizes with those that are struggling at this time.

Business outreach is not required to be in person. SWMEs may conduct business outreach via phone, email, phone, and other means of outreach that is not in person. SWMEs should continue this type of outreach as they see appropriate and when the timing is better.

5. Suspending Collections/Limiting Transfer Station Hours

Some SWMEs have closed collection locations for materials like VT E-cycles materials (TVs, computers, printers). During the Vermont state of emergency ANR will not enforce against SWMEs for lack of collection of landfill-banned materials beyond the essentials like recyclables and food scraps collection. Many transfer stations are focusing on essentials: the collection of trash, recyclables, and food waste.

Transfer station hours can be reduced without a permit amendment during the Vermont state of emergency. Residents will need to have some solid waste collection locations open in the region. Contact the Dennis Fekert and team for questions about solid waste certifications.

6. Compost Video

There was some discussion at the District Managers meeting about creating some type of composting video. Central Vermont Solid Waste Management District has many short videos on composting that may be useful, see them here: <http://www.cvswwmd.org/shareable-files.html>. If SWMEs want to discuss this more, ANR would be happy to host a conference call or Skype.

ANR is planning to host a solid waste/COVID-19 conference call for SWMEs in the coming days and will send notification of the date and time of the call shortly.

Sincerely,



Cathy Jamieson
Solid Waste Program Manager