

January 16, 2013

The Mad River Resource Management Alliance includes the Towns of Duxbury, Fayston, Moretown, Northfield, Roxbury, Waitsfield, Warren and Waterbury. The Alliance was formed through an Interlocal Agreement that began in 1994. We changed our name in 2008 to reflect the fact that we are managing resources not wastes. Northfield and Roxbury joined the Alliance in 2010.

During 2012, the Alliance held two regular Household Hazardous Waste Collection Day events at the Harwood Union High School in Duxbury on May 12, 2012 and on October 6, 2012. A total of 324 households participated in the regular events this year which represents 4 % of our population. We collected over 855 gallons, 1,300 pounds and 3,678 feet of fluorescent bulbs at the two events. Residents within the Alliance communities are able to bring all their waste pesticides **and** up to 10 additional gallons of hazardous waste to each event for disposal at no charge. The Alliance will swap your mercury fever thermometer for a digital thermometer at no charge at these events. Bring your mercury thermostats to the Household Hazardous Waste Collection and you will receive a coupon that can be redeemed for a \$5.00 rebate by the Thermostat Recycling Corporation which will process the thermostats. Residents can also bring all their compact fluorescent bulbs(CFLs) or up to ten or fewer non-CFL general purpose mercury containing lamps. Remember that latex paint is not a hazardous waste and will not be accepted. You can mix latex paint with kitty litter to solidify it and dispose of the mixture in your garbage. We are again planning two collection day events in 2013 at Harwood Union High School. They are scheduled for May 11 and October 5, 2013.

Over 835 gallons of used crankcase oil was collected within the Alliance at our Used Oil Collection Tanks during 2012. The tanks are located in Waitsfield at the Earthwise Transfer Station and at the Moretown Landfill, Inc.. There is also a tank at the Northfield Transfer Station. As an Alliance resident, you can bring up to 5 gallons of used crankcase oil at a cost of three dollars per gallon at the Earthwise Transfer Station, fifty cents per gallon at the Moretown Landfill, Inc. and no charge at the Northfield Transfer Station for proper disposal. A car and truck oil filter crusher is also available for Alliance residents at the Moretown Landfill, Inc. at a cost of seventy five cents per filter.

The Alliance is working with The Highfields Institute to provide training and educational programs that results in the composting of food scraps that have been diverted from Washington West Supervisory Union school waste streams. A total of 19.58 tons of food scraps from Washington West Supervisory Union School District were collected during the 2011-2012 school year for composting at the Grow Compost of Vermont facility in Moretown. Grow Compost diverted over 670 tons of food scraps and other organic waste in 2012 which became a rich organic compost or soil amendment. Grow Compost waived their tipping fee for WWSU to encourage their participation in the program. Thanks for Grow Compost's support of the school program. The Alliance textile recycling program at the Moretown Landfill continues in conjunction with the Southeastern Vermont Community Action. You can bring all your clean clothing, linens and shoes to this site at no charge. A total of 2.6 Tons were collected in 2012. You can recycle books with the electronic waste at the Moretown Landfill. Visit our web site at madriverrma.org. You will find information on solid waste issues on this web site.

The sixteenth truckload sale of compost bins resulted in the distribution of 44 compost bins and 10 kitchen collectors. It is estimated that each compost bin can compost 650 pounds of garden and kitchen waste annually. This means rich soil to add to your garden and less waste to go to the landfill. We will hold our Seventeenth Compost Bin Sale this spring. The Alliance held a car and pickup truck tire and metal collection event at the Moretown Landfill, Inc. and at the Earthwise Transfer Station in conjunction with Green Up Day in 2012. A total of ~ 1,114 tires and ~3.5 tons of metal were collected during this event. In the fall the Alliance participated in the Wheels for Warmth Program held on October 27. We are planning to hold a spring tire and metal collection in conjunction with Green Up Day on May 4, 2013. In the fall, the Alliance will again coordinate with the organizers of the Wheels for Warmth Program in Middlesex to encourage participation in this program. During the spring and summer in conjunction with Green Up Vermont a major river bank tire clean up was conducted as a follow up to Tropical Storm Irene and a total of over 4,400 tires were recovered.

The Moretown Landfill, Inc. (MLF) provides Alliance residents with the opportunity to bring their recyclables to the facility at no charge if you also bring your trash for disposal at a fee. The no fee recycling is done as part of the arrangement between the Alliance and the Moretown Landfill, Inc. for being the "host district" for the facility. Single stream recycling is a reality in the Alliance. You can bring your mixed paper, glass bottles and jars, metal cans and plastics #1 through #7, except for plastic film wrap and bags and beaded styrofoam for recycling. Currently the recyclables are taken to the Chittenden County Materials Recovery Facility for processing. The Casella Earthwise Transfer Station and Moretown Landfill, Inc. also participated in the free disposal of roadside litter during the Green Up Day celebrations. The MLF is currently under review by the State to determine it's future viability. Computers, printers, monitors and televisions can be recycled at no charge. In the first nine months of 2012 more than 53 tons of e-waste was collected. Additional information on this program is found on our web site. The Alliance is a member of the NRRRA which helps us market some recyclable commodities such as tires, propane cylinders and other materials. The Alliance is also a member of the Product Stewardship Institute(PSI). As a stakeholder in the PSI we work with other entities to reduce the environmental and health impacts of a variety of consumer products. This is accomplished by looking at the life cycle impacts of products and their packaging. Things like energy and materials consumption, emissions during manufacturing, toxicity, worker safety and waste disposal are among the issues reviewed. The objective of product stewardship is to rethink the way things are created in order to have more sustainable products in the future. We are also a member of the Vermont Product Stewardship Council which provides a local focus to stewardship issues.

Backyard burning of trash is illegal and causes air pollution problems. Be a good neighbor and don't burn trash. If you know of any illegal dumping sites within your town that would benefit from an Adopt a Site Program give John Malter, Alliance Administrator a call at 244-7373 and let's see what we can do to help eliminate these types of problems together. The FY 13 assessment for the administrative and program costs remains at \$2.00 per capita. The Central Vermont Regional Planning Commission provides accounting support to the Alliance. We thank them for this assistance.

The representatives of the Alliance include: Duxbury; Diane Lynch; Fayston, Bob Vasseur; Moretown, Jonathan Siegel; Northfield, Charles Morse; Roxbury, Dave McShane; Waitsfield, Sal Spinosa, Warren, Ken Blair; Waterbury, Ed Steele and John Malter from Waterbury is the Administrator for the Alliance.