

MAD RIVER RESOURCE MANAGEMENT ALLIANCE 2011 Report

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 2011, the Alliance held two regular Household Hazardous Waste Collection Day events at the Harwood Union High School in Duxbury on May 14, 2011 and on October 1, 2011. A total of 334 households participated in the regular events this year which represents 4.2% of our population. We collected over 1,030 gallons, 1,525 pounds and 3,736 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. A special five day collection following Tropical Storm Irene was held at the Moretown Landfill between September 2 and September 6, 2011. An additional 2,890 gallons, 3,463 pounds and 1,680 feet of fluorescent bulbs were collected at this event. 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. 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 2012 at Harwood Union High School. They are scheduled for May 12 and October 6, 2012.

Over 787 gallons of used crankcase oil was collected within the Alliance at our Used Oil Collection Tanks during 2011. 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 fifty cents 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. 5.94 tons of food scraps from Harwood were collected between September and December, 2011, for composting at the Grow Compost of Vermont facility in Moretown. 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. Grow Compost diverted over 923 tons of food scraps and other organic waste in 2011 which became a rich organic compost or soil amendment. 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 3.4 Tons were collected in 2011. 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 fifteenth truckload sale of compost bins resulted in the distribution of 26 compost bins and 11 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 Sixteenth 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 2011. A total of ~ 1,133 tires and ~3 tons of metal were collected during this event. In the fall the Alliance participated in the Wheels for Warmth Program held on October 29. We are planning to hold a spring tire and metal collection in conjunction with Green Up Day on May 5, 2012. 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.

The Moretown Landfill , Inc. 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. 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. As a result of new Vermont legislation, after July 1, 2011, computers, printers, monitors and televisions could be recycled at no charge. A total of all e-waste collected in 2011 was 51.30 tons. Additional information on this program is found on our web site. The Alliance is a member of the Northeast Resource Recovery Association (NRRA) 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 12 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, Fred White; Roxbury, Dave McShane; Waitsfield, Sal Spinosa, Warren, Ken Blair; Waterbury, Ed Steele and John Malter from Waterbury is the Administrator for the Alliance.



Cleanup volunteers filling a roll off on Bridge Street, 08/29/20. (Photo: V. Capels)