



# **Recycle Right in Tompkins County**

Jeremy Betterley – Communications Coordinator

# Overview

**Mission:** To manage the solid waste of Tompkins County in a manner that is:

- Environmentally sound
- Cost-effective
- Socially responsible
- Safe



**Currently achieving 60% waste diversion.**

# Recycling and Solid Waste Center (RSWC)

- Tompkins County owns
- Casella operates
- 160 Commercial Ave,  
Ithaca
- Open 7 am – 3:30 pm  
Monday - Saturday



# Recycling and Solid Waste Center

- Single stream recyclables
- Household Hazardous Waste
- Garbage
- Other recyclables
  - Plastic bags & films
  - Large rigid plastics
  - Batteries
  - Propane tanks
  - Tires
  - CFL bulbs and tubes
  - Fire extinguishers
  - Textiles
  - Food scraps and FOG
  - Scrap metal
  - Yard Waste



# Current Trends in Recycling

- Recycling markets are poor
- Market rejections and downgrading
- “Recycle Right” - clean the stream
- Changes in acceptable plastics



# Only Include Plastics #1, 2, and 5

- Examples:
  - Water and soda bottles
  - Carry out and produce containers
  - Butter and yogurt tubs
  - Milk jugs





# Reduce Contamination

- Empty and rinse all jars and containers to remove all food residue; lids OK
- Questionable item?
  - When in doubt, keep it out
  - *No wish-cycling!*
  - Contact us



# Plastic Bags & Films and Large Rigid Plastics

- New list of acceptable items
- Can only be brought to the RSWC





# Curbside Enforcement Stickers

- Phase 1: “**Please**”
- Phase 2: “**Warning**”
- Phase 3: “**Rejection**”
  - Begins Nov. 1st



# Plastic Carryout Bags

- Carryout plastic bags are banned in New York State, enforcement began Oct. 19th
- \$.05 fee for paper bags in Tompkins County
- Incentivize reusable bags

## Plastic Bag Ban & Paper Bag Fee

Beginning March 1st, 2020



RECYCLING AND  
MATERIALS  
MANAGEMENT  
OF TOMPKINS COUNTY  
[recycletompkins.org](http://recycletompkins.org)

# Partnership with Cayuga Compost

- Contract with Cayuga Compost, Trumansburg NY
- Operates windrow composting for food scraps and processing yard waste
- Markets finished product regionally
- DEC Permit



# Food Scraps Drop Spots

- 15 locations
- 54,894 drops in 2019
- 465 tons diverted in 2019



# ReBusiness Partners



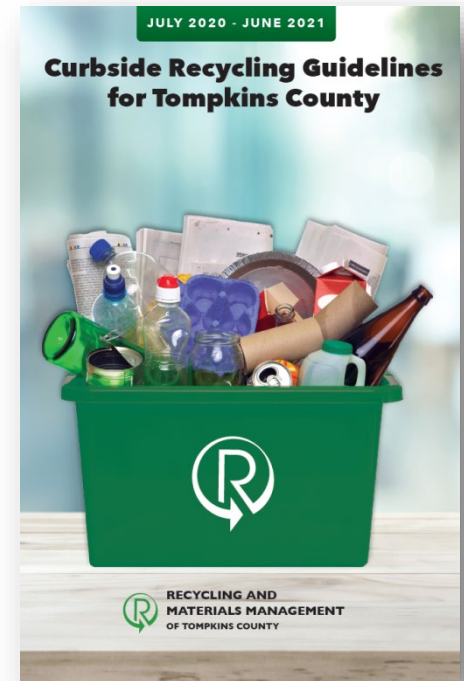
- Help apartments, businesses, schools, and organizations practice the 4Rs:
  - Reduce
  - Reuse
  - Recycle
  - Rebuy
- Partners receive:
  - a free waste assessment
  - ongoing technical assistance
  - desk-side recycling bins and decals
  - public recognition





# How Can We Help?

- Educational materials
- Presentations and tours
- Recycletopompkins.org
  - What Do I Do With?
  - Find My Recycling Day







**Questions?**

Tompkins County Recycling and  
Materials Management

[www.recycletompkins.org](http://www.recycletompkins.org)

607-273-6632