

# Zero Waste in Action

*Real communities. Real solutions.*

## Disposal Bans: Vermont, USA

### Summary

Vermont was the first state to ban the disposal of recyclables and organics in landfills. The state also bans electronics, white goods and items containing mercury from landfills.

### Population

627,000

### Year enacted

1990-2012

### Who's affected

All

### Overview

Vermont was the first state to enact a comprehensive ban on the landfill disposal of recyclable items and organics, including food scraps from households. These bans were part of the state's mandatory recycling and composting regulations in 2012.

The bans were set up to phase in gradually in order to build the necessary infrastructure for the additional diversion. The recyclable materials banned from landfills include aluminum products, steel cans, glass bottles and jars, plastic bottles, corrugated cardboard, and some common paper products.

Vermont banned electronic devices such as computer equipment, phones and music players in 2011. White goods and mercury-containing products like fluorescent lamps, thermometers and button cell batteries are also banned. All banned materials must be kept out of solid waste and landfills.

Following are the effective dates of Vermont's disposal bans.

- 1991: white goods (household appliances)
- 2007: products containing mercury
- 2011: electronic devices
- 2015: recyclable materials as defined under state mandatory recycling requirement
- 2016: yard waste and wood waste
- 2020: food scraps

### Downloads

[Vermont Universal Recycling Law](#)



Find the tools, network, and experts you need to launch a program like this in your community at [ecocyclesolutionshub.org](http://ecocyclesolutionshub.org).

## More information

[Vermont Governor Shumlin Signs Universal Recycling Bill](#)

[Vermont Department of Environmental Conservation, Mercury Education](#)

[Vermont's Electronics Recycling Program](#)

Boston.com article: "[VT governor signs statewide recycling bill](#)"

Vermont Public Radio report: "[Bill would make recycling mandatory in Vermont](#)"



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