

4R TIMES

REDUCE, REUSE, RECYCLE, RETHINK

HOUSEHOLD HAZARDOUS WASTE (HHW) DROP-OFF EVENT:

- **Saturday, November 15, 2025**

Solid Waste Permit and
appointment required.

[Register](#) >>

IMPORTANT DATES & HOLIDAYS

Veterans Day

Tuesday, November 11, 2025

Office is closed, RSWC open,
and the recycling collection is
on schedule.

Thanksgiving Day

Thursday, November 27, 2025

Both the Office and RSWC are
closed. No recycling collection.

Day After Thanksgiving

Friday, November 28, 2025

Office is closed, RSWC open,
and the recycling collection on
one day delay.

TCRMM OFFICE

122 COMMERCIAL AVE,
ITHACA, NEW YORK
607-273-6632
M-F: 8AM TO 4:30PM

REBUSINESS: HELPING TOMPKINS COUNTY CUT FOOD WASTE

Our [ReBusiness Partners](#) program offers free, tailored support to help local businesses and organizations reduce food waste and improve recycling. Recent visits to **Shared Kitchen Ithaca** and **Meals on Wheels** focused on food-producing operations, where small changes can make a big impact.

We help businesses:

- Prevent and donate surplus food
- Set up food scraps recycling
- Launch green purchasing and reuse efforts
- Enhance existing recycling programs

Benefits include waste assessments, staff training, and recognition for your sustainability efforts. Whether you need a quick answer or a full site visit—we're here to help. [Contact us today to get started!](#)



CELEBRATE AMERICA RECYCLES DAY - NOVEMBER 15



America Recycles Day (ARD) is celebrated annually on **November 15**. It began as Texas Recycles Day in 1994 and became a national observance in 1997, thanks to grassroots efforts and support from the National Recycling Coalition and the EPA. Today, Keep America Beautiful leads the charge, making ARD their signature event to promote recycling awareness and action across the country. Keep America Beautiful offers a [fun quiz on their website](#) to help you brush up on what belongs in the bin.

While some recycling guidelines are universal, every county has its own rules based on access to recycling markets and infrastructure. Always check your local guidelines to make sure you're recycling right.

☞ Download the Tompkins County Curbside Recycling Guidelines from our website: [Curbside Recycling Guidelines](#)

☀ Remember, recycling is mandatory in Tompkins County. Thanks for recycling—on America Recycles Day and every other day. Your actions make a difference, and we appreciate you doing your part!

4R TIMES

REDUCE, REUSE, RECYCLE, RETHINK

DON'T LET CONFUSING DATE LABELS LEAD TO FOOD WASTE

In 2023 alone, New Yorkers discarded an estimated 178,000 tons of food due to date label concerns, according to [ReFED's Food Waste Monitor](#). That's a staggering amount of food waste that could have easily been avoided.

According to the National Resources Defense Council's website [SavetheFood.com](#), **labels like "Best Before" and "Sell By" are not safety indicators.**

They're about peak quality, not spoilage. In most cases, food is still safe and delicious well beyond those dates.

Before tossing food, use your senses:

- 🤧 Smell it – Does it smell fresh?
- 👁 Look at it – Any mold or spoilage?

If it looks and smells fine, it probably is! And if you won't eat it in time, freeze it—it's like hitting pause on freshness.

💡 Add in smart shopping, smart prep, and smart storage to keep waste low and savings high.

With a little planning and awareness, we can all waste less and eat more. Bon appétit and waste not!



BYOB! – FREE REUSABLE BAG GIVEAWAY

Reduce waste and avoid fees by remembering to BYOB—Bring Your Own Bag when you shop. It's a simple habit that makes a big difference.

For a limited time, we are giving away free reusable bags made from recycled content at the front desk of our office between 10/20/25 and 12/31/25. Limit one per customer, while supplies last.

ONE FREE REUSABLE BAG

Stop by the Tompkins County Recycling and Materials Management Office Front Desk during business hours to receive a reusable bag to support reuse! Remember to BYOB!

Limit one per customer, while supplies last.

TCRMM OFFICE

122 COMMERCIAL AVE, ITHACA, NEW YORK
607-273-6632 M-F: 8AM TO 4:30PM



GREEN THE HOLIDAYS



LEFTOVERS

Preparing Thanksgiving dinner? Save those kitchen scraps and make a delicious soup stock. Find us on [Recycle Tompkins on YouTube](#)



DECORATING

Reduce waste this holiday season by shopping for second hand decorations. Think reuse first and eliminate packaging waste.



GIVING

Rethink! Give experiential gifts and create low-waste memories that last a lifetime.



TIPS TO REMEMBER

BYOB when you shop this holiday season. Keep a bag in your car so you have it when you need it.

We'll see you in the Spring!



The Wednesday East Hill Farmers' Market and Food Scraps Recycling Drop Spot will close for the Winter after 10/29/2025.

You can still recycle food scraps year-round:

- ✓ Saturdays at East Hill 10am-1pm
- ✓ At other Drop Spots throughout Tompkins County