

4R TIMES

REDUCE, REUSE, RECYCLE, RETHINK

HOUSEHOLD HAZARDOUS WASTE DROP-OFF EVENT



Last event of the year!
November 21

**Solid Waste Permit and
appointment required.**

Register at
[Tcgov.co/HHW](https://tcgov.co/HHW)

IMPORTANT DATES

Veterans' Day

Wednesday, November 11

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

Thanksgiving

Thursday, November 26

Office is closed, RSWC is closed
and no recycling collection.

Day After Thanksgiving

Friday, November 27

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

SAVE THE DATE

**Erasing Waste: What Do We Do
With All The Stuff?**

A Tompkins County Trash Talk

Tuesday, November 10

12:00 – 1:15 pm

Online Webinar (Details to come)

KEEP ROADWAYS SAFE AND CLEAN: COVER YOUR LOADS

Tompkins County reminds all residents and haulers that Chapter 140-32 E of the County Code requires solid waste and recyclable materials to be transported in a way that prevents debris from blowing or falling out onto local roadways. **Loads must be secured with proper coverings—such as tarps or nets—that remain in place until the material is fully unloaded.**

Transporting uncovered loads is not only a violation of County Code, but also of New York State law. Uncovered loads may be subject to surcharges at the Recycling and Solid Waste Center, and state **finances can reach \$1,000 or more.** New York State Conservation Officers routinely monitor facility entrances, and drivers arriving with an uncovered load may be ticketed.



Additionally, covering a load only immediately before entering a facility—or removing required coverings too early—is prohibited and may result in enforcement action. We will begin inspecting loads soon so please be prepared. **Protect our community, avoid costly penalties, and keep Tompkins County's roadways safe by ensuring every load is covered.** Learn more: [Tcgov.co/uncovered](https://tcgov.co/uncovered)

SPORTS SWAP: YMCA AND TCRMM, A WINNING TEAM



TCRMM hosted a Community Sports Swap, in partnership with the [Ithaca YMCA](https://www.ithacaymca.org/), on August 25 and the community showed up in a big way.

Donations opened July 25, and residents contributed approximately **210 pounds of equipment across 146 items.** During the event, attendees took home an average of 6.2 pounds and more than seven items each, **giving sports gear a second life instead of sending it to the landfill.**

In total, over **108 pounds of material** was successfully diverted from disposal, helping promote a more sustainable approach to reusing sporting equipment.

Thank you to everyone who donated, participated, and supported this event. Your efforts made the Sports Swap a meaningful win for both the community and the environment.

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SHARED KITCHEN ITHACA

In September 2025, Shared Kitchen Ithaca (SKI) implemented a food scraps recycling program following recommendations identified during a ReBusiness Partners Program site visit. **After just 8 months of collection, it is estimated that SKI diverted over 10,000 lbs. of food scraps from landfill.** Food scraps are now hauled by Natural Upcycling to Cayuga Compost, where they are composted and turned into a valuable soil amendment.

Shared Kitchen Ithaca's access to composting services has made a huge impact. Learn more by **downloading our spotlight** at [ReBusiness Partners Program](#).

Continue this article at:
tcgov.co/ReBusiness



FOODNET MEALS ON WHEELS



Prior to working with ReBusiness Partners Program, Foodnet Meals on Wheels had an efficient system for managing surplus food by freezing extra meals for future deliveries. Additionally, their cooks substitute ingredients into meals to **optimize freshness and reduce waste.**

In May of 2025, the Foodnet Meals on Wheels team requested a **ReBusiness consultation** to explore composting, recycling, and further waste reduction opportunities.

Following a site visit, Foodnet Meals on Wheels began separating food scraps and setting out for weekly collection by TCRMM. The collected food scraps are brought to the Tompkins County Recycling and Solid Waste Center and then processed by Cayuga Compost in Trumansburg.

In their first year of collection, between July of 2025, and July of 2026, **Foodnet Meals on Wheels staff have diverted approximately 4,524 lbs. of food scraps from landfill.**



For more information about ReBusiness, visit:
tcgov.co/ReBusiness

Continue this article at:
tcgov.co/ReBusiness



Fork 'em Over!
Curbside

CHECK OUT OUR SIX-MONTH MILESTONE UPDATE!

Six months into the Fork 'Em Over: Curbside pilot, curbside food scraps recycling is catching on! **247 households** are now taking part, with room for more. A food waste prevention campaign within the pilot is also just getting started.

Since April, participants have recycled an impressive **1,426 pounds of food scraps weekly**—adding up to **more than 16 tons** composted. On average, each household diverts **9.8 pounds weekly**, showing how small actions add up to big impact.

The pilot serves 1–3–unit homes in select areas of Ithaca's Northside and Southside neighborhoods. Not sure whether your home is included? Check out the map at tcgov.co/RMMpilot and follow the links there to sign up.

There's still time to get involved! If you're in the pilot zone and haven't signed up yet, we'd love to have you join the effort.



tcgov.co/RMMpilot

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

