

4R TIMES

REDUCE, REUSE, RECYCLE, RETHINK

HOUSEHOLD HAZARDOUS WASTE



DROP-OFF EVENTS

- July 18
- August 15
- October 17
- November 21

**Solid Waste Permit and
appointment required.**

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

IMPORTANT DATES

Labor Day

Monday, September 7, 2026

Office and RSWC are closed,
recycling collection on one day
delay.

Sports Swap – Save the Date!

Thursday, August 20, 2026

Ithaca YMCA, 12PM – 3PM

DROP SPOT NOTICE

New hours at bostwick!

To encourage participation, the
Bostwick Rd Drop Spot will shift
hours of operation from Saturdays
9am-Noon to Sundays 10am-1pm.
The change takes effect in August,
with the last Saturday event
occurring July 25th.

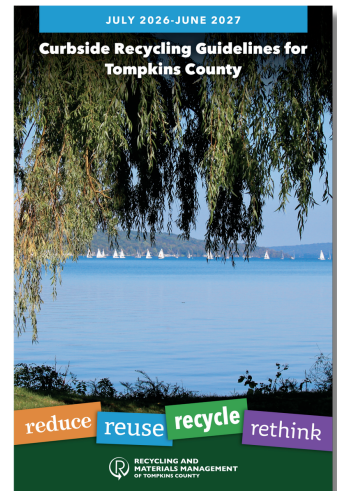
More Drop Spot info at:
tcgov.co/foodscraps

NEW 2026–2027 CURBSIDE GUIDELINES

The Tompkins County Department of Recycling and Materials Management has released the **2026–2027 Curbside Recycling Guidelines**, which became **effective July 1**.

This annual guide provides residents with a **12-month recycling collection calendar**, updated curbside recycling instructions and information on additional ways to reduce, reuse, recycle, and rethink waste. The publication also includes information on proper set-out procedures, tips for reducing waste, and food scraps recycling opportunities.

The 2026–2027 Guidelines are available online at **RecycleTompkins.org**. Printed copies are available at the Tompkins County Department of Recycling and Materials Management office, the Recycling and Solid Waste Center, municipal offices, Food Scraps Recycling Drop Spots and select grocery store service desks throughout the county.



Download the Guidelines:
[Tcgov.co/CurbsideRecycling](https://tcgov.co/CurbsideRecycling)

PAPER CUPS NOW ACCEPTED FOR CURBSIDE RECYCLING



The 2026–2027 Curbside Recycling Guidelines includes a significant update: **paper cups are now accepted for curbside recycling** in Tompkins County.

Paper cups have traditionally been excluded from recycling because their thin plastic lining, which prevents leaks, was difficult to separate from the paper. New technology now allows recycling facilities to remove that lining and recover the paper fiber. As a result, **paper cups can now be processed along with mixed paper and recycled into new products.**

When recycling paper cups, please remember these key guidelines:

- Paper cups must be empty.
- No Styrofoam™ or unusual coatings.
- Straws and lids must be removed.

Most everyday paper beverage cups meet these criteria, including cups used for fountain drinks or hot beverages.

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DISH IT OUT: BORROW FOR FREE

Get ready for summer celebrations with our **Dish it Out** pilot! Whether you're planning a picnic, party, or potluck, you can **borrow a free set of reusable dishes** from our office. It's an easy way to cut down on disposable plates, cups, and utensils while sharing the joy and impact of reuse with your guests.

Using the program is simple:

1. Reserve your kit ahead of time.
2. Pick it up from our office.
3. Wash and enjoy using the kit at your gathering.
4. Return your kit clean and dry.

Make your summer events more sustainable, one reusable dish at a time!

[Tcgov.co/dishitout](https://tcgov.co/dishitout)



Ready to reserve your kit?

Learn more and
reserve your kit at:

tcgov.co/dishitout



NEW SAFETY REQUIREMENT FOR RSWC TIP FLOORS BEGINNING AUGUST 1



Tompkins County Recycling and Materials Management (TCRMM) will implement a **new safety requirement** at the Recycling and Solid Waste Center (RSWC) **starting August 1, 2026**. All users entering the RSWC tip floors—including residents, licensed haulers, contractors, and businesses—**must wear a high visibility (hi-vis) vest while on the tip floors**.

The tip floors are a high-traffic environment where large trucks, equipment, and constant vehicle movement create increased safety risks for visitors and staff. The new hi-vis vest requirement is intended to **improve visibility, reduce the likelihood of accidents, and help ensure a safer experience for everyone who uses the facility**.

"Visibility is essential in an active work zone like the tip floors," said Leo Riley, Department Director. "This requirement will help protect users and staff by making sure everyone can be seen clearly."

Visitors are encouraged to bring their own vest when using tip floors. **The requirement applies only to the tip floor area and does not affect the recycling or electronics dropoff sections.**



Fork 'em Over!
Curbside

The **Fork 'Em Over: Curbside** food scraps recycling pilot is off to a strong start. After just three months—April, May and June—the program has welcomed **224 participating households, with room for about 126 more in the pilot area**.

Together, participating households have diverted an **average of 1,322 pounds of food scraps** each week, totaling **nearly 9 tons** so far. That's roughly **9.9 pounds per household**, helping keep valuable material out of the landfill and moving us toward a more sustainable community.

The pilot area includes 1–3 unit homes in parts of Ithaca's Northside and Southside neighborhoods. Not sure if you're eligible? **Check your address at tcgov.co/RMMPilot to see if you're in the zone.**

There's still plenty of space to join—so if you're eligible, now's a great time to get involved!



tcgov.co/RMMPilot

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

