



# RECYCLING MATTERS

FOR A WASTE-FREE COLLAR CITY

## Myth Busters: Landfill Edition

Our next myth: the myth of “away.” When we put items into our garbage cans, it can be easy to imagine them poofing into nothing - but that isn’t the case! Our household garbage ends up in a landfill - but what happens there? Keep reading to learn more about how landfills work, upcoming events, and more!

### Landfills 101

#### Types of Landfills:

While we may use a term such as “dump” interchangeably with “landfill,” they are very different.

**Dump:** a hole in the ground meant for trash. After items are placed in it they are buried. There are no protections against animal access, so frequently animals will be seen around it. These are typically illegal as they do not have the proper safety and environmental precautions.

**Landfill:** there are two types: **sanitary** and **municipal solid waste (MSW)**, but each are a carefully selected and designed structure that is either built inside the ground or on top. There are protections against animals, contaminants leaching into the groundwater, and other elements. There is also a protective cover which prevents the materials brought to the landfill from impacting the area around it.

#### What happens inside a landfill?

Think of a landfill like a time capsule - it has protective sides all around so nothing can leak out; but this also means nothing can get in. Since there is no air circulation, all the materials inside take a very long time to break down. This means items inside are well preserved.

If we compare the process of landfilling to composting, composting typically uses air to its advantage since it helps break down organic matter (leaves, branches, grass clippings, vegetable scraps etc) much faster (not to mention it has an awesome byproduct of finished compost!).

Since it takes so long for items to break down in landfills, it’s important that we do what we can to reduce what goes into our household garbage. If there’s a way to reduce it, reuse it, or recycle it, that preserves space in our landfills for the things that can’t be reduced, reused, or recycled. If you’re looking for information on the best way to do that, check out our recycling guide at [www.troyny.gov/recyclingguide](http://www.troyny.gov/recyclingguide).

VISIT OUR WEBSITE OR FOLLOW US ON FACEBOOK

#### WHAT'S INSIDE OUR NEWSLETTER:

**MYTH BUSTERS:  
LANDFILL EDITION**

**LANDFILLS 101**

**EARTH DAY 2024**

**HOUSEHOLD  
HAZARDOUS WASTE  
DISPOSAL EVENT  
(5/18)**

**UPCOMING EVENTS**



# Earth Day Cleanups

Saturday, April 20 to Sunday, April 28

## WHAT

Every year for Earth Day residents can register their beautification efforts and get supplies to support their cleanups! We have trash bags, leaf bags, prescription drug deactivation bags, and more.



## WHEN

Cleanups should be between Saturday, April 20 and Sunday April 28

## HOW TO SIGN UP

Register online at: [www.troyny.gov/Earth-Day](http://www.troyny.gov/Earth-Day). Otherwise, call Recycling Specialist at (518) 279-7313 to be registered manually.

# Household Hazardous Waste Disposal Event

Saturday, May 18 at the Troy Resource Management Facility

## WHAT

Items like gasoline, pesticides, fertilizer, paints, and more require special handling and disposal, so we have events like this one! Registration is required.



## WHEN

Saturday, May 18. Time slots will be assigned to control traffic.

## WHERE

Troy Resource Management Facility (Alamo); 3000 Main Street.

## HOW TO SIGN UP

Register online at: [www.troyny.gov/hhw](http://www.troyny.gov/hhw) Otherwise, call City Recycling Specialist at (518) 279-7313 to be registered manually.

# Upcoming Events

COMMUNITY-BASED SUSTAINABLE EVENTS

## TROY RESOURCE MANAGEMENT FACILITY (ALAMO) SERVICES

*Tuesdays and Thursdays, 9 AM to 1 PM: food scrap drop-off, pallet pick-up, bagged leaf and branch drop-off, battery drop-off*

## EARTH DAY CLEANUPS

*Saturday, April 20 to Sunday April 28; register yours at [www.troyny.gov/Earth-Day](http://www.troyny.gov/Earth-Day)*

## HOUSEHOLD HAZARDOUS WASTE DISPOSAL EVENT - TROY

*Saturday, May 18 at the Troy Resource Management Facility (Alamo)*

*Registration required: [www.troyny.gov/hhw](http://www.troyny.gov/hhw)*

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