

# Akwesasne Community Swap Meet

Larry Thompson

St. Regis Mohawk Tribe





# **Why Swap Meet?**

**Most effective reuse activity  
to engage tribal members &  
divert the most materials  
from the waste stream**

# Planning

- Initiated in January
- Part of Tribe's ongoing Earth Day activities
- NERC worked with SRMT to develop a vendor registration/waiver form
  - No charge
  - Registration form included information on: space allocation; sale items suitable for a family-friendly audience; vendors are responsible for their own item pricing, cash boxes, collection of money, change, etc.

# Planning

- Site identification
  - Secured empty former IGA supermarket building
  - IGA building is well known to the tribal community
  - Across from the Akwesasne Mohawk Casino Resort
  - Tribal-owned building helped to minimize expenses
  - Easy vendor access for offloading

# Public Awareness

- NERC drafted a flier which was adapted by SRMT into a full-color poster
- SRMT also paid for a newspaper ad and a local radio station ad campaign
- SRMT website and Facebook<sup>®</sup> page
- Large signs on portable saw horses placed facing the two streets leading into the building

# Akwesasne Community Earth Day Events

## Reuse Swap Meet

In celebration of Earth Day, a Reuse Swap Meet will be held to provide an opportunity for tribal members to sell, exchange, barter, giveaway, and/or purchase usable housewares, toys, games, working sports equipment, clothing, electronics, furniture and more!

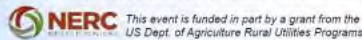


Spring cleaning often leads to a pile of stuff you wouldn't mind getting rid of. Bring your items to the Akwesasne Reuse Swap Meet!

Bring your own tables and chairs. Each vendor will be allocated a space of 20 feet by 20 feet. The Akwesasne Reuse Swap Meet will be a great opportunity for sellers and buyers alike!

Participation is free; however, a vendor application is required. Space is limited.

To receive the application contact Larry Thompson, Recycling Coordinator at [larry.thompson@srmt-nsn.gov](mailto:larry.thompson@srmt-nsn.gov) (phone: 518-358-4529) or Athena Lee Bradley at [athena@nerc.org](mailto:athena@nerc.org) (phone: 802-254-3636). Applications are also available at the transfer station.



## Composting Workshop

Guest Speaker and Demonstrator Sayre Stevens

The free workshop covers the basic science of composting as it relates to backyard composting. Additionally, it includes a hands-on demonstration on how to build effective and inexpensive compost bins out of reused or recycled materials commonly available in most rural communities. Backyard composting is an inexpensive and efficient way to handle organics waste while also creating a valuable material, compost, which builds soil fertility. Composting at home, along with recycling, has proven to lead to a significant reduction in a residential household's waste.

Contact Larry Thompson, Recycling Coordinator at 518-358-4529 or email [larry.thompson@srmt-nsn.gov](mailto:larry.thompson@srmt-nsn.gov) for more information.



Saint Regis Mohawk Tribe  
Solid Waste Management Program

Saturday, April 18, 2015  
11:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m.  
850 State Route 37, former IGA  
building, Akwesasne



# Compost Workshops





# Compost Bins from Used Items



# Results

- 15 vendors (including several families with multiple tables)
- Estimated 300-400 participant shoppers
- Surveys of vendors & shoppers
  - Great Event
  - Would like it to be held as an annual event



# Lessons Learned

- Most effective promotion
  - Radio ads
  - CKON Akwesasne Mohawk Radio  
Community Calendar
  - Signs on saw horses were excellent  
for drawing in vehicle passersby

# Lessons Learned, cont.

- “Greeting” table & Solid Waste Program brochures & giveaways proved an excellent way to welcome people & promote the program
- “Zero waste” station also effective as an educational tool
- Event opened at 11 am—survey of vendors suggested that an earlier opening of 9 am & have the event run until 2 or 3 pm
  - “No early birds” notice should be posted

# Promoting Recycling





Larry Thompson, Recycling Coordinator  
Saint Regis Mohawk Tribe

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