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*Helping Our  
Cities and Towns  
Work Toward  
Zero Waste*

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## **CENTRAL VERMONT SOLID WASTE MANAGEMENT DISTRICT**

December 5, 2005  
**Media Advisory**  
For Immediate Release  
*\*\*Photo Opportunity*

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### **Montpelier School District and CVSWMD to Receive Governor's Award**

*Montpelier.* The Montpelier School District and the Central Vermont Solid Waste Management District will receive a *Governor's Award for Environmental Excellence & Pollution Prevention* at the Statehouse on December 8, 2005. The award honors Vermont individuals, organizations, institutions, public agencies, businesses, and industry using innovative approaches that reduce or eliminate the generation of pollutants and wastes at the source. The Honorable Mayor Mary Hooper nominated the school district and the CVSWMD for the award.

The three Montpelier schools—Union Elementary, Main Street Middle School, and Montpelier High School—began diverting kitchen and cafeteria food waste in 2004. To date, the three schools have diverted 19 tons, and the school district is also actively "closing the recycling loop." In this case, the food waste is composted at Vermont Compost and some of that compost is used as a soil amendment to grow more food at the Montpelier High School greenhouse, where students grow salad greens for the schools.

The District's Organics Program works with businesses (restaurants, workplace cafeterias, etc.), schools, and households to reduce the quantity of organic material being sent to the landfill. The seven schools participating in the District's organics program have collectively diverted 25.78 tons of food waste to composting, and the program currently reaches nearly 3,000 students and an additional 1,000 school personnel.

CVSWMD member communities include: Barre City, Barre Town, Berlin, Bradford, Cabot, Calais, Chelsea, East Montpelier, Hardwick, Marshfield, Middlesex, Montpelier, Northfield, Orange, Plainfield, Roxbury, Strafford, Tunbridge, Walden, Washington, Williamstown, and Woodbury.

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