

# What Does the Central Vermont Solid Waste Management District Provide to their Member Communities?

Current as of 10/2006

Solid waste districts are Union Municipal organizations under state of Vermont law. They have all the rights and obligations of a “regular” municipality, but actions are limited to the realm of solid waste management. A solid waste district may:

- Adopt laws
- Enforce laws
- Tax constituents
- Provide programming designed to meet the needs and desires of its members
- Own, operate, and/or contract for solid waste facilities

Act 78, the state of Vermont Solid Waste Act, requires that solid waste be managed according to the following hierarchy:

- Waste Reduction
- Reuse
- Recycling
- Disposal
- Incineration

The state (via the VT Agency of Natural Resources) develops a solid waste plan and establishes specific goals and requirements for managing waste according to this hierarchy. Municipalities must develop solid waste implementation plans that are consistent with the state plan, meet minimum program standards, and explain how they will achieve state goals. Every town in Vermont is required to meet these obligations, either individually or as a member of a solid waste district or other alliance. The CVSWMMD provides its member communities with services that meet all the obligations of Act 78 in a manner that meets the requirements of the state solid waste plan.

## **The CVSWMMD provides the following services for its member communities:**

- Solid waste planning consistent with state goals and requirements articulated in a 10-year solid waste implementation plan

PRODUCTS: Planning process involving board deliberation and opportunity for public input; draft plan document that meets state guidelines; public hearing process; response to review of plan by state, inclusive of any revisions; documentation of final adoption by the District board.

- All administration, negotiations, reporting, monitoring, enforcement, and awareness/information dissemination associated with achieving the solid waste goals that communities would otherwise have to undertake individually.

PRODUCTS: Quarterly reports to ANR; reports to District Board; board agendas, minutes and documentation; record documentation consistent with public information/records law; testimony at statehouse on various solid waste issues; program-based data collection; financial record keeping and reporting; the writing and adoption of solid waste laws, such as mandatory recycling, as well as informing the public about such laws; attendance and participation in local, regional, and national solid waste meetings, forums, workshops, and initiatives.

- Program development and implementation of initiatives set out in the District solid waste implementation plan that meet state goals and requirements.

PRODUCTS: The following is a listing of the programs and services currently offered by the CVSWMD. Unless noted, the programming is available to all member communities.

- **Adopt-A-Site Projects** – A cleanup program designed to eliminate repeat illegal dumping through active community participation and site monitoring.
- **Green-Up Day Grants** – A small grant program to support annual roadside litter collection, cleanup, and beautification.
- **Illegal Burning Education** – A variety of educational materials which aim to increase awareness of the adverse health and community affects caused by illegally burning garbage.
- **Lawrence Walbridge Reuse Fund** – A small grant program for businesses and not-for-profits supporting efforts to expand or introduce new services and products that use or promote reused items in the local economy.
- **Clothing Drop’N Swap** – Annual program to re-distribute used clothing and recycle remainders and clean rags (currently being implemented by a community partner with financial and technical assistance from the District).
- **DeTox Family Project & Workshop** – An educational program designed to increase awareness of the risks of common chemical-based products and reduce the use of toxic products in the home.
- **Hazardous Waste Collection Program** – 6-8 special collection events held each year for residential, small business, and institutional customers to safely dispose of various types of hazardous materials at a reasonable cost.
- **Hauler Licensing and Compliance Enforcement** with District ordinances.
- **School Food Waste Diversion Program** — 4,000 students in 9 schools in District communities currently sort their food waste for composting, diverting 65.4 tons of food waste from disposal as of 10/11/06. Schools currently participating: Union Elementary, Main Street Middle, and Montpelier High School (Montpelier); U32 (East Montpelier); Bradford Elementary School; Oxbow High School; Barre Town Elementary; Northfield Elementary; and East Montpelier Elementary School. More schools will be added as the program expands.
- **Business Food Waste Diversion Program** – 42 businesses (restaurants, workplace cafeterias, restaurants, and institutions) in Montpelier and Bradford have diverted 833 tons of food waste to composting since the program began in April 2004 (as of 10/11/06). Expansion of the hauling route into other communities will occur as the program grows.
- **Only in My Backyard Residential Organics Diversion Program** — The current program involves 100 households in Calais and Middlesex; an additional 92 households in Bradford and Chelsea took part in the first test phase. As we conclude the 2-year test in summer 2007, we’ll prepare to offer this backyard food waste diversion system throughout the District.
- **A to Z Guide** – A print and electronic resource directory to encourage wise use and waste diversion of dozens of materials and products. Two online searchable versions are available—one for residents and one for municipalities/schools; see [www.cvswmd.org](http://www.cvswmd.org).
- **Annual Solid Waste Guide** – This annual publication lets residents and businesses know about the mandatory recycling ordinance requirements; District programs; District-owned and/or supported recycling depot locations and items able to be recycled at the facilities; etc. It is distributed to town clerk offices, handed out at District facilities and events, mailed to callers, etc.
- **District Web site** – Offers a compilation of all District-related information for residents, member towns, schools, and businesses. Includes two searchable databases: the A-Z Guide (see above) and the Reuse Business Database.
- **Annual Report, CVSWMD newsletter, informational brochures on paint, hazardous waste, recycling, backyard composting**
- **Technical Assistance** – Staff responds to inquiries about proper disposal, diversion options, programming, special events, best practices, opportunities for business diversion, etc.
- **Drop-off depots** – The District operates and/or financially supports 9 depots which accept a varying menu of recyclables; bagged trash is also accepted (for a fee) at some facilities. These depots are located in the following communities; a \* means the facility is operated by the District: Barre Town\*, Chelsea, Northfield\*, Hardwick\*, Cabot\*, Calais\*, Tunbridge, Strafford, Bradford\*.

