

## Results of CVSWMD Facility Survey Fall 2015

Between October 8 and October 23, 2015, CVSWMD conducted a survey to gather public opinion about a number of topics pertaining to different aspects of planning for a facility:

- Personal/family recycling commitment
- Community efforts at waste reduction and recycling
- The importance of “zero waste” approaches
- Recommendations for materials collected in a central facility
- Factors that would affect a person’s use of the facility
- Preferred funding options.

In early 2016, CVSWMD suspended plans for a full CVSWMD facility; however, the survey results provide valuable input for CVSWMD future planning initiatives. The responses for this survey were collected via Front Porch Forum and CVSWMD Facebook page.

To reflect possible differences in perspectives, this summary breaks down the responses according to whether the respondent lived in a “core” or a “rural” community within the CVSWMD service area. **Core communities** are generally within the Barre/Montpelier area and **rural communities** are not within the Barre/Montpelier area.

- Core communities = Barre City, Barre Town, Berlin, East Montpelier, Middlesex, Montpelier
- Rural communities = Bradford, Calais, Chelsea, Fairlee, Hardwick, Orange, Plainfield, Tunbridge, Walden, Washington, Williamstown, Woodbury.

Table 1

How active (or committed) are you and your family to recycling and reuse? [Please check one answer.]		
	CORE	RURAL
Answer Options	Response Percent	Response Percent
Very supportive and active participant(s)	69.2%	74.0%
Supportive and usually very diligent	22.8%	21.3%
Somewhat supportive but could do more	5.9%	4.7%
Not very active	2.1%	0.0%
<i># respondents who answered question</i>	<b>289</b>	<b>127</b>
<i># respondents who skipped question</i>	<b>0</b>	<b>1</b>

Table 2

What is your impression of your community's efforts at waste reduction and recycling? [Please check one answer.]		
	CORE	RURAL
Answer Options	Response Percent	Response Percent
Great progress has been made in recent years	31.9%	24.0%
Slow but steady progress, more action required	53.3%	53.7%
Not much progress has been made except with certain materials	10.9%	18.2%
Not enough interest and therefore not much success	3.9%	4.1%
<i># respondents who answered question</i>	<b>285</b>	<b>121</b>
<i># respondents who skipped question</i>	<b>4</b>	<b>7</b>



Table 3

<b>"Zero waste" has been a primary goal of CVSWMD for many years. What is your personal feeling about this goal for member towns? [Please check one answer.]</b>		
	<b>CORE</b>	<b>RURAL</b>
<b>Answer Options</b>	<b>Response Percent</b>	<b>Response Percent</b>
Excellent and definitely worth pursuing	41.7%	51.2%
Good goal even if not completely achievable	42.7%	35.4%
Good idea to plant in people's minds	7.3%	4.7%
Too costly and/or inconvenient to be successful	4.9%	3.9%
Not practical nor attainable	3.5%	4.7%
<b># respondents who answered question</b>	<b>288</b>	<b>127</b>
<b># respondents who skipped question</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>1</b>

[NOTE: The following table includes a column indicating the materials that are currently collected at the CVSWMD ARCC in Barre City.]

Table 4

<b>What recycling or reuse materials would you bring to a facility in central Vermont? [Please check all that apply]</b>					
	<b>Collect at ARCC Facility</b>	<b>CORE</b>		<b>RURAL</b>	
<b>Answer Options</b>		<b>Response Percent</b>	<b>Ranking</b>	<b>Response Percent</b>	<b>Ranking</b>
Electronics	✓	86.4%	1	91.3%	1
Batteries (all types)	✓	86.0%	2	91.3%	1
Household Hazardous Waste		78.7%	3	76.1%	6
Paint	✓	78.0%	4	87.0%	3
Styrofoam		73.1%	5	89.1%	2
Cardboard		71.0%	6	87.0%	3
Fluorescents	✓	70.3%	7	80.4%	5
Metal	✓ (small)	66.4%	8	76.1%	6
Hard and soft covered books	✓	64.0%	9	82.6%	4
Appliances		63.6%	10	71.7%	7
Used clothing and textiles	✓	63.3%	11	76.1%	6
Tires	✓	59.8%	12	82.6%	4
Cellular phones	✓	53.5%	13	52.2%	8
Mercury-Containing Devices (older models of thermometers, thermostats, light switches)	✓	46.9%	14	43.5%	9
Construction and Demolition (C&D) materials for recycling		43.0%	15	39.1%	10
Food scraps	✓	25.2%	16	26.1%	11
Yard trimmings, leaves, tree branches		24.8%	17	19.6%	12
None. There are no recycling materials that I'd like to drop off.		2.8%	18	0.0%	13
Other (please specify)		19.6%	--	15.2%	--
<b># respondents who answered question</b>		<b>286</b>		<b>46</b>	
<b># respondents who skipped question</b>		<b>3</b>		<b>82</b>	



The following table shows results for CORE town respondents regarding the importance of factors affecting people's use of a facility:

Table 5A

<b>CORE TOWN RESPONDENTS: How important are the factors that affect your use of CVSWMD's facility? [Please check an answer for each item.]</b>							
<b>Answer Options</b>	<b>Very important (%)</b>	<b>Important (%)</b>	<b>Neither (%)</b>	<b>Not important (%)</b>	<b>Not important at all (%)</b>	<b>Rating Average</b>	<b>Response Count</b>
Being able to recycle things that I can't easily recycle	70.7%	25.4%	1.8%	1.4%	0.7%	1.36	280
Location for drop off	53.0%	39.6%	6.7%	0.0%	0.7%	1.56	283
Convenient hours	54.8%	39.1%	5.0%	0.7%	0.4%	1.53	281
Convenient days	52.7%	40.6%	5.3%	1.1%	0.4%	1.56	281
User fees	41.9%	39.1%	15.1%	3.6%	0.4%	1.81	279
Effect on my property taxes or rent	35.6%	32.4%	21.5%	7.6%	2.9%	2.10	275
Knowing I am doing my part to reduce, reuse, and	60.1%	28.8%	7.1%	1.8%	2.1%	1.57	281
Other (please specify)							15
<b># respondents who answered question</b>							<b>285</b>
<b># respondents who skipped question</b>							<b>4</b>

Table 5B

The following table shows results for RURAL town respondents regarding the importance of factors affecting people's use of a facility:

<b>RURAL TOWN RESPONDENTS: How important are the factors that affect your use of CVSWMD's facility? [Please check an answer for each item.]</b>							
<b>Answer Options</b>	<b>Very important (%)</b>	<b>Important (%)</b>	<b>Neither (%)</b>	<b>Not important (%)</b>	<b>Not important at all (%)</b>	<b>Rating Average</b>	<b>Response Count</b>
Being able to recycle things that I can't easily recycle	72.5%	25.0%	1.7%	0.8%	0.0%	1.31	120
Location for drop off	51.3%	44.5%	4.2%	0.0%	0.0%	1.53	119
Convenient hours	49.6%	42.9%	5.0%	2.5%	0.0%	1.61	119
Convenient days	46.2%	46.2%	6.8%	0.9%	0.0%	1.62	117
User fees	42.2%	40.5%	12.9%	3.4%	0.9%	1.80	116
Effect on my property taxes or rent	27.6%	27.6%	26.7%	13.8%	4.3%	2.40	116
Knowing I am doing my part to reduce, reuse, and	57.6%	36.4%	3.4%	0.8%	1.7%	1.53	118
Other (please specify)							11
<b># respondents who answered question</b>							<b>121</b>
<b># respondents who skipped question</b>							<b>7</b>

Table 6

<b>How do you prefer to fund the services provided by the District? [Check all that apply.]</b>		
	<b>CORE</b>	<b>RURAL</b>
<b>Answer Options</b>	<b>Response Percent</b>	<b>Response Percent</b>
Property taxes	12.8%	23.8%
User fees for services	60.1%	60.7%
Sale of recycling materials in the open market	78.0%	80.3%
Hauler fees	18.3%	32.8%
Local income tax	8.8%	14.8%
Tax on trash	32.6%	39.3%
<b># of respondents who answered question</b>	<b>273</b>	<b>122</b>
<b># of respondents who skipped question</b>	<b>16</b>	<b>6</b>

