

# **2024 Town Meeting Day Notes**

## **Addison County Solid Waste Management District**

*(The purpose of this information sheet is to provide a brief overview of the structure and activities of the ACSWMD. For more details, please refer to the “ACSWMD 2023 Annual Report and 2024 Annual Budget” distributed to you and town clerks in Oct. 2023 (also available online at [AddisonCountyRecycles.org](http://AddisonCountyRecycles.org)). A one-page condensed version of the Annual Report was sent to Town Clerks in Dec. 2023 and is most likely included in your town’s Annual Report.*

### **ABOUT US**

**History.** The Addison County Solid Waste Management District is a union municipal district formed in November 1988 to cooperatively and comprehensively address the solid waste management interests of its 21 member municipalities: Addison, Bridport, Bristol, Cornwall, Ferrisburgh, Goshen, Leicester, Lincoln, Middlebury, Monkton, New Haven, Orwell, Panton, Ripton, Salisbury, Shoreham, Starksboro, Vergennes, Waltham, Weybridge, and Whiting. The District charter, adopted by the VT Legislature, establishes the authority and powers of the District. District population (2010 U.S. Census) is 36,703 (seasonally adjusted pop. of 38,697), and an area of 698 sq. miles.

### **District Mission Statement**

“The Addison County Solid Waste Management District is a union municipality that exists to cooperatively and comprehensively address the solid waste management interests of its member municipalities. The mission of the District is to:

- ♦ promote waste reduction and pollution prevention;
- ♦ maximize diversion of wastes through reuse, recycling, and composting;
- ♦ provide for the disposal of remaining wastes; and
- ♦ seek environmentally sound and cost-effective solutions in all of its programs, services, and facilities.”

**Board of Supervisors.** The District is governed by a Board of Supervisors composed of one representative from each of the 21 member municipalities. Board representatives and alternates are appointed by the legislative bodies of the member towns for a term of one year, after Town Meeting Day and prior to the Board’s Annual Organizational Meeting on the 2<sup>d</sup> Thursday in April. Anyone interested in serving on the Board is encouraged to contact their selectboards to express interest in the position. There is no limit to the number of successive terms that can be served.

**Meetings.** The Board currently holds hybrid meetings - virtual meetings via Zoom and physical meetings at the District office conference room - on the 3<sup>d</sup> Thursday of the month at 7 PM, and the Executive Board meets monthly via Zoom and at the District office conference room, 8 days prior to the Board meeting at 4:30 PM. All meetings are open to the public.

**District Office and Staff.** The District office is co-located with the Transfer Station at 1223 Rt. 7 South in Middlebury and is open M-F, 8 AM – 4 PM. Tel: (802) 388-2333; Fax: (802) 388-0271; website: [www.AddisonCountyRecycles.org](http://www.AddisonCountyRecycles.org).

#### **Full-Time Staff:**

District Manager:	Teresa Kuczynski	Program Manager:	Donald Maglienti
Business Manager:	Patti Johnson	Public Outreach Coordinator:	Emily Johnston
Admin. Assistant:	Shelly Edson	AmeriCorps Member:	(currently vacant)
Tr. Station Supervisor:	Gary Hobbs	Tr. Station Operators:	Brian Sherwin, Chad Kimball,
Scalehouse Operator:	Chantel Bolduc		Gene Pouliot, & Jake Vukas

**Part-Time Sat. Tr. Station Operators:** Melissa Sullivan, Ricky Rheaume, Wes Kimball

## **MATERIALS MANAGEMENT PLAN**

All VT solid waste planning entities (districts, alliances and independent towns) must comply with a State Materials Management Plan (MMP), which is amended every five years. The Board adopted a new Solid Waste Implementation Plan (SWIP) in November 2020 to conform to the new Universal Recycling Law (URL) and the 2019 State MMP. The main goal of the MMP was to reduce the disposal rate of Municipal Solid Waste (MSW) in Vermont by 25%, from 3.62 lbs/person/day to 2.74 lbs/ person/day (50% diversion rate). The District performed its latest biennial diversion study in 2023. The District's 2023 SWIP Report showed a 2022 MSW disposal rate of **2.03 lbs/person/day** and a 2022 MSW diversion rate of **54.29%**, or **2.48 lbs/person/day**. The District has exceeded the State's 50% diversion goal since 2006. Staff will be performing a new diversion study in 2025.

## **YEAR END 2023 and ADOPTED 2024 ANNUAL BUDGET**

- **Year end 2023:** Despite all of the rate increases, many unanticipated, that the District incurred in CY2023, the District was able to finish CY2023 (unaudited) with a \$431,724 net position v. the \$40,940 YE budgeted. A major increase in the single stream recyclables processing fees caused the District to finish CY2023 with a recycling contract loss of (\$168,368).
- **CY2024 Annual Budget:** The adopted 2024 annual budget is summarized in the District's condensed 2023 Annual Report included in your Town Reports. You were also provided with a copy of the CY2024 budget and new rate sheet for your Board manuals.
- **Diversion Grants:** In order to assist member municipalities and schools to establish and/or improve waste reduction, recycling & composting programs, the District offers Diversion Grants for each – a 50% match for municipalities and a 75% match for schools.

## **DISPOSAL SYSTEM**

- Commercial haulers provide curbside waste collection in all District member towns. The MSW/C&D is hauled to the District Transfer Station in Middlebury, where the waste is loaded into transfer trailers for long haul to the Casella Waste Management (CWM) N.E.W.S. Lined Landfill in Coventry, VT, currently the only operating landfill in VT. CWM subcontracts with MBI for the hauling of our MSW/C&D using MBI trailers.
- The District Transfer Station is open M-F, 7 AM–3 PM and Sat, 8 AM–1 PM. The HazWaste Center at the Transfer Station is open year-round, six days/week: Mon–Fri, 8 AM–2 PM, and Sat, 8 AM– 1 PM for residents, and by appointment on weekdays for Very Small Quantity Generator (VSQG) businesses. Household hazardous waste (HHW) is accepted at no charge from District residents. VSQG waste is accepted for the cost of disposal plus a \$5/fee. HHW is subsidized by the per-ton fees we charge for MSW/C&D, so only member towns can use the facility. The Transfer Station accepts waste and recyclables from businesses and licensed commercial haulers. All commercial haulers must have a VT Waste Transporter Permit and be licensed by the District. Households may bring large loads of “clean-out” waste and other special wastes that are not picked up at the curb, but the Host Community Agreement prohibits us from accepting small bags of household-type garbage and recyclables from residents. Those bagged MSW/Recyclables are collected either at the curb or at one of the 18 town drop-offs or private “fast trash” trucks in the District.
- The District has been developing a new regional residential solid waste transfer station on 65 Campground Road in New Haven, Addison County, VT. This regional facility will serve all 21 member towns of the District. District Surveys and experience over the past 31 years have demonstrated that the hub and spoke system of town drop-offs feeding into the District Transfer Station in Middlebury, VT lacks a substantive depot, open 3 weekdays and Sats., that can accept a variety of recyclables along with residential bagged MSW. On Feb. 27, 2023, the District purchased Lot 6 and the adjacent “Church Lot.” All relevant environmental permits were obtained. Site clearing was completed. Phase 1 construction was scheduled for 2023. However, due to the floods of spring and summer, completion of the project was delayed and will be completed in spring/summer of this year. A driveway and area for a private waste company to park, along with two bunkers for leaf & yard waste and for tires, will be constructed. In Phase 1, the private waste company will collect

bagged trash, single stream recyclables, food scraps and leaf & yard debris (at least seasonally). The final regional residential transfer station will be constructed and fully staffed in Phase 2, and will accept bagged trash, single stream recyclables, food scraps, leaf & yard debris, scrap metal, electronics, fluorescent light bulbs, tires, books, plastic film/bags, and confidential documents for shredding /recycling. A new HHW Center on the Church Lot will be developed in Phase 3 that will accept HHW and VSQG hazardous waste. This will be the first full-service building in the District to receive and manage HHW. The timing of construction of Phase 2 and Phase 3 will be dependent on financing.

## **RECYCLING SYSTEM**

Act 148 and the District’s Waste Management Ordinance (WMO) require the recycling of the following “Mandated Recyclables” that are banned from the landfill:

- Glass bottles & jars from foods & beverages
- High density polyethylene (HDPE) plastic bottles & jugs
- Polyethylene terephthalate (PET) plastic bottles or jugs
- Boxboard
- Corrugated cardboard
- Magazines & catalogues
- Aluminum & steel cans
- Aluminum foil & aluminum pie plates
- Paper bags
- Paper mail & envelopes
- Newspaper
- White & colored paper

All facilities/ haulers are required to offer collection of Mandated Recyclables and must imbed the cost of **residential** recycling in the trash bag fee, with the following exceptions: (1) Commercial haulers may charge a stop fee for curbside service; and (2) commercial haulers with parked trucks may add a fee for recyclables if the customer does not bring trash with it, or if the volume of recyclables is too much for the trash fee to cover. The recycling system in the District is “single stream”, i.e., all Mandated Recyclables are mixed in one container. In the past years, the recyclables collected at the District Transfer Station were hauled by CWM in our own transfer trailers to its Rutland Material Recovery Facility (MRF) to be sorted mechanically and by hand. In CY2024, the recyclables are hauled by LaPete’s to the Chittenden Solid Waste District MRF in Williston. All plastic bags must be kept out of the single stream recyclables! Plastic bags are contaminants that interfere with the MRF machinery, resulting in a higher processing fee. All 21 member towns have access to a recycling drop-off via a town drop-off or a hauler parked on private or town land.

## **FOOD SCRAPS LANDFILL BAN**

The URL established a landfill ban on food scraps in VT as of 7/1/2020. All food scrap generators – residential, industrial and commercial – have to separate their food scraps. All drop-off facilities and fast trash trucks must offer food scrap collection. Commercial haulers are exempt from collecting residential food scraps at the curb but are mandated to offer separate collection of food scraps to businesses and apartment buildings with four or more residential units, and deliver them to a processing location such as a composting or anaerobic digestion facility. Commercial haulers are not required to offer collection of food scraps if another commercial hauler provides food scrap collection services in the same area and has enough capacity to provide service to all customers.

## **VERMONT PRODUCT STEWARDSHIP PROGRAMS**

Extended Producer Responsibility (EPR) laws are a useful tool to help distribute the cost of recycling and safe management of these products between industry, government and consumers. EPR can alleviate the financial burden for municipalities and residents, while mitigating environmental impacts from disposal by increasing collection and recycling rates of covered products. Vermont’s EPR programs remain effective at collecting targeted materials, largely due to education and collection efforts by the State and solid waste entities. VT has the second highest number of EPR laws in the U.S. and has recently led the way with a new law on EPR for HHW. The District is a member of the VT Product Stewardship Council. The District Transfer Station is a registered collector for all of these programs. On the legislative horizon: S.254 expansion of the EPR battery stewardship program to include rechargeable batteries and battery-containing products, and future bills for EPR for Packaging and for Tires.