



LRSWMD Annual Report

Fiscal Year 2015: July 1, 2014 – June 30, 2015

Profile

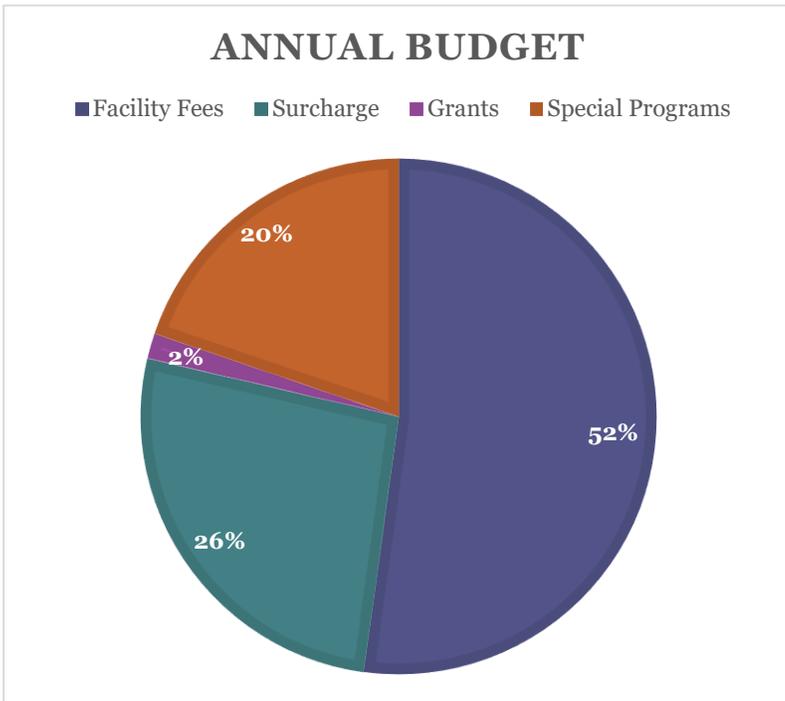


The mission of the Lamoille Regional Solid Waste Management District (LRSWMD) is to reduce the quantity and toxicity of the trash generated and going to the landfill while maintaining or improving overall environmental quality (air, water, soil), treating customer and employees with respect and operating within a balanced budget.

The LRSWMD is comprised of the following 12 communities: Belvidere, Cambridge, Craftsbury, Eden, Elmore, Hyde Park, Johnson, Morristown, Stowe, Waterville, Wolcott, and Worcester. Each town either appoints or elects a representative to serve on the Board of Supervisors. Additionally, the LRSWMD operates six transfer stations across the District in the following communities: Craftsbury, Eden, Johnson, Morristown, Stowe, and Worcester. The services offered at these facilities are open to District and non-District users and include: trash disposal, mixed recycling, and management of other difficult to dispose of items like tires, e-waste, and appliances.

Annual Budget

The LRSWMD ended the 2015 fiscal year with a net income of \$108,000. Almost one-third of that income has been carried over to the FY2016 budget in order to balance the budget. The remainder is dedicated to our capital fund for future infrastructure investments.



During FY2015, the LRSWMD was tasked to rewrite the LRSWMD Solid Waste Implementation Plan (SWIP) using the new guidance required by the State. While a slightly more streamlined document, the number of requirements and on-going reporting and deadlines are significantly more robust due to new programs mandated under the Universal Recycling Law. The diversion and beneficial reuse of organics, such as food scraps and clean wood, is a new focus for solid waste management and will affect annual budget planning going forward.

Looking ahead, there is a statewide focus on the sustainability of a surcharge-based system to fund materials management programs. The LRSWMD is one of several Districts that does NOT tax its residents with a per capita fee for membership. That means our only source of income is through the \$21/ton surcharge and the fees charged at our drop off facilities. Surcharge provides 26% of the overall budget; facilities fees account for approximately 52%.

The LRSWMD surcharge is among the lowest in the state, with neighboring Districts charging \$5 to \$10 more per ton to their haulers. Since the surcharge is based on the number of tons going to the landfill, the more successful we are at our mission of reducing waste, the less income is generated to cover the programs that divert those materials from the landfill. A downward spiral is not a sustainable financial strategy. As always we are committed to fiscally conservative and transparent operations while meeting our mandates.

A budget of \$1,258,003.00 has been approved for FY2016.

Facilities

A total of 3,577 tons of solid waste was collected across all six LRSWMD Transfer Stations in FY2015, up almost 200 tons from the previous year. Recycling increased by 55 tons to 982 tons compared to last fiscal year (see graph below). That's a 6% increase in both solid waste disposal and recycling rate. With the implementation of the Universal Recycling law, the picture should look different for solid waste as we go forward. We are certainly on the right track for recycling. Keep it up!

The diversion and beneficial reuse of organics, such as food scraps and clean wood, is a new focus for solid waste management and engaging community members in an advisory group to chart a course for their collection, transportation, and processing will be integral to this process.

Craftsbury: Thanks to Walt Gutzman for the use of his property for the weekly Saturday collections, 9 a.m.- 1 p.m. We were able to add a second recycling box to this site thanks to our cooperative host. Hopefully, this has translated into a more positive customer experience.

Eden: A recycling box was added to the setup in Eden. Thanks to the Eden Town Garage for hosting the location of the weekly Sunday operation, 9 a.m. – 2 p.m.

Johnson: Thanks to the town of Johnson for hosting us for the past two decades. Hours of operation are Friday and Saturday, 8:30 a.m. – 3:30 p.m. After some light drainage work, this winter should allow for less ice buildup under the compactors. This site has been recertified for another five years.

Morrisville: Open weekly, Saturdays 8:30 a.m. – 1:30 p.m. Currently, the LRSWMD is actively pursuing a new site for the Morrisville drop-off facility. Thanks to Morrisville Water & Light for allowing us to use this property. The current location on Trombley Hill Road will no longer be available after June 30, 2016. The LRSWMD Board will be considering different options for what that new location might look like. One option is to replicate what is currently available for customers

- a 5-hour per week operation where a limited number of materials including trash, recycling, and e-waste are accepted. A second option is to combine those services at a site which could also house District offices; therefore, hours of operation and the types of materials accepted in Morrisville could be expanded. This latter option, while being more expensive, would increase convenience and cost effectiveness in the long run.

Stowe: The scale house is open every day except Tuesday from 7:30 a.m. – 3:00 p.m. Reuse is open Thurs & Sat, 8:30 a.m. – 2:30 p.m. and Tuesdays, 10:30 a.m. – 4:30 p.m. Reuse materials may only be left when the scale house is open. The Bottle Redemption Room is open during regular Transfer Station hours - closed Tues & Sun. The certification was issued for another 7 years for this location. The Town of Stowe has been a gracious host to us for the past two decades.

Worcester: Thanks to the Town of Worcester for providing our location on Calais Road. Open every Saturday 7:30 a.m. – 1 p.m. Worcester has been recertified for 10 years; however, the town may be interested in pursuing a new location.



Special Events

Through the help of a grant from the State of Vermont, Agency of Natural Resources, Department of Environmental Conservation, three Household Hazardous Waste (HHW) collection events were held. The collections are an effort to directly support the mission of the District to reduce both the volume and toxicity of materials going to landfills. The events were held in Morrisville, Worcester and Jeffersonville. More than 5,335 gallons of HHW were recovered and over 586 participants took advantage of the collection, 16 of those were businesses. PaintCare, in concert with these three collections, captured 3,900 gallons of old paint to be recycled or properly disposed.



Special wastes are materials that are not collected with regular trash or recycling. We are proud to report that several tons of various special wastes were diverted for proper disposal. 104 tons of e-waste was collected at our Johnson, Morrisville, and Stowe sites. Just under 1 ton of film plastics were diverted to be recycled into new products. More than 2,850 tires were sent to Vermonters Helping Vermonters and over 26 tons of textiles and books were diverted to SEVCA or Canusa. More than 24,700 feet of fluorescent tube bulbs and over 4,000 CFL and odd shaped mercury-containing bulbs were sent to be properly disposed of. 566 Freon appliances were properly managed to prevent the hazardous materials contained within them from leaching into the surrounding environment.

Green Up Day is organized locally in each of our twelve District towns. LRSWMD contributes \$1200 on behalf of our member towns for Green Up Day to the statewide organization. Contact your local Green Up representative to get involved!

LRSWMD continues to offer all district members easy and convenient ways to reduce the amount of organic waste they send to the landfill. Composting receptacles are for sale all year at the office and at most Transfer Stations. In FY15, 61 SoilSavers, 116 Kitchen Collectors, and 9 Green Cones were sold at a subsidized cost. Ninety-seven recycling bins were also sold.

Outreach and Education

Many opportunities are available to our District members each year – most of them at no cost. The Community Clean Up Grant program provides funding to clean up an illegal dump from a public space in your town. We are available to assist with waste audits for your business or school, waste management presentations and activities for audiences of all ages, technical assistance for successful implementation of the Universal Recycling law, and help with developing a solid waste management plan for large and small scale events. Check the website or ask your Board representative for information about any of these services.

LRSWMD assisted the Morristown RocktoberFest, LACiNg Up for Cancer, Pumpkin' Chuckin' Festival, and Stowe Farmers' Market with successful materials management plans to capture and divert waste, recycling, and compost. The SWIP is requiring more collaborations like this and also asks for similar work to take place in our schools. A \$40,000 State Farm Youth Advisory Board grant was earned in partnership with UVM Extension 4-H Teen & Leadership program to help kick off that important work with the schools. Seven schools throughout the District participated and were able to make a significant impact on their school's waste practices.



A newsletter is sent twice each year to all 14,000+ households and businesses located within the District. The website has a new look with the same great information that is now easier to find. The LRSWMD Twitter and Facebook (LRSWMD) accounts are a great way to learn cool stuff and share your successes. Follow us today! You will also regularly see us on Front Porch Forum (www.frontporchforum.com). A monthly email news blast is another way to keep abreast of what the LRSWMD is up to. If you would like to be added to our mailing list please email outreach@lrswmd.org and if you would like more information on any of these services or have other suggestions about how to get your community involved in recycling, composting, and waste reduction.

