



LRSWMD Annual Report

Fiscal Year 2017

July 1, 2016 - June 30, 2017

DISTRICT 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, and soil), treating customer and employees with respect and operating within a balanced budget.

The LRSWMD is comprised of 12 communities; each town either appoints or elects a representative to serve on the Board of Supervisors. The District provides outreach and education on materials management in schools and in communities, offers free use of waste receptacles for community events, sells recycling and composting bins at subsidized costs, and guides member communities towards compliance with state solid waste regulations. Additionally, the LRSWMD operates six transfer stations across the District in the following communities: Craftsbury, Eden, Johnson, Morristown, Stowe, and Worcester and recently opened Lamoille Soil, a commercial food scrap composting facility in Johnson. The services offered at these facilities are open to both District and non-District users.

MEMBER SERVICES: Through the help of a grant from the State of Vermont, Department of Environmental Conservation, Agency of Natural Resources, 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, Stowe and Jeffersonville. More than 17 tons of HHW were recovered and over 570 participants took advantage of the collections - 14 of those were businesses. PaintCare, in concert with these three collections, captured 2,400 gallons of unused paint. All materials collected at these events will be recycled or responsibly disposed.

'Special wastes' are materials that are not collected with regular trash or recycling. Many of these items are not collected by curbside haulers or by privately run facilities. We are proud to report that several tons of various special wastes were diverted by the LRSWMD for proper recycling, reuse, or disposal:

- 70 tons of e-waste
- More than 35 tons of tires
- 25 tons of textiles and books
- Over 3 tons of film plastics
- More than 21,700 feet of fluorescent tube bulbs
- Over 5,300 CFL & other mercury-containing bulbs
- 763 refrigerant-containing appliances

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

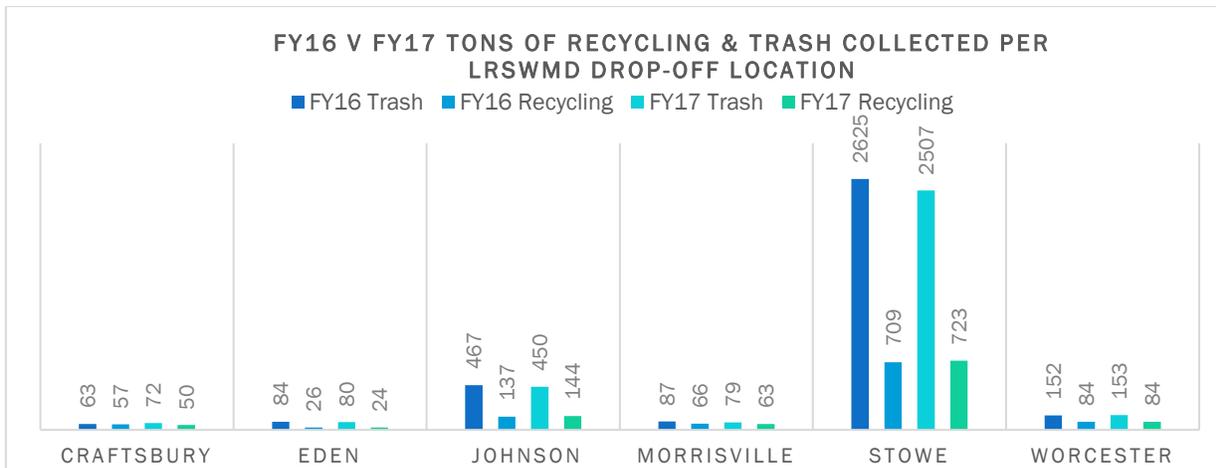
LRSWMD continues to offer all District members easy and convenient ways to reduce the amount of organic waste they send to the landfill. Backyard composting receptacles are available all-year, at subsidized costs, in the office and at most Transfer Stations. In FY2017, over 120 composting units and 42 recycling bins were sold. We also donated a combination of these same items to local organizations for fundraisers and waste reduction program implementation totaling a value of over \$650.

BOARD OF SUPERVISORS

Belvidere: *Cathy Mander-Adams*
Cambridge: *Dana Sweet*
Craftsbury: *Adrian Owens*
Eden: *David Whitcomb*
Elmore: *Jane Oliphant*
Hyde Park: *Harold Bailey*
Johnson: *Phillip Wilson*
Morristown: *Charles Cooley*
Stowe: *Willie Noyes*
Waterville: *Howard Duchacek*
Wolcott: *Richard Lee*
Worcester: *Carl Witke*

FACILITIES: Six transfer stations are operated by the LRSWMD. Services vary by location but include trash disposal, mixed recycling, and organics collection at minimum. Management of other difficult to dispose of items like tires, e-waste, and appliances are also provided at some locations. The LRSWMD provides household hazardous waste collections three times a year. The main office for administrative functions and Lamoille Soil, a commercial composting facility round out the facilities picture of the LRSWMD.

A total of 3,353 tons of solid waste was collected across all six LRSWMD Transfer Stations in FY2017, down 124 tons from the previous year. 1089 tons of recycling was taken in which is 9 tons more than last year. A breakdown of tonnage collected per site as compared to last fiscal year can be seen below. We are positively contributing to the statewide goal outlined in the VT Materials Management Plan to keep 50% of materials out of the landfill by 2020.



CRAFTSBURY: Thanks to Walt Gutzman for the use of his property. Open Saturday, 9 a.m.-1 p.m.

EDEN: Thanks to the Eden Town Garage for hosting the location. Open Sunday, 9 a.m. – 2 p.m. A second recycling box was located at this facility this year.

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.

MORRISVILLE: Thanks to Morrisville Town Highway Garage for hosting this site. Open Saturdays 8:30 a.m. – 1:30 p.m. Twenty trees were generously planted in the fall by the Morristoryn crew. Thanks for making the new site look terrific!

STOWE: The Scalehouse is open every day except Tuesday from 7:30 a.m. – 3:00 p.m. Reuse is open Thursday & Saturday, 8:30 a.m. – 2:30 p.m. and Tuesdays, 10:30 a.m. – 4:30 p.m. The Bottle Redemption Room is open during regular Transfer Station hours - closed Tues & Sun. A program through TerraCycle to recycle personal and oral hygiene products began this year.

FY16 brought a Saturday Redemption Room Frenzy! We apologize for any inconvenience unexpected closures of the Redemption Room may have caused. The LRSWMD shares the same hiring struggles as many Vermont employers and Saturdays are especially challenging since five out of six sites are open. Anything from a last-minute call-out to injuries that limit what duties an attendant can perform causes a shortage of staff for that day. It is in the best interest of all parties to keep the drop-off locations that accept trash, recycling, electronics, batteries, propane tanks, etc. open during these times. Closing the Redemption Room and moving that employee to a different location allows all five locations to remain open.

Bottles can be left for donation anytime the facility is open, even if the Bottle Room is not. The LRSWMD donated \$9,550 between the Lamoille County Food Shelf and United Way from bottles donated by you and counted by our employees this year! Thank you for your patience and for being great customers!

WORCESTER: Thanks to the Town of Worcester for providing our location on Calais Road. Open Saturday 7:30 a.m. – 1 p.m.

LAMOILLE SOIL: The Northern Borders Regional Commission (NBRC) is a federal entity tasked with allocating grant dollars to northern Vermont communities for the purpose of regional economic development. LRSWMD was awarded an NBRC grant of \$50,000 for the development of a food scrap composting facility. The district pledged to match the grant with \$75,000 in cash and in-kind labor and services. The facility, built in the 1990's by the Village of Johnson to manage biosolids, had been permitted but inactive for approximately 15 years. It was still in great shape and perfect for launching our food scrap composting program. Chris Duff, our Compost Facility Operator, was hired in May 2016 and spent the first few months securing an operating permit complete with a Facility Management Plan. Once permitted, Chris oversaw all improvements to the facility including the construction of the aerated static pile system. Food scrap collection at our six facilities commenced on July 1, 2017 and has been growing steadily since. A High Meadows grant was used to create the branding for the food scrap collection and composting program dubbed "Lamoille Soil". Our success in providing this valuable community-asset to the Lamoille region is due, in large part, to our Congressional Delegation, who made funds available through NBRC and the Village of Johnson for allowing use of the facility. We expect to have finished compost for sale this summer!



OUTREACH & EDUCATION: Education happens in all sorts of ways for our District members. A newsletter is sent twice each year to all 15,000+ households and businesses in all twelve-member towns. The LRSWMD Twitter and Facebook (LRSWMD) accounts are a great way to learn cool stuff and share your successes; you will regularly see us on Front Porch Forum. A monthly email news blast goes out to over 700 email address around the first of each month. Much education takes place in less organized and visual ways. Much time and effort is dedicated to staying current on the materials market, sharing ideas with various stakeholders, researching successful projects happening across the globe, and networking to increase the capacity building of the District. 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, just reach out to us – outreach@lrswmd.org.

We were chosen to host our first ECOAmeriCorps member in FY17. This position is provided by the Department of Environmental Conservation and allowed us to reach many more members than last year. Shannon Choquette served from September through January with us. While she was here, she created the Waste Warrior volunteer program, performed transfer station outreach to over 300 customers, taught over 30 waste reduction lessons in six different elementary schools and created signage to prevent recycling contamination at our facilities. We are pleased that Shannon has been hired by the NEKSWD as their full time Outreach Coordinator. We have been granted another ECOAmeriCorps member for FY18.

Through a grant from the Agency of Natural Resources we were able to provide backyard composters to District residents who attended instructional workshops. Five workshops were held and over 110 attendees were eligible to purchase composters at 50% the selling price. 40 Soil Savers and 14 Green Cones were sold to attendees who participated in a 75-minute interactive workshop of "rotting" inspiration. This program was wildly successful!

A \$10,000 High Meadows grant was procured to create a brand and purchase totes for our newest facility, Lamoille Soil. Through much collaboration, a myriad of collateral materials were created and made available for distribution and totes for collection of food scraps at all LRSWMD Drop-off locations were ready for the July 1, 2017 collection requirement under the Universal Recycling & Composting law.

ANNUAL BUDGET: The end of the year change in fund balance was \$114,827 for FY2017. Sources of income include the surcharge on trash disposed of in the landfill (recycling and food scraps are exempt from the surcharge), fees for materials brought to our facilities, redemption, and grants. Expenses were less than anticipated for major items such as payroll, insurance, and hauling. A financial audit was completed and accepted by the Board of Supervisors. The FY18 budget was passed at a level of \$1,374,920 and included a new profit center for the composting facility. The income and expenses for the composting operation are best estimates given we have no previous track record and we relied heavily on other Vermont facilities experience to build that budget. Minor fee changes were made regarding wood and yard debris but all trash and recycling fees at our facilities remained the same.