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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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LRSWMD Receives \$22,000 from State Grant to Process More Food Scraps

Johnson, VT - The Lamoille Regional Solid Waste Management District (LRSWMD) has received a grant from the Vermont Department of Environmental Conservation, Agency of Natural Resources Division for composting infrastructure and equipment upgrade needs. The award, in the amount of \$22,000, will be used towards the purchase of equipment to increase the capacity and efficiency of the LRSWMD's Lamoille Soil compost facility, located at 941 Wilson Rd, Johnson, Vermont. The LRSWMD Board of Supervisors has approved a 60% match toward the purchase of a hydraulic tote lifter, screener, and 1 cubic yard bucket. Lamoille Soil composts food scraps and other organic materials keeping them out of the waste stream.

Lamoille Soil began processing local food scraps in October of 2017. The program began as a residential drop-off program aimed at making food scrap collection part of the convenient services offered at the LRSWMD six drop-off locations. With the advent of Vermont's Act 148, the Universal Recycling & Composting Initiative, Lamoille Soil has seen rapid success. An increase in food scrap diversion is anticipated and Lamoille Soil has the capacity to process additional food scraps.

Food scraps have been collected at all six LRSWMD drop-off facilities since July 1, 2017 when state law required it. The amount being collected has doubled in that time. Compost Operator Chris Duff stated, "it is reasonable to expect that we can reach capacity at the Lamoille Soil compost facility with food scraps solely from our district." In 2018, 44 tons of food scraps were processed yielding 24 yards of finished compost. "We have the capacity to process ten times this amount and we are growing every week." Duff said. "The more food scraps we bring in, the more compost we can make. The funding from this grant will allow us to handle raw organics in a more efficient way and to produce a higher quality, screened compost available to our local communities."

"The compost made at Lamoille Soil comes from your food scraps and other organic materials. These materials are collected, processed, and applied within our local area. This system reduces the carbon footprint associated with long distance transportation and closes the resource loop right here in the Lamoille Region." stated Susan Alexander, LRSWMD District Manager.

Funding from this grant will allow the immediate purchase of a screener and additional equipment to have finely-screened, finished compost available as early as May 1. Please call 888-7317 to make an appointment for picking up compost by the cubic yard. Delivery is not available at this time. Smaller quantities of compost are available all-year at any LRSWMD location.

About the LRSWMD: The mission of the LRSWMD is to reduce the quantity and toxicity of the amount of trash being generated and sent to the landfill while maintaining or improving overall environmental quality (air, water, and soil), treating customers and employees with respect, and operating within a balanced budget. District member towns include Belvidere, Cambridge, Craftsbury, Eden, Elmore, Hyde Park, Johnson, Morristown, Stowe, Waterville, Wolcott, and Worcester. Contact the LRSWMD at 802.888.7317 or visit www.lrswmd.org.



The way 48-gallon food scrap totes are currently manually tipped at the Lamoille Soil commercial composting facility. A hydraulic tipper will be purchased to eliminate hand-tipping of the 200-pound totes.



The wheel loader for which a new 1 cubic yard bucket will be purchased.

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