



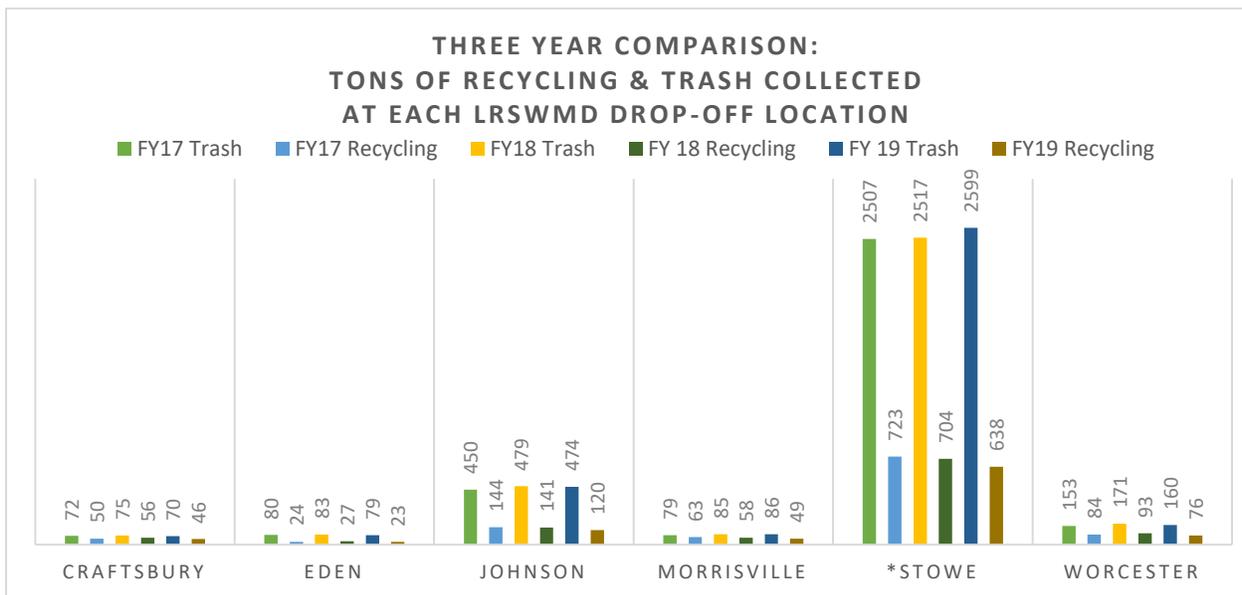
# LRSWMD Annual Report

Fiscal Year 2019: July 1 2018 – June 30, 2019



**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 customers and employees with respect and operating within a balanced budget.

The LRSWMD is comprised of 12 towns; each community either appoints or elects a representative to serve on the Board of Supervisors. The District guides member communities towards compliance with Vermont state solid waste regulations, 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 offers hazard waste collections at free or reduced costs. 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. No taxes are assessed on member towns; the LRSWMD operating budget is created through user-fees assessed at the six drop-off locations and a surcharge assessed to handlers of municipal solid waste.



*\*Please note that Stowe is the only facility that is open six days a week; Johnson is open two days a week. All other locations are open one day a week.*

**Facilities:** LRSWMD operations are comprised of six drop-off locations across the District, one commercial composting facility located in Johnson, and the administrative office located in Morrisville. Services vary by location but include bagged trash for 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 graph above shows a breakdown of tonnage comparing the previous three fiscal years to FY19. A total of 3,468 tons of solid waste was collected, up 57 tons from last year, while recycling was down 127 tons at 952 tons compared to 1088 tons in FY18. This was the

### **CRAFTSBURY**

*Open Sat., 9am – 1pm*

We would like to thank Mrs. Gutzman who owns the land which allows LRSWMD to host a Facility year around. 723 buckets of food scraps were collected here and a 40% recycling rate was achieved in FY19! Well done!

### **EDEN**

*Open Sat., 9am – 2pm*

Extra thanks to the Eden town crew for always doing their best to have this site safe and sound for SUNDAY operation! A new building was placed here to improve the aesthetics and working conditions for our staff. Eden residents emptied 181 buckets of food scraps.

### **WORCESTER**

*Open Sat. 7:30am – 1pm*

This full-service drop-off location, hosted by the town, serves as an integral part of the local community. The sixth-grade class hosted a bottle return program and collected \$1919. They used this money to take a trip to the Great Escape Amusement Park and purchase much needed jerseys for future Doty School students. 436 buckets of food scraps were collected here.

### **MORRISVILLE**

*Open Sat., 8:30am – 1:30pm*

Thanks to Morrisville Town Highway Garage for hosting this site. They have made special efforts to help ensure safety for the community. Not enough thanks can be granted for their help and availability. Morrisville loves to compost bringing in the second highest number of buckets this year at 980!

### **JOHNSON**

*Open Fri. & Sat., 8:30am – 3:30pm*

We would like to thank the Town of Johnson for hosting this location. This full-service site accepts many items beyond waste, recycling and food scraps. 54 tons of scrap metal was collected in FY19; that's over a ton a week! 969 buckets full of food scraps came in, too.

### **STOWE**

*Open Wed-Sun, 7:30am – 3pm*

Stowe is the only transfer station open six days a week. New compactors for recycling with safety gates were installed to prevent accidents to customers and staff in this area of the site. Over 2,400 buckets of food scraps were collected at Stowe this year.

### **LAMOILLE SOIL - Open By Appointment Only**

LRSWMD's Lamoille Soil Compost facility has been accepting food scraps since October 2017. As of end of FY19, 50 tons of food scraps have been diverted from the landfill. Food scraps are accepted at all six drop-off locations and transported weekly to the compost facility where it is mixed with carbon materials and manures and processed into a rich soil amendment for use in local soils. The drop-off rate for food scraps remains \$1 per 5-gallon bucket. In FY 2019 production nearly doubled to 65 yards produced and sold either in bulk for \$50 per yard or for \$5 in repurposed 5-gallon buckets available at all locations. Buckets refills were also offered this year at the compost facility and at the Johnson Transfer Station. A grant was received from the VT State ANR, DEC for the purchase of purchase a trommel screener and a mechanized tote tipper to increase the efficiency and quality of the operations. The screener has significantly improved the quality of the finished product, and the tipper has been effective with saving time and creating a safe work environment. A commercial hauling route was developed in the town of Johnson and transitioned to Black Dirt Farm to provide the hauling of the materials to Lamoille Soil. We anticipate a significant increase in diversion rates as Act 148 reaches its end point in 2020 and Lamoille Soil continues to produce *Compost to Grow With!*

Everyone loves the Stowe Reuse Room, but did you know that over 13 tons of items had to be discarded last year that were brought in and defined by customers as "reusable"? Reuse is open for 'shopping' Thurs. & Sat., 8:30am – 2:30pm and Tues., 10:30am – 4:30pm. Drop offs are only accepted when the Stowe Transfer Station is open.

The Bottle Redemption Room is open during regular Transfer Station hours and is closed Tues & Sun. Bottles can be left for donation anytime the transfer station is open, even if the Bottle Room is not.

second full year that we collected food scraps from residents at all of our locations and 5,741 5-gallon buckets were emptied into totes at our facilities this year.

**Member Services:** With funding assistance through 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, Stowe and Jeffersonville.



These four household hazardous waste events supported 724 total participants; sixty-four percent of these participants used more than one collection to dispose of hazardous waste. Many of these repeat visitors were bringing paint and oil. Twelve conditionally exempt generators, or small businesses, also utilized these collections.

PaintCare, in concert with these collections, captured 5,350 gallons of unused. 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 a myriad of special wastes were diverted by the LRSWMD for proper recycling, reuse, or disposal:

- 904 refrigerant-containing appliances
- 17 tons of textiles and books
- More than 14,000 feet of fluorescent tube bulbs
- Over 2,200 CFL & other mercury-containing bulbs
- More than 43 tons of tires
- Over 6 tons of film plastics
- 72 tons of e-waste

Green Up Day is organized locally in each of our twelve District towns. LRSWMD contributes \$1,200 to Green Up Vermont on behalf of our member towns to support the statewide event. Contact your local Green Up representative to get involved.

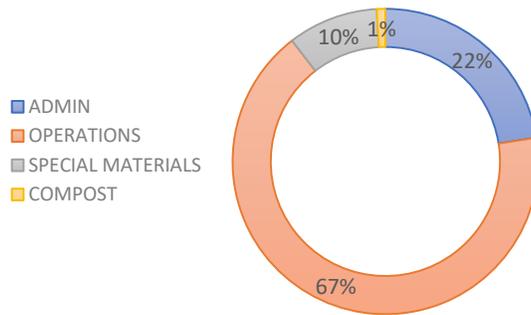
LRSWMD continues to offer all District members easy and convenient ways to reduce the amount of organic waste they send to the landfill. Backyard composting receptacles are available all-year. Thirty-one Soil Savers and nine Green Cones were sold last year. The Lamoille Soil collection kit continues to gain popularity s 125 of those were purchased last fiscal year. Seventy-five 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 \$200.

**Annual Budget:** The LRSWMD annual financial audit for FY2019 showed expenses exceeded revenue by \$34,755. A large portion of this deficit can be attributed to unanticipated

equipment purchases to leverage grant opportunities. The combination of soaring recycling fees and a new hauling contract significantly threatened our budget just one month into the fiscal year. To address the estimated \$120,000 negative impact of these two external factors the Board of Supervisors decided to return to the practice of charging customers to drop off their single stream recycling. This income has successfully offset the increased hauling and tipping fees for recycling.

INCOME BY DEPARTMENT

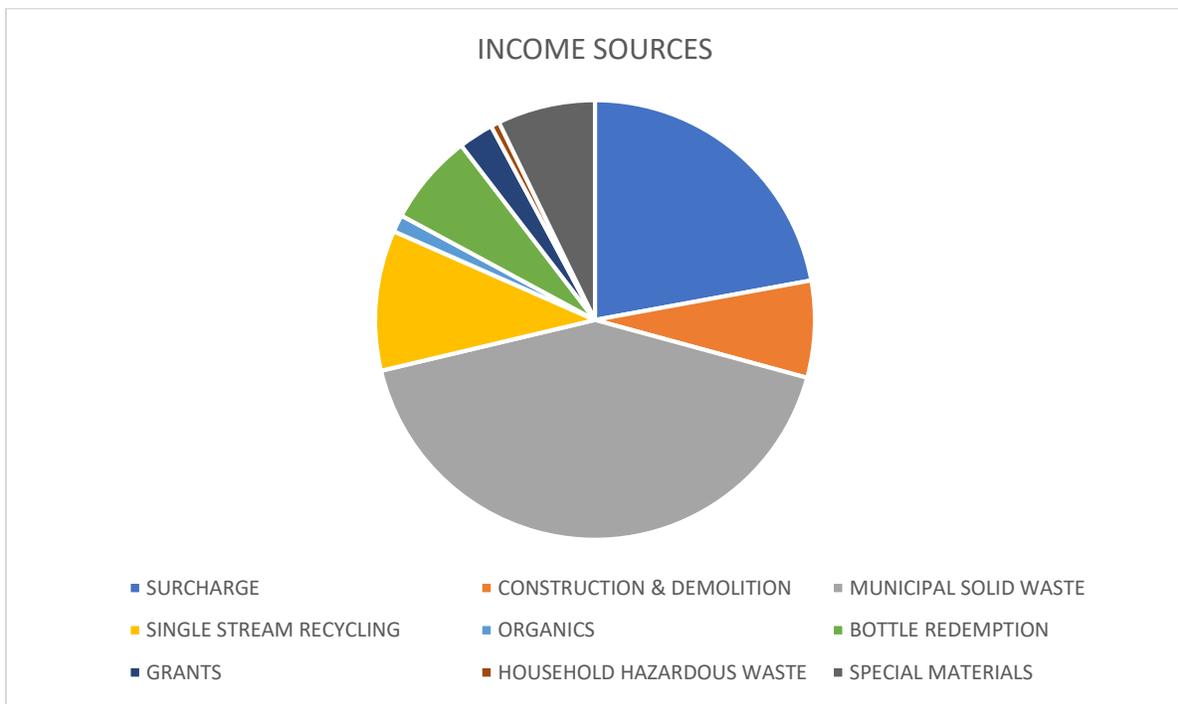


Income generated by the District is derived from just two sources: user fees collected at our facilities and a surcharge for every ton of municipal solid waste deposited in only the operating landfill in the state. The District’s surcharge remains one of the lowest in the state at \$21/ton. No municipal tax dollars are used to support the LRSWMD operations.

Looking ahead, the budget for FY2020 is \$1,703,500.

The distribution of income sources can be seen here:

INCOME SOURCES



**Member Outreach:** Team Outreach blanketed the District in a myriad of ways this year. We were fortunate to have a second year of service from our ECO AmeriCorps member which enabled the productivity to be multiplied beyond prediction. Our combined efforts totaled over 100 public appearances at a multitude of venues with a cross-section of audiences

throughout the LRSWMD. Appearances ranged from *How To* workshops on recycling and backyard composting to visits to all twelve town clerk offices providing resources on the services provided by the LRSWMD for their towns and residents.



In addition to the local connections, conversations, and network-building, the LRSWMD outreach team presented at three professional conferences in the New England region this year: the 8<sup>th</sup> Annual Vermont Farm to Plate Network Gathering, the Vermont Organics Recycling Summit, and the Northeast Resource Recovery Association Annual Conference. Sharing the story of the successes of our Lamoille Soil clean compost and school outreach strategies inspired other

materials management professionals to reach out and implement some of our practices into their work.

We continue to spend about \$18,000 a year to mail 15,000+ Collection Connection newsletters to all business and residential mailboxes to the twelve-town District zip codes. We utilize a paid subscription to nine Front Porch Forum communities (\$1200/yr) and host a free subscription to MailChimp as monthly methods by which we communicate with the public. If you are listener of our local radio station, WLVB, you may hear our Thursday afternoon, six-minute segment where we cover timely topics about materials management each week.

The State Solid Waste Implementation Plan encompasses multiple outreach requirements. Some of which include: maintaining an A-Z list on a website and adhering to Vermont's Open Meeting law, creating and implementing multi-media outreach campaigns on waste reduction, landfill bans, proper materials management practices, food rescue options and event hosting tips.



We hosted an ECO AmeriCorps member for the third year and had the luxury of this being a second year with the same member. The benefits of a second year service year were better than anticipated as we were able to hit the ground running straight-away in the fall since we did not have to wade through orientation and learning the organization. The ECO member focused on developing relationships with local businesses and property owners for community composting projects, enriching the volunteer Waste Warrior program, developing activities and opportunities to promote food waste reduction strategies, and being intentional about spending time at as many public events in as many of our twelve communities as possible.

While the outreach workplan is driven primarily by the requirements of the Solid Waste Implementation Plan, many of the programs we offer would continue without the State mandates. Our work continues to exceed the State expectations as our 2018 SWIP report was passed as quickly and easily as it did in 2018.