



LRSWMD
29 Sunset Drive, Suite #5
Morrisville, VT 05661
www.lrswmd.org
802.888.7317

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Collection Connection



Serving the towns of: Belvidere • Cambridge • Craftsbury • Eden • Elmore • Hyde Park • Johnson • Morristown • Stowe • Waterville • Wolcott • Worcester

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Go Green!
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COPING WITH COVID: LRSWMD REBOUNDED, STAFF SHINING

As defined by the Governor of Vermont, "solid waste management is an essential service" and as such the LRSWMD faced multiple challenges these past six months to continue to provide services to our 12 communities. Clearly, the first challenge was keeping our frontline workers safe which meant finding creative ways to work around individual circumstances (*day care, school closing, and/or personal health issues*) to continue staffing our six facilities. Accommodating these situations and practicing social distancing resulted in the temporary closure of some stations, reduction in the number of materials we could accept, and establishing new traffic patterns. At Stowe, redemption and reuse were closed and initially service was limited to trash, recycling, and food scraps only. Morrisville and Craftsbury could only be open on alternate weeks. Eden was completely closed, with Sundays added at the Johnson facility to accommodate for that closure and accept bulky items and scrap metal normally accepted at other locations. At Worcester, traffic flow control measures and long handled poles for collecting money to maintain the required 6-foot of separation were instituted.



In addition to the COVID-related changes at the drop-off facilities, July 1, 2020 marked the statewide ban on food scraps and consequently, the number of requests for information, bins and buckets, and curbside pick-up services shot through the ceiling. We welcome this increase with enthusiasm, yet it has been an additional strain on our operations as we are now taking in twice the volume of food scraps than we had been since starting collection in 2017. The good news that accompanies this dramatic increase is that we will have twice the amount of finished compost to sell next spring at Lamoille Soil!

Since glass is the heaviest item in your blue bin, a voluntary glass separation program was piloted at Stowe during the early days of COVID. Within the first three months, customers diverted over 10 tons of glass. The result was an overall savings of almost \$1000 on hauling and tipping. The success of this pilot creates the basis for separating other materials, such as cardboard, and potentially expanding such separation practices to other facilities.

Despite all the COVID changes, customer needs, and new programming, the LRSWMD Site Attendants stepped up to these challenges and have performed with an exceptional level of dedication while trying to keep themselves and their families safe from this highly transmissible disease. Please be certain to show your appreciation for them with a simple *Thank You* and extending your patience and understanding in following the rules and signs posted to protect everyone while using our facilities. A little effort and acknowledgement from customers goes a long way when you must wear a mask for 8-hours a day and maintain a friendly disposition while performing a labor-intensive, essential service.

We fully understand and recognize that this disruption in service may have added an inconvenience or source of frustration on top of all the other COVID-related changes to your normal routines. However, we had limited resources and options to contend with while the health and safety of both staff and customers had to be incorporated into our standard procedures. While many services have been restored at our drop-off sites, we are still struggling with a number of logistical and financial conundrums: redemption and reuse at Stowe are being reimagined, long term planning for Eden is being evaluated, and office staff and hours remain staggered.

FINAL HAZWASTE COLLECTION OF 2020

Saturday, Sept. 19
9:00 a.m. - 12:00 p.m.



JEFFERSONVILLE
Rtes. 15 & 108
G.W. Tatro Parking Lot
www.lrswmd.org

All attendees must wear masks, load items in trunks, and present items in containers that WILL NOT BE RETURNED. Please do not attend if you are experiencing symptoms of COVID-19 or returning from out of state. Please exercise patience and kindness as you wait in your car to be served.

FREE for LRSWMD District Residents

Thanks to a grant provided by the VT Dept. of Environmental Conservation

Includes the towns of: Belvidere, Cambridge, Craftsbury, Eden, Elmore, Hyde Park, Johnson, Morrisville, Stowe, Waterville, Wolcott, Worcester

Business waste will be accepted between 8:00 a.m. and 9:00 a.m. ONLY.

Pre-register with a disposal inventory no later than Friday, Sept. 11.

Call the office to register: 888-7317

Payment due at time of collection unless you are an LRSWMD approved customer.

NO

Asbestos
Batteries*
Electronic Waste*
Empty Containers
Explosives/Ammunition/Fireworks
Fluorescent Bulbs*
Medication & Medical Waste
Radioactive Materials
Propane Tanks*
Tires*
Vaping Devices

*Accepted all year at LRSWMD Drop-offs.
Fees may apply.

YES

Aerosols
Automotive Products
Fertilizers
Gasoline/Kerosene
Household Cleaners
Paint (10 gallon limit)
Paint Thinners
Pesticides/Insecticides
Pool/Hobby Chemicals
Thermostats & Thermometers
Waste Oil & Filters

RECYCLING AND COMPOSTING BINS FOR SALE AT ALL LOCATIONS.

RECYCLING BIN	 \$7
COMPOST COLLECTORS	LID ONLY \$7  \$15  \$10
BACKYARD OPTIONS	GREEN CONE DIGESTER \$115  \$115 SOIL SAVER COMPOSTER \$52  \$52

JULY 1 = NEW OPPORTUNITIES

It was fun, exciting, interesting and inspiring to welcome the July 1 food scrap ban. One of the most unexpected beneficial consequences has been the multitude of new organics haulers emerging across our local area. These entrepreneurs are filling the gap specifically for residents and customers making enough food scraps to be too challenging to manage alone but too small for a large hauler to service. All of these haulers are registered with the state and looking to increase their customer base within the LRSWMD.



ReGreenVT crew (Johnson, VT) happily displays a load from the initial days of residential compost pick-up.
Photo credit: Greg Stefanski

The list of new compost haulers servicing our local communities can be found at <https://lrswmd.org/index.php/trash>.



The mission of LRSWMD is to reduce the quantity and toxicity of the trash generated and being 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.

HOW ARE WE DOING? TAKE THIS SURVEY TO LET US KNOW

The LRSWMD is here to help you manage all of your materials safely and efficiently. As a way to connect and seek your input on our service through the pandemic, we are offering this optional survey to assess how we are doing and how we should plan for the future. To participate, you can mail this completed form to **29 SUNSET DRIVE, SUITE #5, MORRISVILLE, VT 05661**, OR **DROP IT OFF AT ANY OF OUR LOCATIONS OR COMPLETE THE SURVEY ONLINE** at www.lrswmd.org.

Town of Residence: _____

What is your preferred method for receiving information? (Check all that apply.)

- Local Radio
- Local Newspaper/Mail
- Front Porch Forum
- Subscription Electronic Newsletter
- In-person or phone conversation
- Text
- Email
- Posted signs/flyers
- Social Media Platforms
- Website Browsing
- Other:

Which of these services offered by the LRSWMD have you utilized? (Check all that apply.)

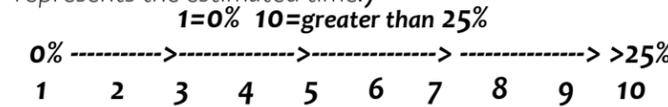
- Drop-off Centers
- Hazardous Waste Collections
- Purchased composting or recycling items
- Purchased finished compost
- Municipal Grant Program
- Borrowed recycling/compost receptacles
- Received technical assistance with planning or executing materials management systems
- Other:

What additional services would you like to see offered by the LRSWMD?

Has your LRSWMD experience met your materials management needs? If YES, how?

If NO, Why or Why Not?

What percentage of your average week is spent managing your household waste? (Circle the number that best represents the estimated time.)



If you would be interested in exploring volunteer opportunities that further the LRSWMD mission to "reduce the quantity and toxicity of the trash generated and going to the landfill while maintaining or improving overall environmental quality..." Please provide your contact information below.

Please provide any other comments you would like to offer.

CAN'T 'BOX' IN THE LODGE AT SPRUCE PEAK

What do you do when you oversee the renovation of a popular, sustainable-minded resort and it's time to replace 450 beds in one hotel? Call the Solid Waste District and ask for help! That is how the Daniel Rich, Director of Facilities of The Lodge at Spruce Peak, took action when faced with this situation over the summer. Despite reaching out to its network of colleagues and asking for assistance from the State, the LRSWMD was not able to provide a local and affordable recycling option for this project. Daniel did not give up though.

He continued to research and his perseverance paid off! Sleep Well Recycling came onto the scene in early August. They are located in Burlington and tout themselves as "Vermont's #1 Mattress and Box-spring Recycling Facility" with a mission to "divert mattresses from our landfill." Sleep Well Recycling is located at 525 Riverside Avenue, Burlington, ph: 603.321.2335, sleepwellrecycling.com.

Congratulations to Daniel and The Lodge at Spruce Peak for your heroic efforts in successful diversion!



Box springs being proudly dismantled at Sleep Well Recycling in Burlington. Photo credit: Daniel Rich

FOOD SCRAP MANDATE HAS DIRECT IMPACTS

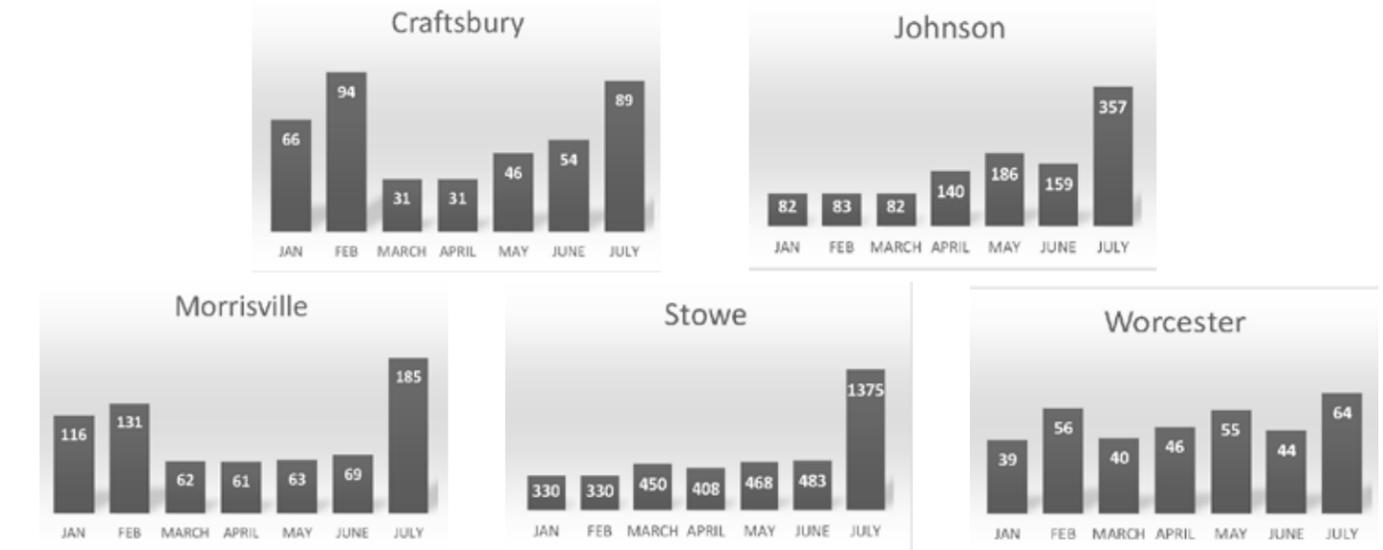
When the calendar flipped to 2020, there was a new buzz in the air at the LRSWMD. It was finally here - the year we had been planning for! Those of us in the "business" so-to-speak, have had our eye on July 1, 2020 since Act 148 was unanimously passed by the Legislature in 2012. We've attended countless meetings, received state and federal grants and provided matching funds to support infrastructure, subsidized compost bins, held workshops, answered questions, asked questions, visited classrooms, and developed organics programs over the course of those eight years.

The final phase of Act 148, Vermont's Universal Recycling & Composting law, crested in 2020 as July 1 drew nearer. Our approach was to celebrate! While the snow was still falling, we were planning the myriad of ways we would support the July 1 landfill ban of food scraps for all Vermonters and especially our 12 towns. The pandemic may have paused our celebratory ramp-up plans, but the people powered on!

Despite all of this preparation, we found ourselves overwhelmed with the onslaught of popularity we experienced between mid-June through the end of July! It was inspiring (and exhausting) keeping up with inquiries through the phone, email inboxes, conversations at the drop-off stations, and Front Porch Forum dialogues! For the first time in its history, Lamoille Soil sold completely out of compost. Soil Saver Compost bins were flying out the door. Five-gallon, gamma-seal buckets were like leprechauns - hard to find and you were lucky if you could catch one! Green Cone Digesters were also hard to come by for most of July. We found the entrepreneurial spirit come alive with the slate of new residential compost haulers budding in the area, too.

Most notably has been the increase in participation of the residential food scrap collection program at our drop-off locations. We are required to report to the State the quantities of all materials that we manage through our facilities on a regular basis. At the start of this year, however, we started keeping a watchful eye on the number of buckets of food scraps coming into each drop-off. Take a look at the graphs below to see for yourself how the food scrap program participation has been trending as the year has progressed. Thank you for your hard work in keeping your food scraps out of your trash!

(Note: Due to COVID logistics and staff challenges, Craftsbury and Morrisville experienced intermittent closures March - July. Eden has been closed since April and is therefore not shown.)



ENVIRONMENTAL TEEN TEACHING OPPORTUNITY: "TRY" IT OUT



TRY teens educating elementary school students about the impacts of making good choices to reduce waste. Photo Credit: Lauren Traister

The LRSWMD and 4-H Teen & Leadership Program partnership, in its sixth year, is pleased to offer a revised version of the **TRY Climate Change Through Waste Solutions** environmental education program. **TRY** stands for **Teens Reaching Youth** and is an environmental leadership opportunity for students in grades 7-12. It is an environmental education program taught by teens and designed to increase environmental literacy and responsibility in younger students. **TRY** for the Environment connects young people to environmental problems by allowing them to be key change agents contributing to real-world solutions.

NEW for 2020-2021: Working within COVID-19 guidelines, the **TRY** program will offer two content areas: **Climate Change Through Waste Solutions** for Grades 1-3 focusing on the 4Rs - reduce, reuse, recycle and rot and **4-H2O** for Grades 3-4 which dives into watershed science, exploring water quality, quantity and biologic monitoring.

Want to be a **TRY** teen teacher? Great! Getting your **TRY** team started is easy. Go to www.uvm.edu/extension/youth/announcements to download the application packet. For more information contact: Lauren Traister, 4-H Teen & Leadership Program Coordinator, Lauren.Traister@uvm.edu 1-866-260-5603 x402.