

## CVSWMD Facility Process Update

*February 2016*

After nearly two years of planning and communicating with member towns, the Central Vermont Solid Waste Management District (CVSWMD) Executive Board voted in early February to suspend its process of planning a new facility, a recommendation that will be considered by the full Board of Supervisors on March 2.

The board and staff of the CVSWMD have been examining ways to best serve our communities while meeting legally required state mandates. It became clear early in our process that a new facility could be a critical tool in allowing the CVSWMD to continue offering programs such as business organics hauling and the Additional Recyclables Collection Center, which we expect to grow under Vermont's Universal Recycling Law (Act 148). We also anticipated that a facility would provide a foundation for providing the services and programs necessary to meet the changing landscape of state mandates. However, at this time, we recognize that we have not resolved the funding, program, and logistical challenges that would come with building a new facility to the satisfaction of our member communities.

If the full Board adopts the Executive Board's recommendation, the District will not undertake a bond vote this November, as had been discussed. An increase in the per capita tax rate set for July of this year would also not go into effect.

As we work to meet evolving state mandates and community needs, the District will continue with our long history of pursuing unique approaches to delivering high quality programs.

In the coming months, CVSWMD board and staff will consider the following pressing needs:

- CVSWMD's current physical plant has significant limitations, inefficiencies, and safety challenges. We must continue to serve our member municipalities while determining a suitable long-term solution for delivering services and meeting state mandates, in either an owned or a rented facility.
- CVSWMD will continue to pursue a Hub and Spoke Program, in which rural towns receive periodic on-site special collections of hard-to-recycle materials.
- We recognize that without funding from the legislature to pay for infrastructure improvements, our District and other Districts around the state will struggle to provide the level of services mandated by the state.
- We consistently hear from residents that they want year-round Household Hazardous Waste (HHW) collections in our area. State regulations require us to ensure that each household has access to an annual HHW event or a permanent facility within a 15-mile radius. Without a permanent facility, we will continue to hold seasonal collection events, but cannot provide year-round services.

The CVSWMD Board of Supervisors meets the first Wednesday of every month (except January, July and August) at 6:30 p.m. at the Central Vermont Chamber of Commerce at 33 Stewart Rd in Barre. CVSWMD board meetings are open to the public.



## **Benefits East Montpelier receives by belonging to CVSWMD**

**Solid Waste Implementation Plan and Regulatory Compliance:** CVSWMD holds responsibility for drafting and implementing a solid waste implementation plan in compliance with state mandate. The CVSWMD also drafts ordinances, such as the recent variable rate-pricing ordinance that enable all member towns to meet state mandates.

**Green Up Day Grants:** East Montpelier is eligible for \$500 per year to offset disposal costs relating to Green Up Day Collections. In 2015, East Montpelier received a \$413 Green Up Day grant. Non-competitive Green Up Day grants are available each year, packets to apply for these non-competitive grants are distributed to Town Clerks in April.

**The Additional Recyclables Collection Center (ARCC):** A program unique to CVSWMD, the ARCC accepts over three dozen hard to recycle items above and beyond what goes into the regular recycling bin. It is a popular service in central Vermont, open only to residents of our 18 member towns. In FY15, 199 East Montpelier residents accessed the ARCC.

**Household Hazardous Waste Collections:** CVSWMD provides at least five household hazardous waste (HHW) collection opportunities to all district residents each year.

**Special Collections:** CVSWMD provides a variety of special collection events to enable the recycling of materials not collected at curbside, such as paint and fluorescent bulbs.

**Grants:** East Montpelier is eligible for grants provided by CVSWMD such as School Zero Waste Grants and Municipal Assistance Grants. In 2015, East Montpelier was awarded \$3,000 in CVSWMD Municipal Assistance grant funds to offer free composters to residents. In 2016, East Montpelier is eligible for a Municipal Container Grant of \$225, to facilitate the purchase of recycling bins, required by state mandate to be placed alongside every trash can in public areas.

**School Compost Collections:** The East Montpelier Elementary School joined the composting program in 2005. They have diverted 49.9 tons of food working with our hauling program. U-32 High School has diverted 13.9 tons of food scraps since joining the program with CVSWMD in 2005. The hauling program provides discounted hauling services to schools in member towns.

**School Zero Waste Programming:** The East Montpelier School and U-32 are eligible to receive a variety of education activities that are required under the Vermont Materials Management Plan. In 2015, the School Program Manager facilitated student involvement in cafeteria food scrap collection with four visits to East Montpelier Elementary School. In FY15, at U-32, assistance was given with locker clean outs, a school wide book collection, and work with the student Green Team.

**Outreach and Education:** East Montpelier residents are eligible for outreach and educational activities required by the state plan and in complying with state mandate. Contact us for more information.

