



Greater Upper Valley Solid Waste Management District

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MEMO

DATE:	December 14, 2018
TO:	Town Clerks, Town Managers and Select Board Chairs
FROM:	Thomas Kennedy, District Manager
SUBJECT:	Documents enclosed for your review and comment

- Draft version of the FY20 Budget with a narrative explaining each line item
- The FY18 GUVSWMD audit (please review at www.guvswd.org)

A public hearing on the FY20 budget will be held on **January 10, 2019 at 4:30 pm at the Norwich Town Hall** with an alternate date of **January 14, 2019 at 4:30** due to inclement weather. Please check www.guvswd.org for cancellation information.

Highlights of Activities in 2018

- The District built a clean compost facility on its property in North Hartland, Vermont with operations beginning in September 2018. The District entered into a five (5) year lease agreement with Grow Compost of Vermont to manage and operate the facility.
- The District held five (5) backyard compost workshops for District residents.
- The District sponsored three (3) Household Hazardous Waste collection events.
- The District held seven (7) “big trash”, electronics, tire, fluorescent bulb, and battery collection events.
- Staff promoted the Vermont “Call2Recycle” battery program via list serves and by placing convenient collection buckets in every town.
- Staff worked with District schools and businesses on battery and bulb recycling as well as food scrap sorting and composting.
- Staff continues to work with District haulers on changes to solid waste laws and rules.
- Staff continues to provide technical and program assistance to transfer station operators and municipalities regarding solid waste and recycling issues.

Upcoming Issues for the Solid Waste District in 2019

Over the last several months the GUV Board has been discussing the feasibility of constructing an organics transfer station on the District property in North Hartland, Vermont. The District Manager has been discussing the project with Agri-Cycle Energy of Exeter, Maine and Grow Compost of Vermont.

The transfer station would be a consolidation point for the collection of packaged and non-packaged organics from commercial and institutional facilities located in Vermont. The materials collected at the transfer station would be transferred to on-farm anaerobic digesters located in Maine, where it would be de-packaged and used as feedstock for anaerobic digestion. This facility would help commercial and institutional facilities comply with the Universal Recycling Law (Act 148) that bans food waste disposal in trash and landfills on July 1, 2020.

The North Hartland facility would be constructed by the Solid Waste District and be operated by Grow Compost of Vermont. Agri-Cycle of Maine would be responsible for hauling the materials from the transfer station to its anaerobic digesters in Maine. The District has received a grant from the Vermont Department of Environmental Conservation to help pay for the construction of the facility.

Preliminary estimates, using data from a June 2002 DSM Waste Composition Study, show that the project could potentially collect up to 30% of the organics generated in Vermont, which would be a significant step in improving Vermont's infrastructure for the collection and processing of organics and reducing the amount of materials being disposed of in landfills.

A portion of the revenues derived from operating the organics transfer station would be used to reduce the annual assessment paid by District towns for the bridge construction bond.

If the District moves forward with the construction of the organics transfer station, the District will amend its FY19 and FY20 budgets to show the costs and revenues associated with the transfer station. **If the budget is amended, it will have no impact on the assessment rate to District towns in FY20.**