

Vermont Solid Waste District Managers' Association

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and District Manager,
Addison County Solid Waste Management District

Testimony on Working Lands Enterprise Fund
VT House Committee on Appropriations
Public Hearing, 3/12/15

VSWDMA

- Consists of 10 Solid Waste Districts and 2 solid waste alliances (Mad River Resource Mgmt. Alliance and Rutland County Solid Waste Alliance Communities).
- Member communities represent 530,000 people or 85% of Vermont's total population.
- Working Lands Enterprise Initiative Service Provider Grant Recipient in 2013-2014. Grant amount: \$55,000, with \$44,829 in matching funds & in-kind contributions.

Background

- Authority and responsibility to manage solid waste in Vermont.
- In first phases of planning and implementing Vermont's landmark "Universal Recycling Law" (Act 148).
- New organics hierarchy established in Vermont.
- New phased-in deadlines for organic waste collection and diversion.

Goals of Grant

1. Increase compost site capacity to process food scraps.
2. Develop new compost sites in strategic areas across the State.
3. Develop model best practices in composting appropriate to State's needs.
4. Increase revenues for agricultural enterprises.
5. Provide high-quality tech support for current & future compost operators.
6. Reduce cost of waste disposal and reliance on landfills.

Grant Outcomes

1. 10.97% increase in site capacity.
2. 13 new sites sited, permitted, designed or built.
3. 6 sites established and documented as case studies.
4. \$139,241 in new revenues for compost operators.
5. \$5,383 in new savings for compost operators.
6. 955 hours of technical assistance to our local farms.
7. 11.62% increase in tons of food scraps diverted to composting.

Clearly a success!

Thank you for this opportunity to testify and your continued support of the Working Lands Enterprise Initiative.

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