



ADDISON COUNTY SOLID WASTE MANAGEMENT DISTRICT

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WHITING

March 8, 2016

Tony Klein, Chairman
Vermont Statehouse
House Natural Resources & Energy Committee
115 State Street
Montpelier, VT 05633-5301

Re: H.602 - Act 148 Funding

Dear Chairman Klein:

The Addison County Solid Waste Management District (ACSWMD) continues to support implementation of Act 148. The ACSWMD hereby expresses confidence in the Solid Waste Infrastructure Advisory Committee (SWIAC) cost estimates and recommendations for solid waste infrastructure investment. Although the ACSWMD would have preferred some type of service fee to pay for Act 148 infrastructure, a \$6/ton increase to the State Franchise Tax to support 50% matching grants will provide the necessary incentive for public and private investment.

The ACSWMD has mandated unit-based pricing and recycling since 1993, and all solid waste facilities and commercial haulers have provided this system since then. The ACSWMD diversion rate has met the 50% State diversion goal for the past 11 years. In 2014, the ACSWMD invested in a \$1M expansion of the District Transfer Facility in Middlebury to prepare for Act 148 deadlines. However, in response to the Agency of Natural Resources' 2015 Request for Information (RFI), the ACSWMD identified a future need for:

1. \$1.1 Million for an Organics Preprocessing Facility – In addition to developing new compost facilities and/or anaerobic digesters, preprocessing facilities will be needed to minimize contamination of the final product and enhance its use as a soil amendment.
2. \$2,000 for food collection totes for our 16 town drop-offs.
3. \$55,000 for a food waste collection truck to service our town drop-offs.
4. \$800,000 for a tub grinder to be shared amongst all solid waste districts for chipping clean wood and brush.
5. \$150,000 for statewide organics planning and coordination to identify areas of need, to avoid duplication of efforts and to maximize economies of scale.

The ACSWMD also supports grant eligibility for public **and** private investment. The ACSWMD has been assisting a local, established, on-farm compost facility to expand from a food composting pilot project to the ACSWMD's main facility for food waste collection by the deadline of July 1, 2017. Without Act 148 grant funding, the facility may not be able to move forward with this expansion, and the ACSWMD will be forced to search elsewhere – most likely out of District – for an organics facility. This would substantially increase the cost of food waste diversion, and would certainly result in a delay in meeting the organics deadlines in Act 148.

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Overall, we have worked diligently to convince commercial haulers, composting facilities, Board representatives and member towns to embrace Act 148 with the assurance of some funding down the line. We have provided detailed cost information to the SWIAC and RFI, with the understanding that this was the information they needed to identify funding needs and allocate resources. Act 148 has created momentum toward a comprehensive organics diversion network throughout the State.

With only **one year remaining** until facilities and waste haulers must begin offering collection of food waste, grant funds are critically needed now, in order to design/ construct or retrofit facilities and to purchase collection equipment.

Thank you for the opportunity to comment and for your kind consideration of our request for grant funding.

Yours sincerely,


Teresa A. Kuczyński
District Manager


Timothy Wickland,
ACSWMD Chair, Board of Supervisors