

Vermont Solid Waste District Managers Association – 12/27/17

The Vermont Solid Waste District Managers Association (VSWDMA) is comprised of 14 members – 10 Waste Districts and 4 Resource/Waste Alliances. 566,954 residents in 232 towns are represented by their membership in the VSWDMA. The organization represents 91% of Vermont's total population.

The majority of Vermont's Universal Recycling Law (Act 148) has been implemented without an infusion of funding from the State of Vermont. This has led to some uneven implementation across the State; however, most jurisdictions have successfully implemented the provisions of Act 148 or applied for exemptions where necessary in order to comply. Some successful milestones include:

- Since July 1, 2015, the entire State of Vermont has implemented unit-based pricing for trash disposal, and several recyclable materials have been banned from landfill disposal.
- All solid waste facilities and haulers with a few exceptions are now required to offer collection of landfill banned recyclables and leaf & yard wastes.
- Food scrap collection is now required at all solid waste facilities in the state, and a significant amount of investment, public and private, has been made in collection and processing of organics.

At the end of the 2016 legislative session, a proposal was passed to extend by one year the deadline for haulers to offer collection of food scraps. While the VSWDMA acknowledges the need for some flexibility for the hauling community, there has been no consensus on what, if any, changes are necessary. Some members support the elimination of the hauler requirement to offer food scrap collection altogether, some members support the elimination of the requirement to offer residential food scrap collection, and some members support having the haulers offer the service only in areas where the housing density exceeds 250 units per square mile.

The majority of VSWDMA members agree the 2020 landfill ban on food scraps must be sustained.

The VSWDMA also reached a consensus that “fast trash” and “bag-drop” service providers be required to collect food scraps as part of their activities. These services usually consist of a truck parked along the side of the road or at the local recycling center for a few hours on a Saturday morning.

Paul Tomasi, President
VSWDMA