

Northwest Vermont Solid Waste Management District 2014 Supervisor's Report

The Northwest Solid Waste District's (NWSWD) mission is to provide for the efficient, economical, and environmentally-sound reduction, reuse, recycling, and finally disposal of solid waste. 2014 was a great year for the NWSWD. We succeeded in making our operations more convenient, consistent, and cost effective for District residents by opening up more of our Drop-off sites to accept bulky, hard-to-dispose of items like tires, appliances, and electronics, every week. Now our sites are like our old Special Collection Events every week! District Staff also worked harder to get information to residents by improving our website, joining Facebook, and getting out to community events like Franklin County Field Days and Farmer's Markets and into Schools to teach everyone the importance of the three R's: Reduce, Reuse, and Recycle! All this work showed in the amount of waste we diverted from the landfill this year. Some of this year's highlights include:

- **District operations recycled 50 tons more in 2014 than in 2013!**
- Collected more than 35341 pounds of paint through our permanent household hazardous waste collection site
- Increased the tonnage of recyclables processed at our Georgia Recycling Center by 7 tons
- Opened a permanent re-use facility at our Georgia Recycling Center
- We welcomed Highgate and Franklin as the newest Member Municipalities
- Worked with new schools to begin composting their food scraps
- Creation of a new recycling program for alkaline batteries and worked with others in the state to create a statewide battery recycling program
- Continued investigation and enforcement of illegal dumping and burning of trash in the District

NWSWD by the Numbers

In the NWSWD, 6 District run recycling drop-off sites in Georgia, Montgomery, Bakersfield, Fletcher, St. Albans and North Hero, District run special events, 2 member town run sites (Alburgh and Grand-Isle), and mandatory curbside recycling by registered waste haulers allows easy access to recycling for all residents. Overall in 2014, after recycling, reuse and composting, the average District resident generated 3.11 pounds of waste per day, which is well below the national average of 4.4 pounds per day, and is a 12% reduction from 2013! Way to go!

This year District-operated sites and events disposed of 771 tons of trash and processed 823 tons of recyclables, setting the diversion rate for District Services at 52%. Check out this list of what we were able to divert from landfills this year in Northwest VT:

- 45,738 pounds of Hazardous Waste
- 292 Freon containing appliances
- 163,560 pounds of scrap metal
- 4,357 pounds of batteries
- 1,680 tires
- 461,365 pounds of food scraps
- 685,350 pounds of blue-bin recyclables
- 164,501 pounds of electronics

As Isle La Motte's representative on the District Board of Supervisors, I am available to discuss District activities with town residents through the District office at (802)524-5986. For more information about the District and our services, how to reduce and recycle your waste, or how to get involved call District staff at the above number visit us on the web at www.nswsd.org, find us on Facebook, or sign-up for our e-mail updates. You can also visit at 158 Morse Drive in Georgia (we even give tours of our Recycling Center.)

- Terry Anderson