

Presentation on Vermont Solid Waste Management Plan (a.k.a. Vermont's Materials Management Plan) and other solid waste related laws and regulations.

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Discussed history behind Act 78 of the late 80s/early 90s, which ushered in the sanitary, lined-landfill era, resulting in closure of many town dumps. During this time regionalization of solid waste management (e.g. regional landfills) was encouraged and many plans were made, but few regional landfills were built. Currently disposal capacity has been mostly met by the one large landfill in Vermont—New England Waste Services of Vermont (NEWS VT) landfill, owned by Casella. Explained that 84% of VT waste is disposed in-state and 16% goes out of state to NY and NH mostly.

Legislation of this time also required the state adopt its own solid waste plan every 5 years, conduct a waste composition study every 5 years, and submit the [Biennial Report on Solid Waste](#) to the Legislature every 2 years.

Reviewed the formation of Vermont's solid waste management entities including districts, groups of towns, and independent towns viewable on this colored map: <https://dec.vermont.gov/waste-management/solid/local-districts/>

Reviewed enabling legislation behind the [2019 Vermont Materials Management Plan](#) (MMP), which subsequently requires all towns to adopt and implement their own Solid Waste Implementation Plans (SWIPs) in accordance with the actions required in the state's Materials Management Plan. Here is [an example SWIP developed by Addison County](#), also, here is [VT Department of Environmental Conservation's 2019 SWIP template](#).

"As required by statute, the 2019 MMP Performance Standards were created to continue promotion of the following priorities established in 10 V.S.A. §6604(a)(1):

- a) the greatest feasible reduction in the amount of waste generated;
- b) sustainable materials management;
- c) the reuse and closed-loop recycling of waste to reduce to the greatest extent feasible the volume remaining for processing and disposal;
- d) the reduction of the State's reliance on waste disposal to the greatest extent feasible;
- e) the creation of an integrated waste management system that promotes energy conservation, reduces greenhouse gas emissions and limits adverse environmental impacts; and
- f) waste processing to reduce the volume or toxicity of the waste stream."

Explained that the biggest cost area for towns/districts with implementation of their solid waste plans is offering two household hazardous waste events per year.

Reviewed history behind Vermont's state solid waste franchise fee of \$6/ton on waste that is disposed in state or generated in-state and disposed out of state. I explained that this funds the Solid Waste

Management Assistance Fund (which is the main funding source for the 18 staff in VT DEC's Solid Waste Program), of which 17% must be passed through to implement the state's solid waste plan and the Solid Waste Implementation Plan of districts/towns. Usually this is about \$400K per year but has been more in recent years and DEC has consistently passed through more than the 17%. These grants generally do not cover the full costs of household hazardous waste collection events, which have become costlier over the past several years.

Explained that DEC's Solid Waste Program is made up of three sections, Compliance Section, Certification (i.e., permitting) Section, and Materials Management Section.

Explained that another source of funding comes from the permit fund which is assessed at 75 cents/ton of MSW managed at a solid waste facility (transfer station or landfill). This is assessed on privately run facilities, not municipally run facilities. The permit fund is also funded by annual fees paid by solid waste haulers.

Briefly covered what's in Vermont's trash from the Waste Composition Study of 2018 and the Universal Recycling law outlined here <https://dec.vermont.gov/waste-management/solid/universal-recycling>.