



Dear Williston Resident,

For more than 30 years, I have dedicated my professional and personal life to protecting the environment in Vermont. Whether running Burlington's waste-water, solid waste, and recycling divisions, or closing down outdated landfills, environmental protection has always been my passion.

At the Chittenden Solid Waste District (CSWD), we work hard every day for the reduction and best management of solid waste generated in our member towns. Since the mid 1990s, CSWD and the private sector, through recycling, composting, and other programs, have diverted nearly fifty percent of our trash from landfills, a success rate that is among the best in the country.

Those blue recycling bins at the end of your driveway? That's us. The school programs your kids come home and tell you about? That's us, too. Recycling of tires, used oil, latex paint, leaves, and wood? That's CSWD. I am proud that a vast majority of the citizens of the district think we are doing a good job.

Even with all that work and success, however, there is still trash that must be landfilled. Yes, we are researching "zero waste" solutions. Yes, there may be technologies in the next few decades that will further reduce what we need to send to a landfill. We continue to investigate these alternatives; however, the fact of modern life today is that people throw away record amounts of trash. We aggressively promote recycling and reuse, but an environmentally secure, state-of-the art landfill in Williston needs to be part of our comprehensive solid waste system. I have been repeatedly quoted as saying "we don't need a landfill." This is taken out of context. A local landfill gives us better environmental protection at a lower cost.

CSWD has been working on developing a long-term regional landfill in Williston for the past 15 years. There has been a landfill or solid waste facilities on Redmond Road since 1969—some run by the Town and others operated for the entire County by CSWD. The daily activities of the proposed landfill will be of similar scale to CSWD's previous Redmond Road landfill. Rest assured, we will use only the best technologies and methods to ensure the landfill has the least impact on your lives as possible. With public input every step of the way, we pledge to build a landfill that will comply with the core principles set forth in our Charter: Environment, Ethics, and Economy.

This brochure and our website provide information on the proposed landfill. I invite you to give us your feedback to help us do the job right. We will be holding a public information meeting on Tuesday, November 14 at the Williston Central School at 7:00 PM. At this meeting, we will explain the design process, why CSWD feels the landfill is good for the County, outline the opportunities for public input, and correct the myths that have been circulating.

CSWD will do everything we can to make sure this landfill and all of our programs are activities of which you, too, can be proud. If you have any questions, please give me or my staff a call or e-mail at any time.

Sincerely,

Tom Moreau
General Manager

Who is the Chittenden Solid Waste District?

In 1987, the Vermont Legislature ushered in a new era of solid waste disposal when it passed Act 78. This Act required municipalities to close unlined landfills and develop a solid waste plan modeled on the higher environmental and economic standards. The Chittenden Solid Waste District (CSWD) is a non-profit governmental entity that was created in response to Act 78. Funding comes primarily from tipping fees on CSWD programs, the solid waste management fee (\$17.61/ton), and the sale of recycled materials. CSWD receives no direct funding from property taxes, income taxes, or member assessments.

Membership in CSWD is voluntary. A majority of a municipality's voters must approve membership. CSWD is governed by a Board of Commissioners, yet control over the District remains with elected officials in each member municipality. Each member municipality can appoint one person (plus one alternate) to represent their town or city on the CSWD Board of Commissioners. CSWD's budget must be approved annually by a majority of the governing boards of its member municipalities.

CSWD addresses solid waste by making waste reduction the highest priority, followed by the reuse of materials and then recycling. Disposal is placed at the lowest level of the hierarchy. Thus our goal is to establish a management system that avoids landfilling waste as much as possible giving due consideration to economic, environmental, legal,

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Who is CSWD?

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and other considerations. To that end, CSWD has established one of the most comprehensive and user-friendly waste management systems in the country. In addition, CSWD constantly monitors developments in the industry to provide our members with the best methods and technologies for managing solid waste.

Our All-In-One recycling, household hazardous waste collection, paint recycling, composting, and Drop-Off Center programs provide a comprehensive, integrated system that is recognized nationally and is a leader in the Northeast. Our outreach program helps businesses and institutions recycle as much as they can. CSWD offers in-depth programs in our schools with the goal of leading our children down the path to a brighter, more sustainable future.

CSWD relies on the private sector to operate components of our waste management system whenever appropriate. However, because many of the costs associated with solid waste management are indirect costs to society, we believe that the public sector must play an active role in implementing a waste management infrastructure that best suits the County. A local, publicly owned landfill remains a vital piece of this system.

CSWD relies on public input to guide many planning decisions. For instance, the public was extensively involved in analyzing alternative solid waste management systems, developing our County's Solid Waste Management Plan, developing landfill-siting criteria, and reviewing landfill-siting studies.

CSWD Regional Landfill Timeline: 1969–2006

- 1969** • Town of Williston operates unlined landfill on Redmond Road.
- 1987** • Act 78 mandates new landfill standards; CSWD charter adopted by VT Legislature.
- 1988** • Citizens Advisory Committee develops landfill siting criteria.
- 1990** • Engineering study identifies 65 potential sites for landfill; second-tier screening reduces number to 3.
 - Williston notes potential for sharing landfills with member CSWD towns in its Comprehensive Plan.
- 1991** • Hydrogeological studies prepared for 3 sites; Redmond Road (Site 21) stands out as the preferred location.
 - Investigative hydrogeological wells dug around Redmond Road site.
 - First design draft for Site 21 appears in Conceptual Engineering Report.
 - Visual Impact Assessment, Leachate Management Plan, and Draft Traffic Impact Study prepared for Site 21.
- 1992** • 73% of CSWD voters approve \$6.6 million bond to finance interim lined landfill in Williston.
 - 74% of Williston voters approve Host Town Agreement.
 - Town of Williston signs Host Town Agreement.
 - CSWD initiates eminent domain proceedings to acquire property on Redmond Road owned by Hinesburg Sand & Gravel (HS&G). The two phases to this trial are Necessity and Compensation.
 - CSWD closes Williston's unlined landfill.
 - CSWD opens double-lined Phase III Interim Landfill to bridge gap between closing unlined landfill and opening of long-term regional landfill.
- 1993** • Federal Resource Conservation and Recovery Act (RCRA) amended to require lined landfills nationally.
- 1995** • Williston Comprehensive Plan notes that the Town gained approval to construct a new lined landfill at the end of Redmond Road, to be operated as an interim site by CSWD.
 - Comprehensive Plan states that Williston will continue to support location of a long-term regional landfill on Redmond Road.
 - Phase III interim landfill closes and interim transfer station established on Redmond Road to bridge the gap between closing Phase III landfill and the opening of a long-term regional landfill.
- 1996** • Williston Planning Commission grants final subdivision approval to XYZ Real Estate for a planned residential subdivision (Ledgewood Drive). CSWD requests homeowner notification of the proposed landfill.
- 1997** • Chittenden Superior Court determines Necessity in eminent domain proceedings. HS&G appeals the decision.
- 1999** • Vermont Supreme Court upholds Superior Court's determination of Necessity.
- 2001** • Williston Selectboard adopts the 2000 Comprehensive Plan, which states that "The Town will continue to work with the CSWD to identify a suitable location for a long-term regional landfill and to minimize any adverse impacts of such a facility."
- 2003** • Superior Court Compensation trial by jury is held.
- 2004** • Compensation trial judgment order sets compensation to include \$4 million for land purchase and \$4.8 million in business loss.
- 2005** • Revised Judgment Order is issued, reducing compensation CSWD owes HS&G from \$8.8 million to \$4 million. The decision is appealed by HS&G.
 - CSWD completes Report on Solid Waste Acquisition, which identifies alternative methods for ensuring that waste generated within the County be delivered to CSWD's proposed landfill for disposal.
 - CSWD completes analysis of Alternative Landfill Concepts and Costs, concluding that regional landfill is economically beneficial.
 - CSWD hires Shaw Environment to design and permit landfill.
- 2006** • The 2006 Town of Williston Comprehensive Plan states that "Williston is . . . the host community for the proposed regional landfill." Other statements discuss potential transportation and land-use implications. Also included is a statement that the entire CSWD property will be rezoned industrial.
 - The Supreme Court holds a Compensation hearing in March. A decision is pending.
 - Landfill conceptual design is in the development stages.

Fast Facts on Solid Waste and the Proposed Landfill

Chittenden County at a glance

150,239.....	Estimated Chittenden County population
313,200.....	Estimated tons of waste generated annually (2 tons per capita)
144,927	Tons of waste landfilled (46.3%; 1 ton per capita)
133,091	Estimated tons recycled (42.5%; 0.9 ton per capita)
33,417	Estimated tons composted (10.7%; 0.2 ton per capita)
1,765	Tons special & hazardous waste diverted (3.74 lbs. per capita)
\$99.50.....	Current transfer station tipping fee
19.....	Years spent to date siting a landfill in Chittenden County
\$0.....	Amount of property tax dollars that will go toward construction, operation, and eventual closure of the proposed landfill

Costs of trucking waste to distant landfills

7,000	Tractor trailer trips per year currently needed to haul waste from CSWD transfer stations to distant landfills
859,000	Miles traveled
178,000	Gallons of diesel fuel consumed
\$885,000.....	Public cost of resulting damage to environment
2.....	Number of operating lined landfills within Vermont
17 and 6	Estimated remaining operating years of these landfills

Host Town Agreement

Upon the opening of a regional landfill, the Town of Williston will receive the following payments:

\$507,244.....	Amount Williston receives per year, based on a rate of \$3.50/ton, at the current disposal rate of 144,927 tons/year (\$300,000 is currently being collected from transfer stations)
\$31,000	Amount CSWD pays the Town of Williston in lieu of taxes per year
\$12,000.....	Amount that will go to the Williston Education Fund per year, based on \$0.83/ton of waste disposed of in the Williston landfill

Project disclosure

20.....	Number of years the Town of Williston has had a Town Plan
20.....	Number of years that the end of Redmond Road has been identified for use as a landfill in the Williston Town Plan
16.....	Number of years that the Williston Town Plan has included CSWD's proposed regional landfill
182.....	Number of stories about the landfill appearing in the Burlington Free Press since 1987

Why Redmond Road?

- Solid waste facilities have been operating on Redmond Road for nearly 40 years.
- The proposed landfill's abutters consist of the previous landfill (since closed and replaced with the current waste transfer station), IBM, undeveloped properties owned by an electric utility and a sand and gravel company, a proposed limited-access highway, and a small number of residential properties (all of which have been purchased by CSWD).
- The site is centrally located to minimize transportation costs, yet physically isolated from nearby residences and public buildings. There are only three residences located within a quarter mile of the proposed landfill that are not currently owned by CSWD.
- The site's non-carbonate bedrock is overlain with a thick layer of low-permeability glacial till, which is in turn overlaid with a deltaic sand deposit. These geological characteristics make the site ideal for a landfill in that the dense till provides a high level of protection for the bedrock aquifer, and the sand allows for a deeper excavation to the bottom of the site, thereby increasing the site's capacity, life, and economics.
- The landfill's impact on air traffic has been reviewed by the FAA and the Burlington International Airport. Both organizations have been aware of this project for many years. The FAA has issued a letter stating that the proposed landfill does not interfere with any airport or FAA regulations.

Public Input Process

CSWD is currently in the process of finalizing a conceptual design. Until a design is accepted by CSWD's Board of Commissioners, we will not have the answers to many design-related questions. The informational meeting on November 14 will primarily address questions and concerns regarding why we should have a local landfill, why it should be located on Redmond Road, and what the next steps are in the design and permitting process.

Once we have a conceptual design completed, there will be a series of meetings conducted throughout the County to present the project and gather input. At the conclusion of these meetings, the design will be appropriately modified and permits applied for.

During the permitting process, those with standing are welcome to testify.

Prior to a final decision to construct the landfill, the public must vote to authorize a bond to finance the facility.

**For more information:
Phone—872-8111
E-mail—info@cswd.net
Online—www.cswd.net**

Why a local, publicly owned landfill:

- **Environmental Protection:** CSWD plans to incorporate state-of-the-art environmental safeguards that go beyond what are currently in place at available private landfills. The proposed landfill will provide more robust protection at a lower cost. Federal law provides that a municipality that has generated or arranged for the disposal of municipal solid wastes at a landfill may be liable for a share of the clean-up costs for hazardous waste contamination. CSWD believes that its member municipalities would reduce their liability if their waste was landfilled at a publicly owned and controlled site.
- **Ethical Considerations:** Each of us creates trash and is thus responsible for contributing to the problem. The cities and towns of Chittenden County have collectively decided that the ethical solution is to manage our problem locally and not in someone else's backyard.
- **Economic Savings:** Fees paid to private companies to aggregate, transfer, and landfill our waste under the present system costs \$12,672,000 per year. CSWD's current projections indicate that a local, publicly owned landfill will cost ~25% less. That's over \$3,000,000 per year in savings.
- **Elimination of Pollution:** At this time, all of the County's disposed waste is trucked to remote landfills. Every year, more than 7,000 tractor trailer loads consume over 178,000 gallons of diesel fuel transporting this material 859,000 miles through many of Vermont's most picturesque towns to get our waste to these landfills. A local landfill will eliminate these trips. The estimated savings to the public from the elimination of the pollution, congestion, road wear and tear, and noise resulting from this trucking equates to over \$885,000 per year.
- **Encourage Waste Reduction:** Despite our best efforts to recycle, there remains a large portion of the waste stream that must be landfilled. The current control of the County's disposal capacity is in the hands of two private companies. Moving control of the disposal capacity back into the public sector will position the County to take advantage of new waste reduction technologies as they are developed.
- **Extended Capacity:** The two operating landfills in Vermont have stated life expectancies of 17 and 6 years. It takes a long time to site a new landfill. For example, CSWD has already been working to site a new landfill for 19 years on a site selected for its superior hydrogeological characteristics, using criteria developed in part by citizens of Chittenden County. A local, publicly owned landfill remains the best guarantee for Chittenden County's long-term waste disposal needs. CSWD anticipates that the new landfill will provide approximately 50 years of capacity for Chittenden County waste.



1021 Redmond Rd.
Williston, VT 05495

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U.S. Postage
P A I D
Burlington, VT
05401
Permit # 453

**You are invited to an
informational meeting
on the proposed landfill
in Williston.**

DATE
Tuesday, Nov. 14

TIME
7 p.m.

LOCATION
**Williston Central School
Auditorium**

ECRWSS
POSTAL CUSTOMER

www.cswd.net