

fy 2024 annual report



Chittenden Solid Waste District

a message from cswd's board chair and executive director

THE CSWD TEAM IS PROUD TO CELEBRATE A SUCCESSFUL FY2024!

Together with our Board of Commissioners, we remain focused on the future, continuously challenging ourselves to find innovative and cost-effective solutions for reducing and managing waste.

FINANCIALS

We're happy to share that FY24 ended on a high note, with CSWD finishing the year in a positive financial position. This success was fueled by strong sales of recyclables at our Materials Recycling Facility (MRF) in the third and fourth quarters and a solid performance at our Organics Recycling Facility (ORF).

We generated \$14,968,840 in net income and \$14,577,234 in expenses. We continued to invest our reserve funds in low-risk investments (U.S. Treasury bonds), taking advantage of favorable interest rates. This approach has allowed us to maintain our financial stability while continuing to invest in key infrastructure and programs.

WASTE DIVERSION

Residents, businesses, and institutions in Chittenden County's 18 member towns generated an estimated 306,814 tons of solid waste in 2023, a slight decrease from 309,212 tons in 2022. Chittenden County remains a national leader in landfill diversion, keeping an estimated 59.7% of this waste out of the landfill through composting, anaerobic digestion, and recycling of Blue Bin materials, special recyclables, and construction debris.

Our diversion rate has held steady over the past nine years, reflecting consistent community commitment, despite occasional shifts in specific waste streams due to economic trends, construction activity, and new material collection mandates.

MATERIALS RECYCLING FACILITY (MRF)

We've hit a bump in the road with our new MRF construction project. Initially planned for our Redmond Road property in Williston, changes to the site—including new road construction and Vermont's record rainfall—have transformed the parcel into wetlands. Our consultant found the northern portion, where we intended to build, is now over 80% wetland.

Our Board made the decision to leave this parcel undisturbed and explore alternative locations in Chittenden County. Our goal is to identify a new site, update designs, and secure permits by late spring of 2025, with construction beginning in the summer. We're optimistic the new facility will open by 2027!

DROP-OFF CENTER IMPROVEMENTS

We've made your visits to our Drop-Off Centers more convenient! Centers in Essex, Milton, and South Burlington now have extended hours, open Tuesday through Saturday, 8:00 a.m. to 3:30 p.m. These consistent hours provide better service for you and create a more sustainable schedule for our hardworking team, giving them two consecutive days off.

We also made a small increase in bagged trash fees to cover rising costs, but recycling and food scrap fees remain unchanged.

ORGANICS RECYCLING FACILITY (ORF)

This was a banner year for our ORF! We revamped the facility to improve the customer experience, including a new entrance, a dedicated residential food waste drop-off area, and expanded options for operations by mixing natural wood with leaves and garden trimmings. For commercial customers, we added a scale and office and extended drop-off hours for faster, easier service.

We also increased staffing to ensure incoming materials are high quality and contamination stays low, keeping our compost top-notch!

SOLAR GLASSES REUSE PROGRAM

Ahead of Vermont's solar eclipse on April 8, CSWD teamed up with Astronomers Without Borders to prepare for collecting **used eclipse glasses after the event** for reuse at future events around the world.

With the help of towns, businesses, event organizers, and libraries, we set up collection sites and drew attention from media like the *Boston Globe*, *Vermont Public Radio*, WCAX, WPTZ, and more. This creative collaboration was a huge success with CSWD collecting over 115,000 solar eclipse glasses, keeping them out of Vermont's landfill and showing how small actions can make a big impact.

DEDICATED BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS

The District is overseen by a dedicated volunteer Board of Commissioners who are appointed by local Selectboards and City Councils to represent their member towns and cities. These individuals are deeply committed to CSWD's mission to reduce and manage the solid waste generated within Chittenden County in an environmentally sound, efficient, effective and economical manner. Their volunteer service is not only impressive but truly appreciated.

New Board Members this year:

Lauren Morlino, Colchester
Barb Winters, Huntington
Guthrie Smith, Huntington (alternate)
Matt Kobzik, Burlington (alternate)

We also would like to express our sincere gratitude to the following Board members who graciously stepped down from their roles during FY24. Their outstanding commitment and extraordinary service have left a meaningful and lasting impact on our organization and community.

Thank you for your thoughtful contributions, tireless efforts, and inspiring leadership!

Roman Livak, Huntington - 11 years
Landel Cochran, Huntington Alternate - 6 years
Liz Hamlin-Voltz, Colchester - 2 years

Together with our Board of Commissioners, we remain focused on the future, continuously challenging ourselves to find innovative and cost-effective solutions for reducing and managing waste.




Paul Ruess
Chair, Board of Commissioners




Sarah Reeves
Executive Director

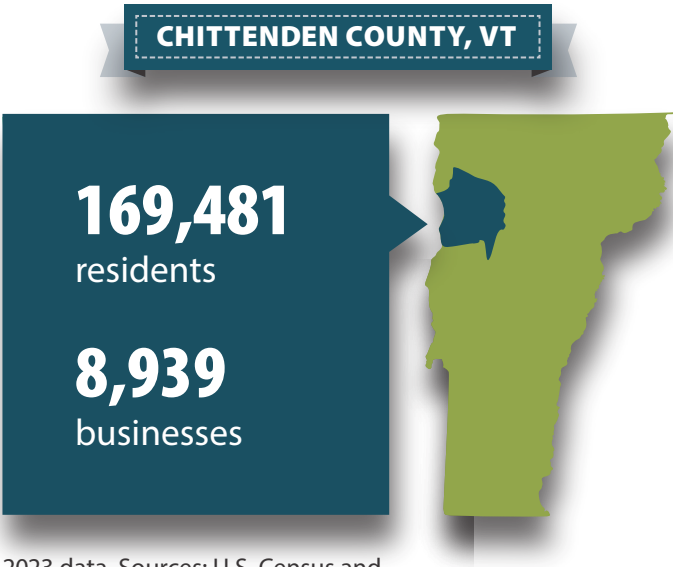
who we are

OUR MISSION

The Chittenden Solid Waste District’s mission is to reduce and manage the solid waste generated within Chittenden County in an environmentally sound, efficient, effective and economical manner.

OUR VISION

Products are designed to be reused or recycled and our community fully participates in minimizing disposal and maximizing reuse and recycling.



We are a municipal district created in 1987 to oversee and manage solid waste in Chittenden County.

CSWD serves about a quarter of the population of Vermont (169,481 residents and 8,939 businesses)* with facilities, programs, and expertise developed over our 35-year history.

**2023 data. Sources: U.S. Census and VT Dept. Of Labor*

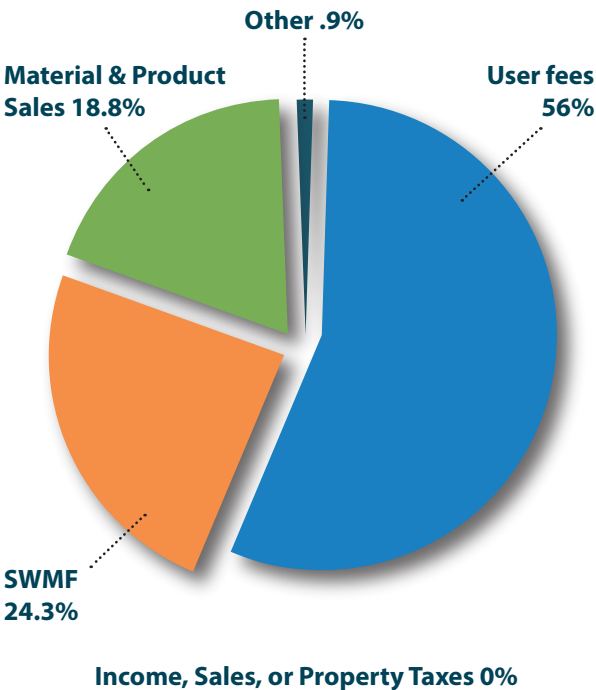
HOW WE’RE FUNDED

Our revenue comes from three primary sources:

- **User fees** on incoming material at our facilities;
- **The Solid Waste Management Fee (SWMF)**, a per-ton fee on material sent to the landfill;
- **Material and product sales** from material we collect and process at our facilities and sell;
- A small, variable percentage of our funding comes from **State grants for hazardous waste and other materials management**.

We are not funded by Income, Sales, or Property tax dollars.

FY24 REVENUE \$14.9M (unaudited)



what we do

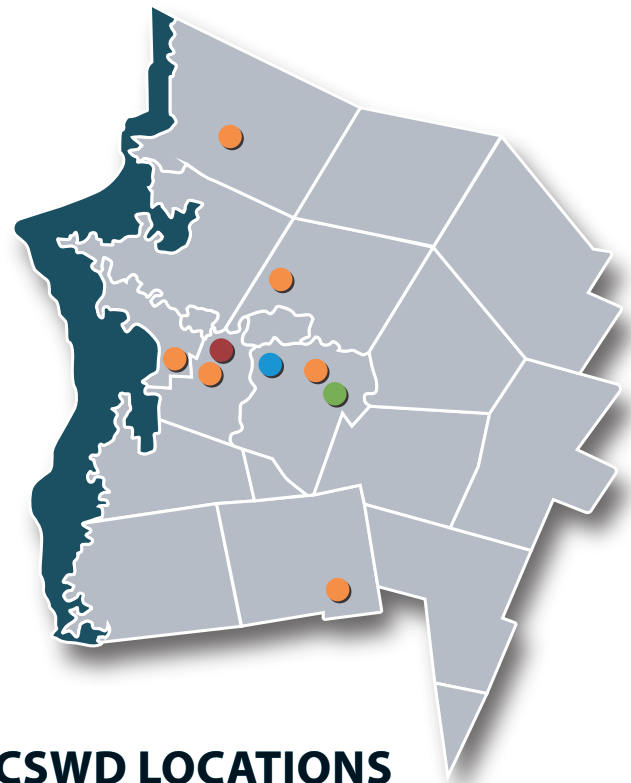
REDUCE WASTE

- › **Educate residents, businesses, schools, and event leaders** on waste prevention and diversion
- › **Promote community reuse options**
- › **Process leftover paint** from residents and businesses into Local Color Paint
- › **Maintain and enforce our Ordinance**, which includes waste prevention and diversion requirements
- › **Help our members** comply with federal and state solid waste laws
- › **Provide facilities and tools** to help members prevent waste and maximize diversion from the landfill to recycling, composting, and other resource recovery
- › **Advocate for state-wide policies** that will reduce waste

MANAGE MATERIALS

Our facilities:

- › **The only municipally owned Materials Recycling Facility** (blue-bin recyclables sorting center) in Vermont
- › **Six regional Drop-Off Centers** for household trash, recycling, organics, and special materials
- › **A comprehensive hazardous waste program for households and small businesses** that includes a permanent year-round collection facility *and* a seasonal mobile collection unit
- › **The state's largest Organics Diversion Facility** (home of Green Mountain Compost) turning food scraps and yard trimmings into compost and soil blends supporting local soils



CSWD LOCATIONS

- **Drop-Off Centers**
- **Environmental Depot**
- **Materials Recycling Facility**
- **Organics Recycling Facility** (Green Mountain Compost)

SUPPORT OUR MEMBERS

- › **Technical expertise and support** for waste-related RFPs and studies
- › **Grant funding**
 - › Community Cleanup Fund for all member towns
 - › Waste Reduction Container and Project Grants
- › **Brokering and investigation** of beneficial use options for biosolids
- › **Green Up Vermont donation** on behalf of all member towns;
- › **Outreach and education**

how we're doing

This graphic shows three key measurements of all the materials that individuals and businesses in Chittenden County, VT generated in Calendar Year 2023:

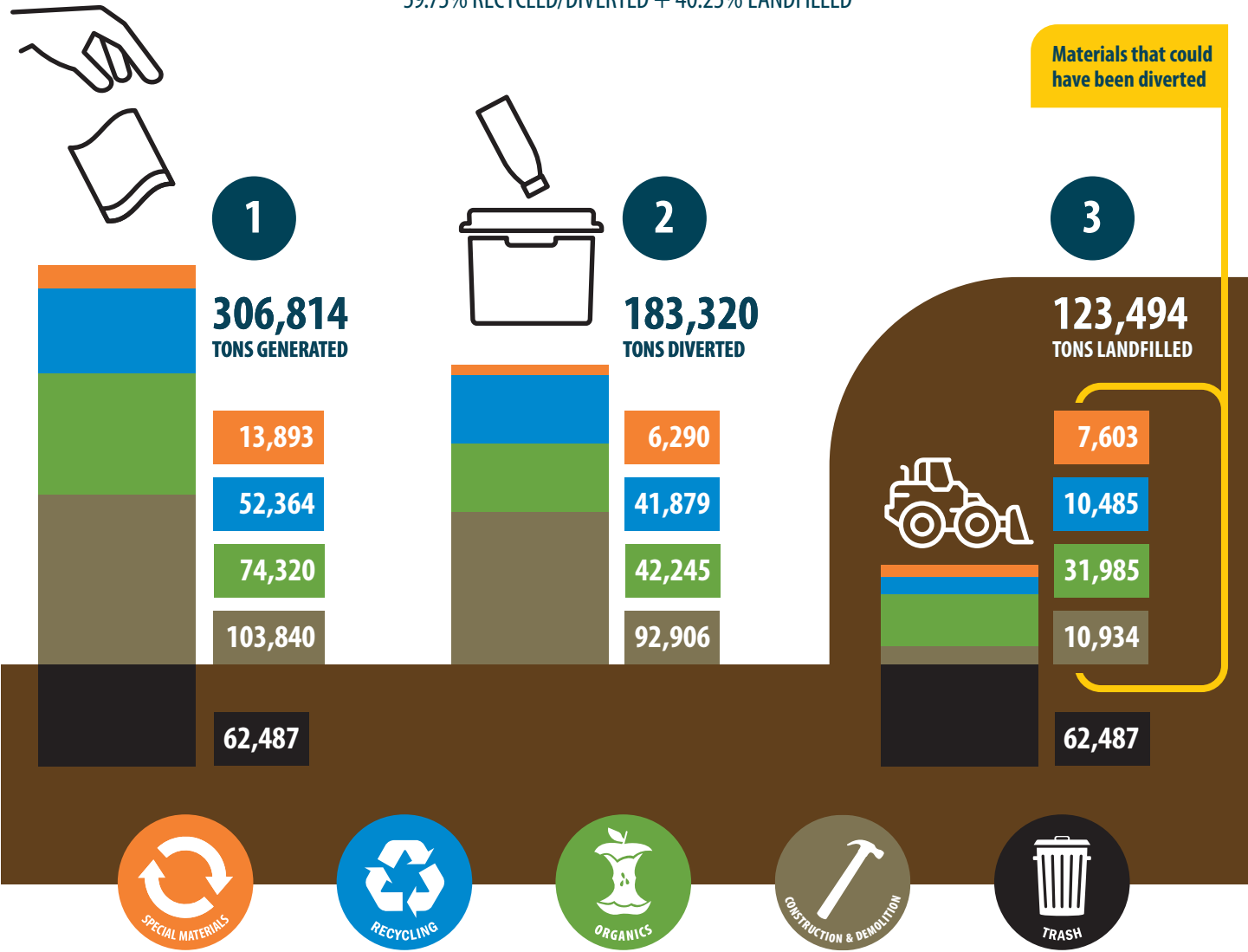
- 1. Total waste and recyclable/compostable materials generated in Chittenden County in 2023.
- 2. Total materials kept out of the landfill and recycled or composted in 2023.
- 3. Total materials (including recyclables and compostable materials) landfilled in 2023.

Note: "Trash" is made up of materials that can't be recycled or composted.

Full details are available in the 2023 [CSWD Diversion Report](#).

100% MATERIALS GENERATED (306,814 tons)

59.75% RECYCLED/DIVERTED + 40.25% LANDFILLED



financial reports

STATEMENT OF NET POSITION

For the Year Ended June 30, 2024

DRAFT - Unaudited

	FY2024	FY2023
ASSETS		
Current Assets		
Cash & Cash Equivalents	\$9,603,675	\$10,719,785
Investments	3,475,013	3,474,738
Receivables (Net of Allowance)	2,230,403	2,130,671
Bond Proceeds Receivable	—	10,000,000
Inventories	283,839	200,664
Prepaid Expenses	44,090	112,248
Total Current Assets	\$15,637,021	\$26,638,106
NONCURRENT ASSETS		
Capital Assets		
Land and Other Assets Not Depreciated	7,868,315	7,868,315
Recycling Facility Project	10,540,347	—
Other Capital Assets Net of Accumulated Depreciation	9,225,154	7,784,050
Right of Use Lease Asset	501,000	501,000
Total Noncurrent Assets	28,134,816	16,153,365
Total Assets	\$43,771,837	\$42,791,470
LIABILITIES		
Current Liabilities		
Accounts Payable	1,443,747	1,176,442
Accrued Expenses	10,191	36,823
Accrued Payroll & Benefits Payable	42,977	80,692
Unearned Revenue	108,983	110,083
Securty Deposits Payable	1,000	7,350
Accrued Compensated Absences (current)	59,328	57,233
Lease and Bond Payable (current)	100,200	100,200
Post Closure Costs Payable (current)	138,301	138,301
Total Current Liabilities	1,904,725	1,707,123
NONCURRENT LIABILITIES		
Bond Payable	10,000,000	10,000,000
Capital Lease Payable	400,800	400,800
Compensated Absenses Payable	237,312	228,934
Post Closure Costs Payable (noncurrent)	378,379	378,379
Total Noncurrent Liabilities	11,016,491	11,008,113
Total Liabilities	12,921,217	12,715,236
NET POSITION		
Net Investment in Capital Assets	15,130,623	15,652,364
Restricted	284,338	288,849
Unrestricted	15,435,659	14,135,021
TOTAL NET POSITION	\$30,850,620	\$30,076,234

financial reports

STATEMENT OF REVENUE, EXPENSES AND CHANGES IN NET POSITION

For the Year Ended June 30, 2024

DRAFT - Unaudited

OPERATING REVENUES:

Tipping Fees	8,382,890
Solid Waste Management Fees	3,632,243
Sale of Materials, net	2,818,635
License Fees	15,544
Miscellaneous	11,306
Product Stewardship & Reimbursement	108,223
Total Operating Revenues	14,968,840

OPERATING EXPENSES:

Administration	1,621,275
Biosolids Program	1,461,219
Community Support	329,147
Drop Off Centers	3,112,820
Enforcement	190,475
Finance	604,600
Hazardous Waste Program	784,568
Materials Recovery Facility	3,621,812
Organics Diversion Facility	1,165,266
Property Management	109,607
Waste Reduction Program	478,612
Change in Estimated Future Landfill Post Closure Costs	117,689
Depreciation	980,143
Total Operating Expenses	14,577,234
Operating Income	391,606

NON-OPERATING REVENUE/EXPENSES

Rental Income	26,450
Investment Income	305,616
Grant Income	194,350
Net Gain (Loss) on Disposal of Assets	(143,637)
Total Non-Operating Revenue/Expenses	382,779
Change in Net Position	774,385
Net Position Beginning of Year	30,076,234
NET POSITION END OF YEAR	30,850,620

Chittenden Solid Waste District

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*This Annual Report is available at
www.cswd.net.*



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