



Chittenden Solid Waste District

ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICE

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TO: Board of Commissioners
FROM: Sarah Reeves
DATE: June 18, 2025
RE: Executive Director Update

May 19 - PRESENT

- **NEW MATERIALS RECYCLING FACILITY PROJECT:**

- Permit related site work is continuing, with the stormwater permit application submitted.
- We received a Jurisdictional Opinion from the Land Use Review Board, and the MRF project does not require an Act 250 permit.
- We met with the DRB on May 27, and they've asked for some follow-up on comments by the Conservation Committee. The Conservation Committee is waiting for the results of a habitat disturbance report, scheduled to be complete by July 11. There were no significant questions or comments from the DRB, and we're aiming to be on their early August agenda for final approval.
- We received the grant proceeds from ANR and the grant is now complete. We are thankful to the agency for the \$1.5M grant, and grateful for their support of the MRF project.
- Staff met with the fire marshal's office to discuss utilizing a new technology at the MRF that would identify heat signatures and smoldering on the tip and bale storage floors and be able to direct water with pinpoint accuracy to the hot spot or fire. The advantage to the system is a faster response to a fire than traditional sprinklers, and the prevention of total loss of material on the tip and/or bale storage floors. The sticking point for the fire marshal at present is that the service relies on a person to verify the technology's alert and open the water valve to start extinguishing. National fire code specifies "automatic response" for certain building and material types, and although the human response time coupled with the technology's sensor abilities combine for a faster, more thorough response, the human factor does not qualify as "automatic". CSWD has been encouraged to submit the request for a variance to the fire marshal's office for consideration.

- **MRF RECYCLABLES**

- The Average Commodity Revenue figure for May was \$109, down \$21/ton from April. As mentioned in last month's update, the downturn was expected and is due to external factors related to the economy.

- **Glavel**

- Josh, Jen, and I visited Glavel's processing plant in Essex at the request of their CEO, Rob Conboy. Glavel is a Vermont-based manufacturer that turns glass dust into foam glass aggregate used as insulation, road base applications, and as general lightweight fill. Rob is looking for additional material for his processing plant. We reiterated the limitations of our potential supply and the condition of our material but agreed to continue to consider ways to potentially work together.

- **QUESTIONS RECEIVED FROM COMMISSIONERS**

- Plastic film recycling. Commissioner Bonges inquired about the types of plastic film accepted at store drop-off, saying that his local Hannaford told him that bubble wrap isn't accepted. Staff responded that any store that participates in the recycling program sponsored by Trex (as the

- Milton Hannaford does) should accept bubble wrap. <https://nextrex.com/view/educate> He expressed concern that plastic wrap isn't making it into the collection containers at stores, and our recent survey confirms that more public education is warranted on this topic. CSWD partnered with Casella and several downtown Burlington stores on a pilot program several years ago to collect pallet wrap. The goal was to gauge interest in a separation program, and to learn how the collection logistics might work. Our part in the program has ended, but Casella continues to collect the material for the businesses that continue to participate.
- Boat Wrap recycling: Commissioner Nye inquired if CSWD has a boat wrap recycling program. Boat wrap, specifically marine shrink-wrap, is a plastic film used to cover boats for winter storage (as opposed to wrapping a boat's hull with a decorative film). There are currently no statewide marine shrink-wrap recycling programs in Vermont. Programs do exist elsewhere in New England, mostly southern New England, and material acceptance depends on the type of plastic used at the marinas. To help ensure recyclability, some marinas have stipulated a particular material be used (#4 LDPE, for example, and not #3 PVC). CSWD would need to gather data on Chittenden County tonnage, as well as the likelihood that a vendor is available to accept the material. It is not certain that marine wrap could be combined with pallet wrap (program referenced above), but is something we can look into.
 - Foam Cushion recycling: Commissioner Bonges asked for an update on whether CSWD would allow foam cushions from furniture to be recycled with mattresses. We received confirmation from our mattress recycling vendor that they can accept cushions, however the cost to DOC customers is likely prohibitive. For example, a 3-seat sofa is \$30 to dispose as trash. If a customer wanted to recycle the three cushions, our mattress vendor would charge us a minimum of \$20 for those cushions (which we would pass along to the customer) for a minimum fee of \$50 to dispose/recycle the sofa. DOC customers would be required to separate the cushions from the furniture themselves, placing the cushions in the mattress recycling container and the furniture frame in the trash compactor, creating added inconvenience. If in the future CSWD decides to operate a bulky goods recycling facility, we will revisit this option.

July 2025

- July 1: FY2026 begins
- July 4: Independence Day, all facilities closed
- July 14: Executive Board, 5pm
- July 23: Full Board, 6pm