



Chittenden Solid Waste District

Early Voting Sept 6 - Nov 8

Election Day Tuesday, Nov 8

VOTE YES FOR A NEW MRF

WHAT

We need a new, municipally owned Materials Recovery Facility (MRF) to meet demand and recycle more.



WHY

The current MRF is at the end of its life.

- It can't be expanded.
- It is inefficient, with outdated technology.
- It can't keep up with today's recycling needs.
- It imposes difficult working conditions on staff.
- It is not sustainable.



BENEFITS

The new MRF will:

- ▲ Include modern technology for improved efficiency and more value from processed recyclables.
- ▲ Provide flexibility to adapt to changes in packaging over the next 30 years.
- ▲ Enable Vermonters to preserve up to 634,000 trees and nearly 28 million gallons of gas annually, reducing greenhouse gas emissions equivalent to removing 52,500 passenger vehicles from the road.
- ▲ Be municipally owned, keeping fees as low as possible and recycling more materials even when not profitable.
- ▲ Be cleaner, brighter, and better ventilated, providing improved conditions for workers.
- ▲ Preserve 21 VT jobs, including more desirable, higher skilled positions.



Comparison of baling systems—the last step before materials are ready for transport.

HOW WE'LL PAY FOR IT

CSWD needs voter approval to borrow up to \$22 million to build a new MRF. It will be paid for through MRF operations.

This will not raise taxes.

PROJECT STATS

Location: CSWD property on Redmond Road in Williston. Just 2.6 miles from the current location.

Capacity: Up to 70,000 tons annually—nearly 50% more than current MRF.

3 WAYS TO VOTE

1. Go to mvp.vermont.gov and request the CSWD Materials Recovery Facility ballot.
2. Request or pick up a ballot from your town clerk.
3. On Tuesday, November 8, 2022: Vote in person at your local Chittenden Co. polling place.

Project Timeline

2022	2023	2023-24	2024-25	2025	2025	2025
November	Jan - Oct	Nov - Oct	Oct - March	April-May	May-June	July
Voter Approval	Permitting & Design	Sitework & Construction	Equipment Installation	Equipment Testing	Startup and Training	NEW MRF Opening

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FAQs About The New CSWD MRF

Updated 9/6/22

Q. If the MRF is handling 47,000 tons now, is 50-70,000 tons really enough capacity for the new facility? What will it look like 30 years from now, with people moving to Vermont and the delivery economy continuing to grow?

A. Our current MRF was designed and built in 1993 to process 25,000 tons of recyclables per year. It is not unusual in the industry to push a MRF beyond the capacity it is designed to handle, and we have done that. The new MRF will be designed and built to handle up to 70,000 tons per year and with flexibility for growth and equipment upgrades that will allow the system to process even more than that. Given the typical wear and tear on a MRF, the life expectancy of the facility is 30 years.

Q. What will the energy usage and greenhouse gas impacts of the new MRF be in comparison with the current facility?

A. One of the new MRF's major benefits will be its capacity to keep far more materials in circulation and out of the landfill, saving natural resources and energy. CSWD's new MRF will be able to process up to 40% more material than we can manage now, which will provide a greenhouse gas reduction equivalent of removing 52,500 passenger vehicles from the road and conserving nearly 28 million gallons of gas annually. The increased recycling of paper and cardboard would save 634,000 trees from being cut down annually.

The new MRF will be equipped with modern technology and will have improved lighting, heating, and ventilation to provide a much better environment for workers. All this requires energy. We are working with Efficiency Vermont to explore all opportunities for energy savings wherever possible. We have just begun this process and expect to have more tangible comparisons to current operations as we approach construction in 2023.

Q. You say this won't raise taxes, but won't it cost more to get rid of recycling?

A. No, not necessarily. It depends partly on how much revenue we receive from the sale of recyclables. The bond will be repaid from revenues generated by the MRF from the sale of recyclables on the commodities markets and from the per-ton tip fee charged to our Drop-Off Centers and to commercial hauling companies that provide curbside collection of recyclables and deposit their loads at the MRF. The tip fee is set at a rate that enables us to cover operational costs, debt service, and capital costs not

covered by income from the sale of recyclables. This will still be the case with the new MRF. We have made it a priority to set the tip fee once a year to keep costs predictable for haulers and our Drop-Off Centers.

The tip fee is just one part of a hauler's operating expenses, which include labor, insurance, fuel, and equipment. They choose to what extent they pass those costs along to their customers. CSWD plays no role in that.

Q. Will you be assessing member Towns and Cities a fee to pay for the new MRF?

A. Though CSWD's Charter grants us the authority to assess member Towns and Cities a fee in exchange for the services we provide them as members, CSWD has not assessed cities/towns to be part of CSWD since 1992 and we have no intention of doing so now. The bond will be repaid from revenues generated by the MRF from the sale of recyclables on the commodities markets and from the per-ton tip fee charged to commercial hauling companies that provide curbside collection of recyclables and deposit their loads at the MRF.

The article to be approved by voters on November 8 at the General Election includes this statement: *"... it being intended that the source of repayment shall be waste management fees and revenues collected by the District and, to the extent necessary, assessments to member municipalities in accordance with the District's Charter."*

We had to include this language to recognize that an assessment is the last resource available to us after all others have been exhausted. CSWD has several other ways to raise the funds to repay the bond before we would need to assess our member towns.

Q. Why does CSWD contract with Casella to operate the current MRF that CSWD owns? Will Casella operate the new MRF?

A. CSWD has contracted for day-to-day MRF operations because it has historically been to our financial advantage. The MRF Operator takes care of all staffing, daily maintenance, and sale of the recyclables on the commodities markets. In exchange they receive a per-ton processing fee and some tip-fee revenue under a formula specified in the contract. Casella has been the only candidate equipped to provide the services we require and they have been a valued partner in our MRF operations. We are in negotiations with Casella to extend their contract to operate the existing MRF for the next three years while we build the new MRF.

If voters approve the bond and we are able to proceed with the new MRF, we will likely extend the contract with Casella to transition to and operate the new MRF for a period of time to be negotiated. During that time, we will analyze the benefits, costs, and risks of operating the new MRF ourselves vs. contracting with an external operator. If we decide not to operate the new MRF ourselves, we will issue a Request for Proposals open to all qualified candidates.

Q. What will happen to the old (current) MRF?

A. CSWD owns the property at 357 Avenue C, the MRF building, and the equipment. We will incorporate usable equipment in the new MRF and sell the remainder as scrap. Our Board of Commissioners will determine the best use for the property. Options we will consider include selling the property, repurposing it for research and development of other landfill-diversion (recycling) programs, managing items such as large, bulky furniture that poses problems for our Drop-Off Centers.

Q. What happens if this bond does not pass?

A. CSWD will need to make significant investments in the current MRF to keep it going as long as we can. However, it will still be too small and we expect that within 5-10 years, it will be unable to keep up with market demands and will have to shut down.

Please send your questions to info@cswd.net.

Vote **YES** on CSWD's Ballot to Recycle More!

THE NEW MRF WILL:

- ✓ Keep more recyclables out of Vermont's only landfill
- ✓ Reduce Vermont's carbon footprint
- ✓ Send more recyclables to be made into new products
- ✓ Preserve jobs for Vermont workers, in better working conditions



Vote **YES** in this year's General Election for CSWD to borrow \$22 million to build a new MRF.

THIS BOND WILL NOT INCREASE YOUR TAXES – the current MRF does not receive tax funding; the new MRF won't either.

To learn more, including how to vote, visit:
cswd.net/mrf-bond.



**Chittenden
Solid Waste
District**

Vote **YES** on CSWD's Ballot to Recycle More!

**The Chittenden Solid Waste District (CSWD)
Materials Recovery Facility (MRF) needs your help!**

CSWD, a trusted steward of Chittenden County's waste and recycling since 1987, built the current MRF almost 30 years ago. The outdated and inefficient MRF processes half of Vermont's recycling and now needs to be replaced.



The current MRF:

- ▼ Is too small, with no room to grow
- ▼ Is outdated and limits what we can recycle



Scan or visit
cswd.net/mrf-bond
for more info

