

TO: Board of Commissioners
FROM: Sarah Reeves
DATE: April 19, 2023
RE: Executive Director Update

March 8 - PRESENT

- **NEW MATERIALS AT DOCs:** A few months ago we quietly rolled out a pilot program to accept shredded paper and hardcover books at our DOCs. The ultimate goal is to keep shredded paper out of blue bins/carts and therefore out of the MRF. Shredded paper is the primary organic contaminant in our glass products. Our customers have embraced the DOC program, so we are intending to formally go out to bid for the services in the next month or so.
- **SEPTIC MOUND SAND:** Josh T and I met with ANR Solid Waste, ANR Water/Wastewater, and UVM to discuss the possibility of using our MRF Processed Glass Aggregate (PGA) as a septic mound medium in place of mound sand. Mound sand is a rapidly diminishing natural resource and there is high demand for this material. PGA is a promising substitute for the natural material, and we are pursuing this path with enthusiasm.
- **NAME CHANGES:** To bring our nomenclature for our facilities in better alignment with our Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion policy, and the activity of the specific facility, and popular understanding of solid waste terminology, we are renaming both the ODF and the MRF. The terms “recovery” and “diversion” are used at the professional level of industry terminology. To the public, it’s not immediately clear what’s being referenced or how the terms relate to what we’re asking folks to do on a daily basis. Both terms need supporting explanation, which makes them more like jargon, and exclusionary.

In the industry, MRF can mean either “Materials Recovery Facility” or “Materials Recycling Facility”. We’ve switched to the more widely used term Materials Recycling Facility. This will more quickly convey to the public what the building does and which materials are being processed there.

We’re switching ODF (Organics Diversion Facility) to ORF, or “Organics Recycling Facility”. The full name will be “the CSWD Organics Recycling Facility, home of Green Mountain Compost”. A few years ago, we moved away from calling the facility “Green Mountain Compost” because as simply the brand name of the products it didn’t convey that they were made by a municipality – by CSWD. We wanted CSWD’s name to be associated with the wonderful compost products made by the ORF team. ODF was chosen as a temporary designation, in part because we wanted to avoid confusion with another ORF that had been planned to be built nearby. That facility never materialized, and so, we are claiming the ORF name. In this case, using the word “recycling” in the name does convey what happens there. We bring in organic material and recycle it into new products.

- **MRF FUNDING - NGO:** CSWD has been awarded \$250,000 by The Recycling Partnership for our polypropylene optical sorting line in the new MRF. We are very thankful for the grant from TRP, and have received encouragement to also apply for a PET grant.
- **BUDGET PRESENTATIONS** – FY 24 budget presentations to member towns and cities have concluded, with each member municipality voting in favor of the budget. This is the earliest that CSWD's budget process has concluded in our history. I want to thank and commend my manager team for the hard work needed to pull the budget together. I especially want to recognize Nola Ricci for bringing the new budget system to the District and for the many hours it took to bring everything online and into service. Lastly, I'd like to thank the members of the Finance Committee for agreeing to meet on a truncated schedule, and for the very helpful input and guidance provided.

May/June 2023

- Executive Board, 5/15
- Full Board, 5/24
- Memorial Day, 5/29; Offices and facilities closed (Organics Recycling Facility open for commercial drop off only)
- Finance Committee, 6/14
- Juneteenth, 6/19; Offices and facilities closed
- Executive Board, TBD
- Annual Organizational Board Meeting, 6/28