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To: CSWD Board of Commissioners  
From: Joshua Estey, Director of Compliance  
Date: March 17, 2022  
RE: 2022 Rover Schedule

Prior to the 2020 Rover season CSWD staff made the decision, based on some site safety concerns in specific towns and an overall downward trend in utilization, to reduce the number of annual Rover events from 18 to 12 (going from one event in each member town to two events at each District-owned Drop-Off Center(DOC)). The move to all District-owned facilities gave Rover staff the site control that is often so critical at mobile collection events. After COVID cancelled the 2020 Rover season and cut the 2021 season in half, six events were held in the second half of 2021. While there was concern that the hiatus was going to result in extreme utilization of the Rover, what staff experienced was actually a return to mobile collection events that looked a lot like they did right before the pandemic.

A couple of things have happened since the last Rover event wrapped for the year. Firstly, the Richmond Drop-Off Center closed which eliminated a Rover site for 2023. Secondly, staff heard the desire for the Rover to come back to each town. To satisfy that desire, and in recognition of ongoing staffing challenges with the Rover, we developed a four-year schedule that would see the Rover visit every member town in rotation:

Year 1	Year 2	Year 3	Year 4
Milton	Milton	Milton	Milton
Essex	Essex	Essex	Essex
Hinesburg	Hinesburg	Hinesburg	Huntington
Williston	St. George	Charlotte	Shelburne
Richmond	Jericho	Bolton	Underhill
Burlington	Winooski	Colchester	Westford

As you can see in the above schedule, the Rover would visit three of the same locations each year serving three geographical regions of the county – Milton, Essex, and Hinesburg (except in year 4, this location would shift to Huntington). The other three events each year would rotate on a four-year basis between the remaining twelve member municipalities. Year two in the schedule above represents the Rover schedule for this calendar year.

While we acknowledge we are losing some of the site control that made the DOC-only schedule so appealing, staff thinks the benefits to returning to offer collection events to each member town outweigh the concerns. Specifically, every municipality has a segment of their population that faces transportation challenges – some more concentrated than others. By returning to a schedule of visiting each town we are better able to serve those populations. Residents of Winooski, and the north end of Burlington, have been a long-running point of discussion in regard to how to provide more access, as have less obvious locations such as St. George and Bolton.

And while four years seems like a long time to wait between events, there is a commonly accepted metric in the household hazardous waste community called generation periodicity – that metric tells us that based on the most common items residents generate, their need for a disposal option pops up only once every 5-7 years. Obviously there are exceptions to this rule, and it primarily applies to property owners and not the rental community, but by also holding events in Essex, Milton, and Hinesburg annually, we believe we are serving our communities more than sufficiently (not to mention the year-round Environmental Depot).

Specific dates for the six Rover events this year have not been solidified yet, but when they are they will be posted on our website and distributed via our various communication channels. We are excited at the proposition of this new schedule – excited that we can reinstate a much-desired, and much-appreciated, service to our member communities while alleviating some of the staffing challenges that we have experienced in the past and acknowledging the ever-increasing utilization of the Environmental Depot by our customers.