

Northwest Vermont Solid Waste District

News Release

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NWSWD has received a grant totaling \$47,035.06 from the Vermont Department of Environmental Conservation (DEC) to help fund Household Hazardous Waste and Organics management programs, which provide critical solid waste disposal services to residents of all member communities in the district.

These funds will be used to partially cover costs of two important solid waste management programs at NWSWD. A portion of funds will be allocated to fund NWSWD's household hazardous waste collection program, which ensures the proper management of over 110,000 pounds of household hazardous waste collected from residents and businesses annually. This program consists of the HazWaste Depot, located at the Georgia Recycling Facility, as well as NWSWD's mobile hazardous waste collection events which provide convenient and accessible hazardous waste disposal opportunities to towns across the district.

Additionally, a portion of funds will be allocated to support NWSWD's Close-The-Loop organic waste management program. In response to the implementation of Act 128, the residential portion of the Close-the-Loop program grew dramatically in 2020 to over 400 customers. Over the past year, NWSWD's residential and commercial food scrap collection programs have ensured the successful diversion of over 600,000 pounds (12,000 pounds per week) of food waste from the landfill, making the Close-the-Loop program a significant contributor to food waste-diversion efforts in Vermont.

This year, the combined operating expense of these programs are expected to exceed \$228,000. The grant is provided as part of a solid waste assistance fund managed by the state and intended to help towns uphold the statewide ban on the disposal of household hazardous waste and organic waste in landfills. The grant is awarded annually to towns and districts across Vermont by The Department of Environmental Conservation, an arm of the Vermont Agency of Natural Resources.