

Northwest Vermont Solid Waste District

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For Immediate Release

Northwest Vermont Solid Waste District (NWSWD) is pleased to announce an expansion of our Single-Use Agricultural Plastic Recycling Program with the establishment of partnerships with two downstream facilities capable of receiving and recycling polycarbonate spouts.

Polycarbonate spouts are commonly utilized in maple syrup production, a major industry in Vermont, and have little to no reuse value without adequate processing and reconstitution. For several years, NWSWD has been developing an agricultural plastic recycling program to address the pressing problem of agricultural plastic waste in Northwest Vermont. Prior to the development of this program, Vermont's one landfill was the only local disposal option available to producers wishing to remove used agricultural plastic from their properties. Now, by providing local producers with waste management alternatives in Northwest Vermont, NWSWD is setting the stage for a potential collaborative waste diversion effort among all solid waste districts in the state.

Given Vermont's declining landfill space and bustling agricultural industries, agricultural waste diversion is a top priority for the District. NWSWD's program, which is in continuous development, now provides local maple and dairy producers with the option to recycle maple tubing, bunker cover, and polycarbonate spouts. NWSWD intends to further investigate potential outlets for other forms of agriculture plastics not currently accepted with the goal of providing waste disposal alternatives for a broader variety of single-use agricultural plastic products. Agricultural plastic products currently accepted in NWSWD's program are shipped to several processing facilities across the country: Delta Plastics in Arkansas, New Hope Energy in Texas (in trial stage), Prima America in New Hampshire, and JTR Plastics Recycling in Pennsylvania. Depending on the facility, plastics are processed and converted into fuels, post-consumer resins, and new plastic products.

In conjunction with NWSWD's already well-established household hazardous waste program, which provides disposal options for chemicals used in the maintenance of dairy and maple processing equipment, the Single-Use Agricultural Plastic Program will allow NWSWD to meet more of the waste management needs of agricultural producers in the region. NWSWD will continue, as always, to develop and expand our programs in order to achieve our mission of providing efficient, economical, and environmentally sound disposal options to all residents of Northwest Vermont.