



Next Phase of Green Cone Project Underway

Applications for the District's second test phase of Green Cone™ food waste digesters for backyard food waste diversion were mailed to households in Calais and Middlesex during the third week of May. One hundred households from these two communities will be selected to test the use of the cones for one year.

Food waste comprises about 20% of residential waste production and diverting that to a backyard food waste digester could help solve a significant waste generation issue at its source.

The first year of Green Cone™ testing will be completed this summer. Overall, participants have been pleased with the project and have significantly reduced the amount of

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CALENDAR OF EVENTS

Ongoing

Electronics Collection at CVSWMD Barre Town Recycling Depot, Wilson Industrial Park, during regular depot hours. Call the District for prices and more information—229-9383.

Special Electronics Collection

At the **Hardwick Recycling Depot**—month of September, during regular depot hours

Household Hazardous Waste Collections

The remaining hazardous waste collections will be held as follows:

- **Barre Town**—June 10 and October 14, 9am-1pm, Barre Town Garage, Websterville Rd.
- **Hardwick**—September 9, 9am-1pm, Hardwick Town Garage
- **Bradford**—September 30, 9am-1pm, Bradford Town Garage
- **Montpelier**—October 21, 9am-1pm, Memorial Drive, Dept. of Labor Parking Lot

Office and Depot Closings

The District's Montpelier office and the Barre Town Recycling Depot will be *closed* on Tuesday, July 4 for Independence Day. (Note: This holiday doesn't affect other District recycling depots.)

Trees Planted at Barre Town Depot

The CVSWMD received a grant from the Urban and Community Forestry Grant Program under VT Dept. of Forests, Parks and Recreation to plant trees surrounding our Barre Town Recycling Depot. They will act as a wind barrier for staff and customers, provide wildlife habitat, and improve the look of the area.

Thirty trees were planted in spring 2005 and 61 more trees will be planted this spring. Students and teachers from Websterville Baptist School and employees of the Dept. of Forests, Parks and Recreation have graciously volunteered their time to help District staff with the tree planting.

With the help of a state forester, we've chosen to plant White Pine, White Spruce and Frasier Fir. They are all native to our region and will thrive in the habitat present at the Wilson Industrial Park.

E-Waste and HHW Collections Growing!

The first hazardous waste collection of the season in Montpelier was a record collection—serving 237 households and three businesses, 157 of which were new users of the collection event. This was the first of eight collections the District will hold through October.

Electronics recycling is also showing an increase over last year. From January-April 2005, 16,719 lbs. of e-waste were brought in for recycling, while 21,587 lbs. of e-waste were recycled during January-April 2006.

Biodiesel Interest Growing!

More than 45 people attended a biodiesel seminar co-sponsored by the CVSWMD and the Vermont Biofuels Association on March 23, 2006 in Berlin. Attendees included representatives from municipalities, businesses, fuel dealers, and distributors.

Steve Russell, fleet manager for the city of Keene, NH, made a presentation on the successful use of B20, a 20% blend of biodiesel and petroleum diesel, in all 68 vehicles and equipment operated by the city for the past four years. This includes vehicles and equipment from the Highway Department, Parks and Recreation, and Emergency Services. In that time,

150,000 gallons of B20 has been used—which equals up to 30,000 gallons of oil not being purchased from foreign sources. He has not seen any problems resulting from the use of biodiesel and is able to switch from using it without any changes to existing infrastructure. The use of biodiesel blends up to 20% does not void the warranties of most manufacturer's equipment.

City workers have noticed a significant reduction in headaches and discomfort from equipment exhaust since burning biodiesel. Engines run quieter, cleaner, get better mileage, and he anticipates keeping equipment for two to four years longer before replacement

due to the increased lubricity and cleaning properties of biodiesel.

Teigh Southworth, project manager for VT Buildings and Grounds, reported that they have experienced no problems using biodiesel blends for heating buildings in Brattleboro and Waterbury. He also said the routine cleaning of heating systems is much easier and takes less time when using biofuel blends.

As demand rises for biodiesel and biofuel for heating, more local dealers will begin to carry the products. One fuel distributor announced that a dealer in Montpelier will soon be carrying biodiesel. Member towns may call the District for more information. ❖

CENTRAL VERMONT SOLID WASTE MANAGEMENT DISTRICT

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The full Board meets the first Wednesday of the month (except January, July, and August) at 7 pm. Please call for location.

Woodbury Cleans Up with Adopt-A-Site

A volunteer cleanup crew tackled an illegal dump site on Fletcher Quarry Road in Woodbury on May 13. The group, including members of the Woodbury Conservation Commission and other volunteers, gave 31 volunteer hours (in the rain!) to haul 2.93 tons of trash, 30 tires, and about five yards of metal out of the dump site.

The waste dumped at this site included trash bags, fire-damaged couches, mattresses, refrigerators, washers and dryers, car batteries, syringes, cinder blocks, a kiddie swimming pool, shingles, deer carcasses, tires, and furniture.

Heavy equipment, including an excavator, dump trucks, utility truck, and bucket loader, donated

by residents helped make this cleanup possible. Thanks go to Larry Rossi with the Woodbury Selectboard, the Town of Woodbury Road Crew—Gary Ewen and E.J. Gilcris, and John Patone for donating the equipment and operator assistance needed. ❖



Some of the cleanup volunteers after the site was cleaned. An Adopt-A-Site sign marks the site.

Green Cone Project, cont. from p. 1.



Green Cones™ installed in a participant's garden during summer 2005.

waste they pay to send to the landfill. During this first phase, begun in July 2005, District staff installed the Green Cones™ in the backyards of 92 participants so we could learn first-hand about siting, drainage, and exposure issues that could impact the success of the product and the satisfaction of the residents.

Based on what we learned during the installations, we have developed a DVD and instructional manual for Green Cone™ self-installation. This year's participants will receive these materials to install their own cones.

At the close of this pilot project in summer 2007, the performance of the self-installed cones will be compared to the performance of those that were installed by trained District staff. The information from the two trials will be used to develop the District-wide "Only in My Backyard" Residential Organics Diversion Program. ❖



ORGANICS PROGRAMS CONTINUE TO MAKE GAINS

The District's Business and School Organics Programs have collectively diverted 620 tons of food waste from Vermont landfills during the program's two years of operation. The 31 participating food waste generators in Montpelier and Bradford include school kitchens and cafeterias, workplace cafeterias, and restaurants. Five Montpelier food waste generators have been with the program since the start in April 2004—Julio's restaurant, Hunger Mountain Food Co-op, Union Elementary School, Montpelier High School, and Susan's Kitchen.

The school program has made some new gains for the 2006-2007 school year. Two more schools will begin the program in September, which includes a full school staff and student body training by District staff to ensure proper separation of compostable and non-compostable materials once food waste diversion is underway.

The training on the front end certainly pays off. Both the school and the business programs have experienced little to no contamination problems—a fairly uncommon success among food waste diversion programs! ❖

LAWRENCE WALBRIDGE REUSE FUND HELPS SEND MONTPELIER SCHOOL DESKS TO NICARAGUA

The CVSWMD's Lawrence Walbridge Reuse Grant Fund (LWRF) is helping to make it possible for Union Elementary School in Montpelier to donate their old school desks and chairs to communities in Nicaragua.

The school has ordered new desks and wanted to keep the old ones in use and get them to where they're needed. But the school was coming up short on the funds to get the desks to Washington, D.C. so they could be shipped out through the Quixote Center in Maryland; this organization supports Quest for Peace, an effort that sponsors the Clean Desk Project.

CVSWMD Director Donna

Barlow Casey presented the full board with the opportunity to support this reuse project through the LWRF at its May meeting, and Gerry D'Amico, chair of the LWRF committee, made the motion to award \$500 to help support this reuse effort.

An all-volunteer crew at the school got the desks ready for shipping and a Barre truck rental company stepped forward and offered to haul them to D.C. in a partially empty truck scheduled for that route—and at a greatly reduced rate. The desks will be shipped out of the U.S. on June 12 with other supplies donated from across the country. See quest.quixote.org for more information. ❖

CVSWMD NOTES

Compost at Home!

Backyard composting can dramatically reduce the amount of trash you need to pay to dispose of, and the District offers resources to help you get started.

The *Dirt on Composting* booklet covers what to put in, what to keep out, and how to troubleshoot common concerns for folks just starting out. Call for a copy—it's free! We also offer links to instructions for making your own compost bins via our Web site. And please call with questions!

District Receives Four Grants

- The District received a \$5,210

grant from the VT Agency of Natural Resources (ANR) to orient and urge member communities to enforce against **illegal burning** violations on a local level.

- We received a \$9,165 **Compost Grant** from VT ANR to test self-installation of Green Cones™ in 100 residences in Middlesex and Calais in summer 2006.
- We were awarded a \$14,000 VT ANR **School Compost Grant** to fund some staff time and to develop new tools to reach additional schools through the District during the 2006-2007 school year.
- The **Inter-Waste District Food Waste Recycling Program**, which involves the CVSWMD, the NEK Solid Waste District, the Highfields Institute, and the town of Greens-

boro, was awarded a USDA grant. The project seeks to develop a strong food waste hauling program that can be used as a model for developing rural programs elsewhere. The CVSWMD will receive \$33,000 over the year-long project for providing hauling services, education and outreach, technical expertise, and training of school program diversion personnel for schools outside of our District.

Office Cat Looking for New Home

Our office cat is in need of a good home. Whitey-Stripey is a lovable eight-year-old male cat who needs more attention than we can provide. He would be happiest as an "only pet." Please call for more information!

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MANAGEMENT DISTRICT**

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