



NORTHEAST KINGDOM WASTE MANAGEMENT DISTRICT

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March 11, 2020

Sen. Christopher Bray, Chair
State of Vermont Legislature
Senate Committee on Natural Resources and Energy

RE: S.227 - Organics, Food Scraps, Readiness for 7/1/2020 – Part II

Dear Senator Bray:

The Northeast Kingdom Waste Management District (NEKWMD) appreciates the opportunity to provide testimony on the readiness of the State to meet the July 1, 2020 landfill ban on organics/food residuals.

The NEKWMD commissioned a report in 2014 titled, “Northeast Kingdom Regional Food Scrap Recycling Assessment – November 2014”. The report was a collaborative effort between the Highfields Center for Composting (Hardwick, VT) and Compost Technical Services (Cambridge, MA). I will be referring to page 8, Figure 6 of that report (included).

Residential food scrap collection is being provided in NEKWMD through a series of 22 drop-off facilities as well as home composting, which is estimated at 73% of residences. Burke, St. Johnsbury, and Newport are not members of the NEKWMD.

Jay Peak is currently serviced by Grow Compost, but the food waste generators in Jay Village are not being serviced by any hauler currently. Reports from Grow Compost totaled 12 tons over the final four months of 2019 (less than 1 ton per week).

Cloud’s Path and Black Dirt reported 3.75 tons and 5.17 tons per week in District for 2019 (a total of approximately 9 tons/week).

Our responsibility is to find capacity for the remaining commercial tonnage listed above for the Towns of Danville (2.4 t/w), Lyndon (15.43 t/w), Derby (10.29 t/w), Jay (13.54 t/w), and Troy (2.61 t/w) – a total of 44.27 t/w. If one subtracts what’s currently being collected from Cloud’s Path (3.75 t/w), Black Dirt (5.17 t/w), and Grow (1.00 t/w) – total of 9.92 t/w, you are left with a short-fall of $44.27 - 9.92 = 34.35$ t/w.

If one assumes that Burke, St. Johnsbury and Newport are diverting half of their commercial tonnage, they would still need 23.75 t/w of additional capacity. The total additional capacity needs for the entire region is therefore 58 t/w. This is the equivalent of 4 small-scale compost facilities.

While there is capacity available in other regions outside our District, the cost for transportation makes this service extremely expensive. In order to make food residual diversion viable in the NEK, the

ENVIRONMENTALLY SOUND WASTE MANAGEMENT AT THE LEAST COST TO OUR CITIZENS

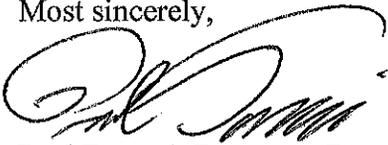
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capacity needs to be local. The reason trash disposal is reasonably priced in our area is because of our proximity to the landfill.

The Agency of Natural Resources has included a convenience standard for collecting Household Hazardous Wastes (HHW) in their Solid Waste Implementation Plan. That convenience standard requires that no Vermonter have to travel further than 20 miles in order to participate in an HHW event. Why should food residual services be treated any differently? Current statute has a 20-mile radius exemption for the collection of food residuals, which is set to expire July 1, 2020. If this expiration date were simply removed, it would maintain the organics ban, while giving some areas of the state more time to develop the necessary infrastructure.

I welcome any questions you might have regarding this important and complex issue.

Most sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Paul Tomasi", with a large, sweeping flourish above the name.

Paul Tomasi, Executive Director

Northeast Kingdom Region Food Scrap Generation by Town (Dense Pop.)			
Town	TPW C/I	TPW Res.	Total TPW*
Burke (including E&W)	7.76	3.37	11.13
Danville	2.40	4.22	6.62
Lyndon (including Lyndonville)	15.43	11.50	26.93
St. Johnsbury	19.21	11.91	31.12
Derby	10.29	8.85	19.14
Jay	13.54	0.82	14.36
Newport	20.54	8.83	29.37
Troy (including North Troy)	2.61	3.20	5.81
TOTALS	91.78	52.70	144.48
* Doesn't include Food Manufacturing / Processing Sector. (Unit = Tons/Week)			

Figure 6. Estimated current food scrap generation in the Northeast Kingdom Region's food-scrap-dense towns.