

# Southern Windsor/Windham Counties Solid Waste Management District



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March 24, 2015

Representative Tony Klein  
Chairman  
House Natural Resources and Energy Committee  
115 State Street  
Montpelier, Vermont  
05633-5301

Representative Klein:

Thank you for allowing the District the opportunity to provide comments on the need for funding for the implementation of Act 148. The Southern Windsor/Windham Counties Solid Waste Management District is a strong supporter of Act 148 and applauds the Legislature for the passage of the Universal Recycling Law, and its continued support of solid waste management in Vermont.

In 2013, DSM Environmental Services authored a report entitled "System Analysis of the Impact of Act 148 on Solid Waste Management in Vermont". The study analyzed the existing solid waste infrastructure and the future infrastructure needs to implement Act 148. The report clearly states that the present infrastructure is inadequate to fully implement the law and that public investment is necessary. In 2014, the Legislature tasked the Solid Waste Infrastructure Advisory Committee to evaluate the sufficiency of the present system in order to achieve a 50% diversion rate. The findings of the Committee mirror those of the DSM report that the existing system is inadequate and the solid waste infrastructure is particularly poor in Windsor County.

Municipalities and haulers in Windsor County have very few disposal options and this is especially relevant for organics. Presently, there is one location in Orange County (Corinth) and another location in Windham County (Brattleboro) for the composting of organics. The transportation costs for the delivery of organics to these locations are cost prohibitive. The District is working diligently to try to find alternatives to these locations or cost effective means to transport these materials to existing facilities.

The need for funding to improve the infrastructure in Windsor County and the rest of Vermont has been clearly identified in the reports, stated above, and by the testimony of District Managers to the Committee. It will be very difficult for the Districts and other solid waste entities to fulfill requirements of Act 148 without additional financial support.

Thank you for your consideration in this matter.

Sincerely,

Thomas J Kennedy  
District Manager