



Chittenden Solid Waste District



ANNUAL
REPORT

FY18

FY 2018 ANNUAL REPORT

Chittenden Solid Waste District

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Mission: The Chittenden Solid Waste District (CSWD) is a municipality created by the State of Vermont to manage the solid waste generated within Chittenden County. Our primary focus is to use economically and environmentally sound methods to reduce and manage this stream.

Vision: Products are designed to be reused or recycled and our community fully participates in minimizing disposal and maximizing reuse and recycling.

A digital version of this Annual Report is available at www.cswd.net.

Cover photo: Shelburne Farms staff touring the MRF in April, 2018

ABOUT CSWD

In 1987 the Vermont Legislature passed Act 78, the state's first solid waste management law. This law began to address the need for better oversight and regulation of disposed materials. The law encouraged municipalities to create solid waste management entities — functioning much like a school or water district — to design regional solutions to solid waste challenges faced by member towns.

That same year, the charter for the Chittenden Solid Waste District was adopted by the legislature, and our work began.

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In FY18 you'll find CSWD serving over 160,000 people in the 18 municipalities that make up Chittenden County. We are the largest solid waste management entity in the state, serving about a quarter of the population of Vermont.

In addition to our facilities, our Outreach team offers guidance and tools to schools, businesses, and residents, and our Compliance team works within our community to ensure compliance with state and local regulations. Collectively, we continue to move our community towards our mission to reduce the volume and toxicity of the waste stream generated in our district.

FROM THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

Oh, the promise of a new year!

For CSWD, FY18 was all about research, learning, analyzing, talking with experts and colleagues in the field, and getting a handle on current best practices. In FY19, we're looking forward to finalizing that process and putting plans into motion.

Last fiscal year, CSWD staff engaged our Board of Commissioners in the first two strategic retreats in a series focused on three operations: Green Mountain Compost, the Drop-Off Centers (DOCs), and our recycling facility (called a Materials Recovery Facility, or MRF for short).

At retreats in January and June, we reviewed current practices, known deadlines, and daily operations for Green Mountain Compost and the DOCs. As a municipal body, it's our charge to provide the essential services our members need to responsibly manage their waste stream. We then asked one question to kick off the discussions at each retreat: Do we still want to be in the (Composting, DOC) business? Our Board's answer in each case was: Yes! Once that question was answered, we dove into each program:

Green Mountain Compost is the largest food scrap composter in the state (we received over 5,500 tons this year), and we're expecting the numbers to grow. Vermont-generated food scraps will be banned from being disposed in the landfill on July 1, 2020. We need to ensure that food scraps generated in Chittenden County by our residents, businesses, and visitors all have a place to go well into the future. The strategic retreat directed staff to ensure this facility remains sustainable by reducing our costs through maximizing efficiencies: Heading into FY19, we will be trimming our product line and examining reconfigurations at the Redmond Road site.



The Drop-Off Centers are working with aging infrastructure and space constraints. The retreat discussed how we can best meet minimum statewide requirements for accepting trash, "blue-bin" recyclables (paper, cardboard, and clean containers), yard debris and food scraps while also providing extra but important services for special recycling (batteries, electronics, tires, etc.). In short, we explored how we can better serve our customers—safely, efficiently, and economically.

In FY19, retreat number three will focus on the **Materials Recovery Facility (MRF)**, which was designed and built 25 years ago to process 50% of what we sort today. Like every other member of the global commodities community, we've been affected by the volatile overseas markets. Our solution? Focus on home. Make sure our residents, businesses, students and visitors—in short, you!—are as informed and engaged as possible and produce a high-quality product that will be in demand here in North America. To do that, we need a fresh start with modern sorting technology and room to grow.

Our staff is working as hard as ever, and our Board of Commissioners will have important decisions to make in the coming year. All our efforts are toward making our systems, operations, and programs sustainable and flexible for the next 20 years.

Your support of CSWD has yielded an amazing return in which we can all take pride. Now it's time to make investments in the future of solid waste management in Chittenden County for the benefit of all who live, work, and play in this unique corner of our remarkable state.

Sarah Reeves
Executive Director, CSWD

BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS

As of July 1, 2017

BOLTON

Rep: Duncan Galbraith

BURLINGTON

Rep: Rob Green
Alt: Jennifer Green

CHARLOTTE

Rep: Abby Foulk
Alt: Rachel Stein

COLCHESTER

Rep: Dirk Reith
Alt: Jeffrey Bartley

ESSEX

Rep: Alan Nye
Alt: Max Levy

ESSEX JUNCTION

Rep: Alan Nye
Alt: George Tyler

HINESBURG

Rep: Lynn Gardner
Alt: Doug Taff

HUNTINGTON

Rep: Roman Livak

JERICHO

Rep: Leslie Nulty
Alt: Bert Lindholm

MILTON

Rep: Donna Barlow Casey
Alt: Erik Wells

RICHMOND

Rep: Adam Sherman

ST. GEORGE

Rep: Nina Friscia
Alt: Maggie Kerrin

SHELBURNE

Rep: Timothy Loucks
Alt: Joe Colangelo

SOUTH BURLINGTON

Rep: Paul Stabler

UNDERHILL

Rep: Dan Steinbauer
Alt: Paul Ruess

WESTFORD

Rep: Michelle DaVia

WILLISTON

Rep: Craig Abrahams
Alt: Caylin McCamp

WINOOSKI

Rep: Ted Regula
Alt: Bryn Oakleaf

EXECUTIVE BOARD

Paul Stabler (Chair)

Michelle DaVia (Vice Chair)

Alan Nye (Treasurer/Secretary)

Craig Abrahams

Rob Green

BOARD CHAIR PERSPECTIVE

On behalf of the Board of Commissioners of the Chittenden Solid Waste District (CSWD), I present the annual Chair Report. After thirty years in operation, CSWD continues to provide effective and innovative waste management and recycling services to the residents and businesses of Chittenden County. In FY18, the District's total operating expenses were \$10.9M while operating revenues were \$11.4M for a net surplus of \$0.5M, continuing our long tradition of financially sound management. As always, our surplus is used wisely to further the mission of the District. Some of it will be used for much needed capital improvements, and some will be used to continue our outreach programs and provide support for our member communities.



In calendar year 2017, the amount of municipal solid waste (MSW) landfilled increased by 8.0% as compared to 2016. A large portion of the increase is likely a result of an improved economy. The tonnage of construction and demolition waste (C&D) disposed decreased by 11.1%, to the lowest amount since 1993 when tracking of disposal and diversion data began. The continued decrease in C&D disposed can be credited to the availability of private and public C&D recycling facilities in Chittenden County.

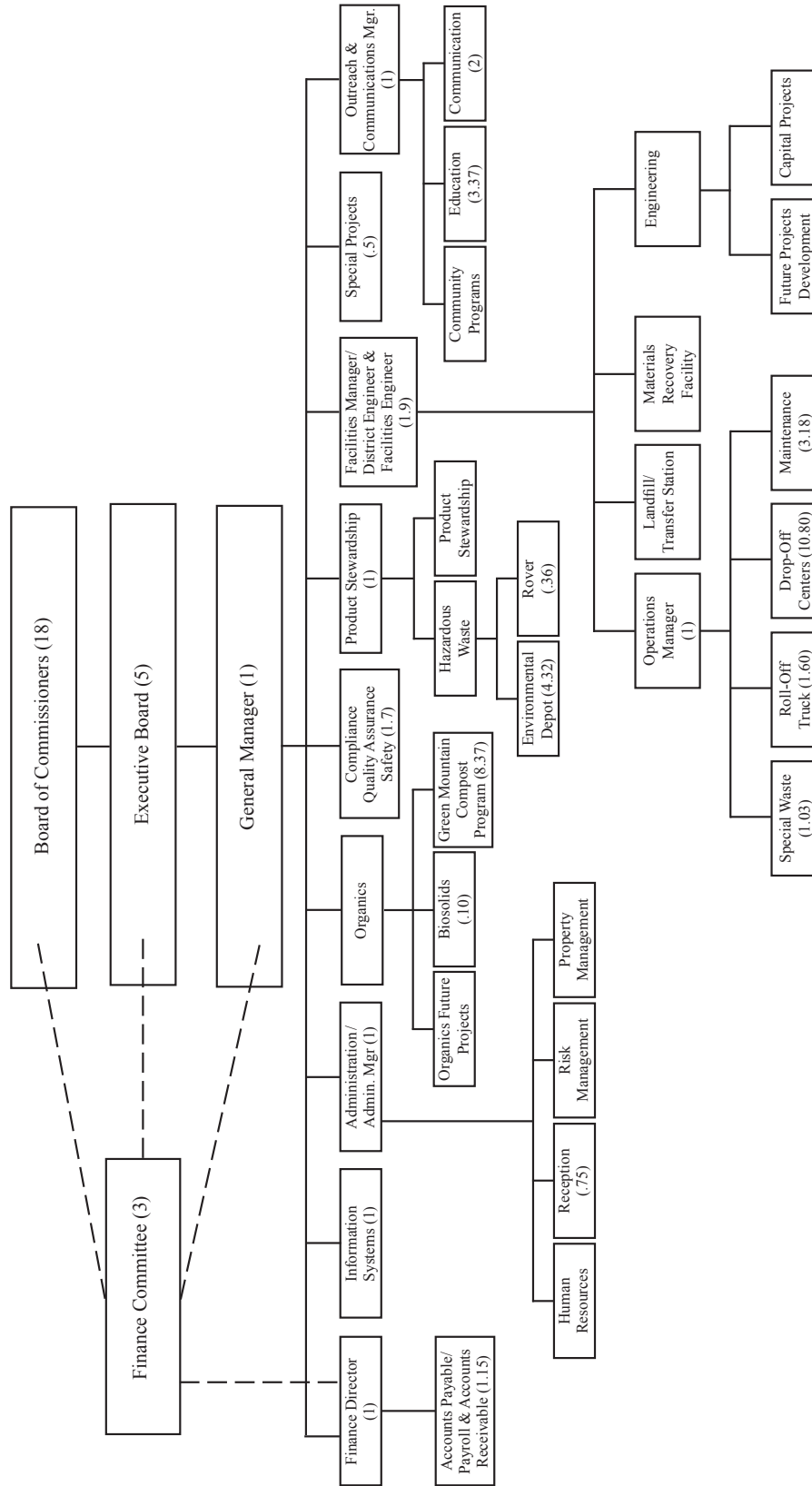
Our estimated recovery rate for mandatory recyclables, or, the portion of recyclables diverted from landfill disposal, rose to 69.1% in calendar year 2017, a slight increase over calendar year 2016. Our combined MSW and C&D diversion rate, which is the percentage of material we generate that is kept out of the landfill, was 61.6%, up from 61.2% in 2016. As the solid waste landscape evolves, CSWD continues to seek and develop innovative, reliable solutions. Whether investigating processing options to effectively manage future increases in food scrap diversion, engaging and educating the public at events through the popular Waste Warrior program, or evaluating the ability of our Drop-Off Centers to meet the needs of each member community, CSWD builds on lessons learned in its thirty-year history to adapt to the demands of an ever-changing future.

In closure, I can state unequivocally that the Chittenden Solid Waste District continues to serve the residents of Chittenden County with the best solid waste management program in the state of Vermont. The District enjoys a sound financial footing, a dedicated and visionary staff, and a Board of Commissioners that is committed to the mission of this District.

Paul Stabler
Chairperson
Board of Commissioners

ORGANIZATIONAL CHART

CSWD FY 2018 ORGANIZATIONAL CHART FULL-TIME EQUIVALENTS = 48.42



PROGRAM NEWS

ADMINISTRATION & FINANCE

The FY18 General Fund expenditures were \$10.9 million and the overall revenues were \$11.6 million, representing a \$344,000 increase in expenditures (3%) and an essentially level \$9,000 decrease in revenues compared with FY17.

Revenue was flat due to a significant drop in the price we received for recycled paper. This was offset by a significant increase in the tip fee for large loads of recyclables at the MRF and Solid Waste Management Fee revenue from increased trash tonnage. Increases in expenditures were largely due to higher fees for sludge and trash disposal and normal increases in salaries, wages, and benefits.

FACILITIES & OPERATIONS

DROP-OFF CENTERS

Owned & operated by CSWD, these convenient, one-stop facilities accept household quantities of blue-bin and special recycling, food scraps, trash, and more.

Blue-bin recycling collected at Drop-Off Centers dropped 2.8% to 2,964 tons in FY18, and household trash increased 5.5% to 6,060 tons over FY17.

MATERIALS RECOVERY FACILITY

Located in Williston and owned by CSWD, the “MRF” is operated by Casella Waste Management. The MRF sorts and prepares large loads of blue-bin recyclables — paper, cardboard, and clean containers — for sale to processors.

The MRF received 47,445 tons of material in FY18, a 0.3% increase from FY17. Roughly 7% was contaminated or improperly recycled material sent to the landfill. The weighted average sale price was \$86.54 per ton in FY18, a 19% decrease over the FY17 average, reflecting increased global turmoil.

ENVIRONMENTAL DEPOT

The Environmental Depot is CSWD’s year-round hazardous waste collection facility for residents and businesses, with support from The Rover, our mobile hazardous waste collection vehicle.

1,086 households and 700 businesses brought in 811,673 lbs. of hazardous waste for processing in FY18, a 19% increase over FY17. This included 9,138 gallons of latex paint re-blended and sold in Vermont as Local Color.

GREEN MOUNTAIN COMPOST

FY18 saw continuation of the trend of ever-increasing food residuals being diverted for composting at GMC: FY18 totals were 14% higher than FY17. A total of 14,864 tons of material was accepted for composting in FY18 including 5,876 tons of diverted food residuals.

Total post-consumer food scrap tonnages have increased 169% since FY11, up from a baseline of 2,130 tons when CSWD started operations at our facility in Williston. Bulk and bagged product sales grew around 15% over FY17, with strongest growth seen in both bulk and bagged compost sales.

The year to come will be the first of several years of transition, as the compost program shifts from a model of producing premium bagged products and many blends to a more traditional municipal compost model focused on maximizing organics diversion and production of high quality compost. Multiple options for expanding capacity will be investigated while the menu of product offerings is simplified.

OUTREACH & COMMUNICATIONS

MARKETING

We use brochures, media alerts, TV, radio and print ads, direct mail, email newsletters, blog posts and social media to promote our mission, programs and facilities to Chittenden County residents, businesses and visitors.

We continued our campaign focusing on construction & demolition debris recycling during FY18, and heavily promoted our recycling and compost facility tours as well as our free backyard composting workshops. General recycling and CSWD awareness ads rounded out our marketing efforts.

(continued on page 6)

OUTREACH & COMMUNICATIONS

MARKETING (CONTINUED)

Website stats, Vermont audience only: 79,139 unique users, 355,765 pageviews. Social media: During FY18, we reached 41,479 people with 189 posts via Facebook, and 42,683 people on Twitter with 135 tweets.

SCHOOL AND YOUTH OUTREACH programs reached more than 5,300 students and staff via 107 presentations, three waste audits, and 43 facility tours. Staff had direct contact at 36 of the District's 75 public and private K-12 schools.

COMMUNITY OUTREACH included 27 backyard composting workshops, 19 tours of CSWD facilities and six presentations to a total of 480 people.

EVENT OUTREACH programs trained 50 Waste Warriors who volunteered 382 hours educating guests at 32 events and provided on-site training to 50 additional event volunteers. Forty-three events borrowed 184 recycling and compost collection containers and used them to keep 1.4 tons of recyclables and 6.9 tons of compostables out of the landfill.

BUSINESS OUTREACH directed three waste audits, conducted 13 workplace presentations, and led four facility tours for local businesses and institutions. Staff provided direct assistance to more than 260 other businesses and distributed over 350 desk-side recycling bins and 80 food scrap buckets to business and non-profit workplaces at no charge.

Collectively, we provided more than 7,377 recycling and food scrap collection bins at no cost to recipients. We awarded \$10,749.75 in grant funding to 10 different entities (including a school district, a college, and a number of community groups and private businesses) for the purchase of specialized containers and waste stations to help keep recyclable and compostable materials out of the landfill.

OTHER PROGRAMS

COMMUNITY CLEAN UP FUND

This program helps members keep their communities litter-free throughout the year. CSWD member municipalities used \$13,720 in FY18.

COMPLIANCE

In FY18, we licensed 59 haulers (390 vehicles), 13 processing facilities, and 3 transfer stations. We completed 40 load check events (400 individual vehicle checks at three facilities) and assessed Banned Materials Fees on 60 loads. We conducted 32 construction site visits to provide education on managing demolition waste.

RESEARCH AND DEVELOPMENT

In FY18, our research and development efforts targeted recycling markets for hard-to-recycle products and packaging, MSW disposal trends, and consolidated collection of food scraps, recyclables, and trash.

GREEN UP DAY

CSWD provides funding and staff time to support Green Up Day efforts in Chittenden County. In FY18, CSWD contributed \$4,050 to Green Up VT on behalf of our member municipalities. In addition, CSWD waived \$6,416.50 in fees for illegally disposed tires collected on Green Up Day.

HAULER CONTAINER GRANTS

CSWD awarded \$6,557 to three haulers for 106 residential food scrap collection containers and 348 residential recycling carts. The haulers invested \$12,156 in the containers.

DIVERSION STATISTICS

In calendar year 2017, residents, businesses, and institutions in Chittenden County diverted over 171 million pounds of recyclables, organic materials, and special wastes, and over 196 million pounds of construction and demolition debris from the landfill.

BIOSOLIDS

CSWD brokered 15,360 wet tons of sewage sludge for our member communities in FY18, which is 6.5% more material than FY17. CSWD staff is continually investigating options for local treatment of sewage sludge from District members with a focus on removing phosphorus from member wastewater treatment plants. CSWD is in the fifth year of a 5-year contract with Casella Organics for sewage sludge disposal through FY18.

CSWD BY THE NUMBERS

Population

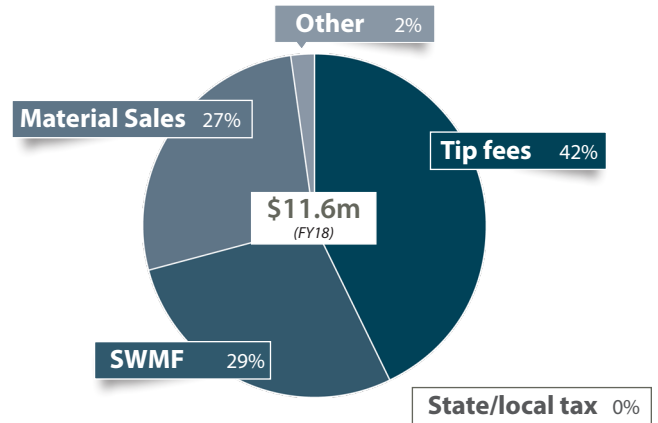
CHITTENDEN COUNTY, VT

166,357
residents

6,869
businesses

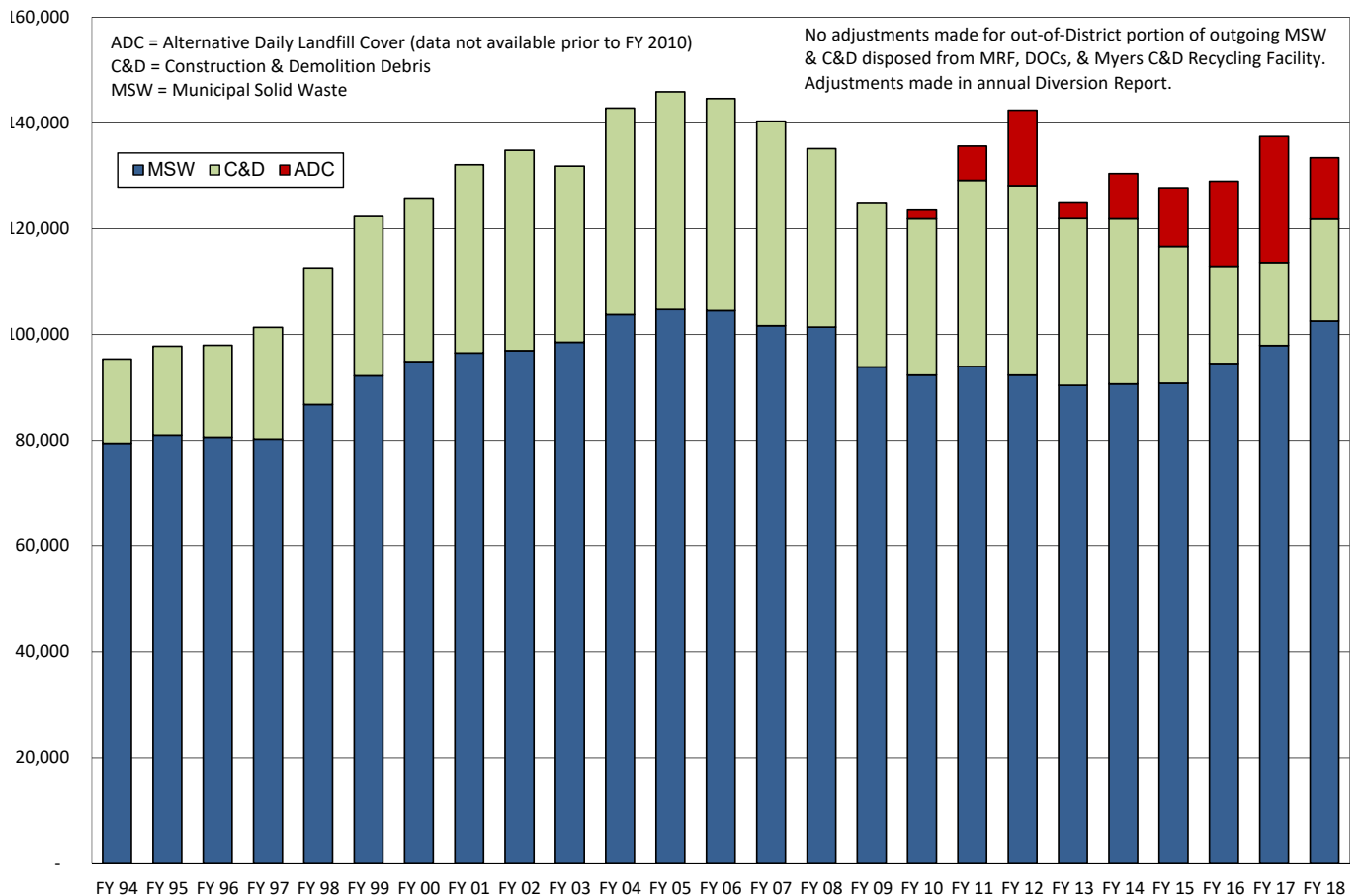


Funding



Disposal

Tons Landfilled or Incinerated By Fiscal Year 1994-2018



CHITTENDEN SOLID WASTE DISTRICT
STATEMENT OF NET POSITION
JUNE 30, 2018 AND 2017

(See Accountant's Compilation Report)

	2018 (Compiled)	2017 (Audited)
<u>ASSETS</u>		
Current Assets:		
Cash and Cash Equivalents	\$ 7,262,017	\$ 3,300,491
Investments	1,010,564	4,027,735
Receivables (Net of Allowance for Uncollectibles)	1,541,393	1,644,933
Inventories	374,666	420,985
Prepaid Expenses	170,231	202,968
	<u>10,358,871</u>	<u>9,597,112</u>
Total Current Assets		
Noncurrent Assets:		
Capital Assets:		
Land	5,290,801	5,290,801
Other Capital Assets (Net of Accumulated Depreciation)	7,285,855	7,904,208
	<u>12,576,656</u>	<u>13,195,009</u>
Total Noncurrent Assets		
	<u>22,935,527</u>	<u>22,792,121</u>
Total Assets		
<u>LIABILITIES</u>		
Current Liabilities:		
Accounts Payable	1,045,967	1,022,244
Accrued Payroll and Benefits Payable	130,582	110,051
Unearned Revenue	7,125	6,363
Security Deposits Payable	7,910	8,910
Accrued Interest Payable	1,889	6,630
Capital Leases Payable - Current Portion	37,714	95,925
Post-Closure Costs Payable - Current Portion	83,002	95,043
	<u>1,314,189</u>	<u>1,345,166</u>
Total Current Liabilities		
Noncurrent Liabilities:		
Compensated Absences Payable	182,038	174,993
Capital Leases Payable - Noncurrent Portion	47,426	342,940
Post-Closure Costs Payable - Noncurrent Portion	590,112	849,689
	<u>819,576</u>	<u>1,367,622</u>
Total Noncurrent Liabilities		
	<u>2,133,765</u>	<u>2,712,788</u>
Total Liabilities		
<u>NET POSITION</u>		
Net Investment in Capital Assets	12,491,516	12,756,144
Unrestricted	8,310,246	7,323,189
	<u>20,801,762</u>	<u>20,079,333</u>
Total Net Position		

The accompanying notes are an integral part of this financial statement.

CHITTENDEN SOLID WASTE DISTRICT
STATEMENT OF REVENUES, EXPENSES
AND CHANGES IN NET POSITION
FOR THE YEARS ENDED JUNE 30, 2018 AND 2017

(See Accountant's Compilation Report)

	2018 (Compiled)	2017 (Audited)
Operating Revenues:		
Tipping Fees	\$ 4,852,236	\$ 4,587,646
Solid Waste Management Fees	3,363,221	3,181,392
Sale of Materials	3,128,065	3,516,722
License Fees	15,991	17,638
Miscellaneous	9,623	7,095
Total Operating Revenues	11,369,136	11,310,493
Operating Expenses:		
Materials Recovery Facility	2,400,611	2,249,037
Waste Reduction Program	441,129	369,738
Green Mountain Compost Facility	1,417,326	1,312,758
Special Waste Facility	379,882	344,034
Drop-off Centers	2,250,876	2,156,098
Hazardous Waste Program	992,153	915,431
Biosolids Program	1,186,536	1,099,394
Special Projects	96,087	142,320
Future Project Development	43,730	35,445
Finance	74,440	61,782
Administration	185,326	177,988
Marketing and Communication	276,945	331,741
Enforcement	111,465	78,913
Property Management	73,661	80,751
Small Sitework and Building Construction/Repair	164,227	44,440
Change in Estimated Future Landfill Post-Closure Costs	(189,704)	240,133
Depreciation	948,179	868,570
Total Operating Expenses	10,852,869	10,508,573
Operating Income	516,267	801,920
Non-Operating Revenues/(Expenses):		
Rental Income	96,920	95,994
Investment Income	43,660	26,861
Interest Expense	(8,344)	(6,741)
Grant Income	85,271	82,677
Other Income	20,417	0
Net Gain/(Loss) on Disposal of Assets	(42,745)	46,240
Total Non-Operating Revenues/(Expenses)	195,179	245,031
Net Income Before Capital Contributions	711,446	1,046,951
Capital Contributions	10,983	0
Change in Net Position	722,429	1,046,951
Net Position - Beginning of Year	20,079,333	19,032,382
Net Position - End of Year	\$ 20,801,762	\$ 20,079,333

The accompanying notes are an integral part of this financial statement.



Chittenden Solid Waste District

www.cswd.net