DISPOSAL BANS OF ORGANICS
AND
VERMONT’S UNIVERSAL RECYCLING LAW

ASTSWMO JOINT TRAINING
AUGUST 2017

Cathy Jamieson, Solid Waste Program Manager
VT ANR Waste Management & Prevention Division
Moving from “waste”
Materials Management
THE PROBLEM

~50% of MSW could be recycled/composted

~60,000 tons/yr food disposed
Universal Recycling Law (Act 148)

- **GOAL:** To decrease the amount of waste disposed

- **STRATEGY:** To provide more consistent services statewide by increasing convenience, choices, and incentives for alternative disposal options

- **Highlights:**
  - Focuses on recyclables and organics
  - Phased-in approach to allow development of infrastructure
  - Organics Hierarchy
VT Universal Recycling Law Passed 2012

- **Required Diversion (bans) = Motivation**
  - Recyclables 2015
  - leaf, yard, and clean wood 2016
  - food scraps, phased in, 2020

- **Parallel Collection = Convenience**

- **Pay As You Throw = Incentive**

- **Recycling in Public Spaces = Lead by Example**

- **New State Plan = Consistency**
Universal Recycling  Food Hierarchy

Source Reduction

Food for People

Food for Animals

Composting & Anaerobic Digestion

Energy Recovery

Gleaning

Vermont Foodbank

Too Good To Waste
Food Scraps: Phased Approach

- Phases for larger food scrap generators, if there is a facility within 20 miles
  - 2014 > 104 tons/year 2 tons/wk
  - 2015 > 52 tons/year 1 ton/wk
  - 2016 > 26 tons/year 1/2 ton/wk
  - 2017 > 18 tons/year 1/3 ton/wk
  - 2020 all food scraps banned regardless of distance
NE Food Waste Disposal Bans

Connecticut:
2014  > 104 tons/year  > 2 tons/wk, if within 20 miles

Vermont:
2014 to 2017  Phased  >2 to 1/3 ton /wk, if within 20 miles
2020  all food scraps banned, regardless of distance

Massachusetts:
2014  > 52 tons/year  > 1 ton/wk, regardless of distance

Rhode Island:
2016  > 104 tons/year  > 2 tons/wk, if within 15 miles
2018  > 52 tons/year  > 1 ton /wk, if within 15 miles
Universal Recycling is Working!

- MSW: 8.5% decrease in disposal (2014 vs. 2016)
- Diversion up 3%, from 33% to 36%
- Food Rescue increased >40%
- Food scraps to composting facilities increased 15%
Indicators of Success: Food Rescue

- **MA:** more than 25,000 tons food donated annually
- **VT:** increase in food rescue >40%
- **Regionally:** Businesses and consumers pay more attention to wasted food
Indicators of Success: Infrastructure

**Wasted Food Hauling**
- Expansion, covering commercial businesses, some residential

**Depackaging Equipment**
- 5 in MA and 1 in CT

**Composting**
- Expansion of existing facilities,
- Two new ones in VT this year

**Anaerobic Digestors**
- **MA:** 175K tons AD capacity,
  - 140K & 100K tons new capacity ramping up
- **VT:** 17 existing farm ADs, many take food processing waste,
  - 2 taking food scraps, new AD proposed
- **RI:** new AD capacity this year
New Anaerobic Digester

Orbit Energy-Johnston, RI
Indicators of Success: Economic

- **MA Study:**
  - jobs increased 150% between 2010-2016 for organics hauling, processing, and food rescue
  - More than $50M in related planned investments

- **NY Study:** Wasted Food costs the state ~$41M and waste reduction and diversion could save $15-22M

- **VT informal study:** ~73 jobs (hauling, processing food scraps, making and delivering compost)
Challenges

Funding for Infrastructure
   Example AD requires feedstock guarantee to finance

Organics Hauling with Rural economies of scale

End markets for compost and other fertility products (digestate)
Stay Tuned!

Website -- www.vtrecycles.com

cathy.jamieson@Vermont.gov
802.522.5938

Follow us on Facebook, Twitter, & Instagram
@VTrecycles