

## Fact Sheet: CSWD's New Materials Recovery Facility

8/19/22

### What

CSWD is planning a new, municipally owned Materials Recovery Facility (MRF—rhymes with “surf”) to replace the outdated and undersized MRF on Avenue C in Williston, built in 1993. CSWD's MRF sorts and prepares 53% of Vermont's “blue-bin” recyclables to be sold into the market to be used in place of virgin resources to make new products.

### Why

The current MRF is at capacity and has no room to expand or upgrade. It is inefficient and limits the amount Vermonters can recycle. Built nearly 30 years ago, the current MRF can no longer keep up with modern packaging and the recycling needs of today. Additionally, the facility provides difficult working conditions for employees.

### Benefits

#### **The new MRF will:**

- Be more efficient and effective, providing affordable, in-state processing for Vermonters' recycling for decades to come.
- Be equipped with modern technology to separate recyclables more efficiently and effectively.
- Be built with enough capacity—40% more than the current MRF--and flexibility to adopt future innovations and to adapt to changes in packaging over the next 30 years.
- Be able to process up to 70,000 tons (140 million pounds) of recyclables every year.
- Be better equipped to manage the vastly diversified packaging formats that didn't exist in the 20th century, such as flat can carriers.
- Enable Vermonters to save up to 634,000 trees from being cut down annually and reduce greenhouse gas emissions equivalent to removing 52,500 passenger vehicles from the road, conserving nearly 28 million gallons of gas each year.
- Be municipally owned, continuing to serve without profit as a motive, keeping fees as low as possible and recycling more types of materials even when not profitable.
- Be cleaner, brighter, and better ventilated, providing improved conditions for ~21 workers.
- Create new, higher skilled positions to run the more sophisticated equipment.

### Project Stats

**Location:** CSWD-owned property on Redmond Road in Williston. This MRF serves all of Chittenden County plus roughly 160,000 other northern Vermont residents.

**Design Capacity:** 50,000 – 70,000 tons annually (current MRF design capacity: 25,000 tons annually; currently processing ~47,000 tons annually)

## Cost and Funding

**Project Capital Cost:** \$22-\$26 million

**Funding:** CSWD will be asking Chittenden County voters to approve a bond of \$22 million in the November 2022 election. CSWD will repay the bond from operating revenue—sale of recyclables and “tip fees” charged to haulers to drop off recyclables for processing at the MRF. **This bond will not impact taxes.**

**Payback period:** 25 years.

Source of Funds	Amount
VT Municipal Bond Bank	\$16,000,000
Closed Loop Fund loan	\$6,000,000
CSWD Contribution*	\$3,500,000
The Recycling Partnership grant	\$500,000
TOTAL	\$26,000,000

\*Less potential EPA grant funding

## Timeline

November 2022	Voter Approval
January - October 2023	Permitting/Design
November 2023 – October 2024	Sitework/Construction
October 2024 - March 2025	Equipment Installation
April-May 2025	Equipment Acceptance Testing,
May-June 2025	Startup and Training
July 2025	Opening

## How to Vote on the MRF Bond

1. After August 31: Go Vermont’s [My Voter Page](#) and request to have the ballot mailed to you.
2. After August 31: Request a ballot from your town clerk.
3. On Tuesday, November 8, 2022: In person at your local Chittenden County voting location.

### Contact:

Michele Morris, Dir. of Marketing & Communications  
[mmorris@cswd.net](mailto:mmorris@cswd.net); 802-598-5625 (voice or text)