



# Colchester

VERMONT

Supplement to  
93rd Annual Town  
& School Report  
July 1, 2013 -  
June 30, 2014



Frank Cioffi, President  
Ernie Pomerleau, Chair  
[www.gbicvt.org](http://www.gbicvt.org)

## **Greater Burlington Industrial Corporation (GBIC)**

Over the past year the Town of Colchester and its residents have benefited in several ways from GBIC's initiatives. GBIC has worked with value-added and manufacturing businesses located in Colchester, like Hazelett, Champlain Cable, Hayward Tyler, Polhemus, VIP and others, to facilitate their growth, and to ensure that their needs are met so that they are able to continue to provide high-paying jobs in Chittenden County. GBIC continues to work with the state and local government to strengthen the local economy and provide jobs for all residents.

GBIC also continued to work closely in cooperation with Vermont Technology Council and the Vermont Center for Emerging Technology (VCET) to develop the young businesses with dynamic growth potential to provide the future job opportunities for Colchester and the region.

GBIC has worked on many initiatives for the benefit of our County and our region. In partnership with the Chittenden County Regional Planning Commission, GBIC updated the new Comprehensive Economic Development Strategy (CEDS) for Chittenden County. Updating the CEDS makes our county EDA compliant and potentially enables Chittenden County organizations and municipalities to apply for and receive up to 50% federal funding for projects that directly aid and support economic development. Working closely with municipalities and communities to ensure the inclusion of qualifying projects is an important component of building a meaningful CEDS.

### **Regional Contacts**

During the past year GBIC conducted 72 visits/contacts with our region's high value-added businesses and essential organizations and institutions critical to economic development in Northwestern Vermont and statewide. Our business visits/contacts during the past twelve months involved companies employing over 20,000 Vermonters.

### **Vermont Training Program**

GBIC facilitated the award of contracts from the Vermont Training Program with Chittenden County businesses. These contracts served to train new employees and retrain incumbent workers, and greatly contributed to our continued regional economic development.

### **Vermont Economic Development Authority**

In FY14, twenty four area businesses applied to VEDA for financing, resulting in over \$11,800,000 dollars worth of VEDA commercial loans being closed in Chittenden County.

### **Vermont Employment Growth Incentive Program**

In FY14, GBIC facilitated, through the Vermont Economic Progress Council, the approval of Vermont Employment Growth Incentive awards totaling over \$3,700,000 for six businesses in the Chittenden County region.

### **Government Affairs**

The vibrant partnership between GBIC and the Lake Champlain Regional Chamber of Commerce continues to provide top notch legislative advocacy for the economic backbone of our region. In addition to tracking and providing input on issues, we proposed a number of ideas to help our region, our employers and their employees succeed. We are pleased to report that many of those ideas were not only enacted, but embraced by the Legislature.



## CHAMPLAIN WATER DISTRICT

Dedicated to Quality Water & Service | First In The Nation:  
Excellence In Water Treatment | Partnership For Safe Water



### MANAGEMENT LETTER - 2014

Champlain Water District (CWD) is a regional municipal organization supplying drinking water and fire protection to the following (12) municipal water systems: South Burlington, Shelburne, Williston, Essex, Essex Junction, Village of Jericho, Winooski, Milton, Colchester Fire District #1, Colchester Fire District #3, Colchester Town, and the Malletts Bay Water Company since 1973. This past year CWD celebrated our 15th anniversary of continuing to maintain the Partnership for Safe Water Program's Excellence in Water Treatment Award criteria. CWD was the first water supplier in North America to receive the Excellence in Water Treatment Award in 1999, and is presently one of 13 water utilities that have attained this level of water treatment optimization, which signifies continuous performance protective of public health. CWD has maintained this level of excellence through successful submission of a comprehensive annual report that is reviewed for water quality test results, as well as demonstration and documentation of the operational tenacity toward continued quality improvement as required by the Partnership for Safe Water Program. The Partnership for Safe Water program utility membership collectively serves a total population of 85 million people, or nearly two-thirds of the U.S. citizens using surface water as the drinking water source.

Over the past year CWD has steadily continued its efforts toward completion of its Twenty-Year Master Plan reported by Dufresne & Associates in September 2002. This past fiscal year CWD's accomplishments are as follows:

- Continued to manage a long term asset management contract with Utility Services Company Inc. for on-going inspection, maintenance, and rehabilitation of (14) of CWD's welded steel water storage tanks
- Completed the interior and exterior rehabilitation and recoating of two water storage tanks in South Burlington and Essex
- Completed the installation of an upgrade to CWD's County-wide security surveillance system
- Completed the construction for the relocation of a meter vault on the Colchester/Winooski boundary
- Continued design work on two water transmission main relocation projects dictated by upcoming Vermont Agency of Transportation roadway projects in Colchester
- As part of our ongoing annual capital program, a deep bed multimedia filter was rebuilt, along with interior pipe reconditioning at the water treatment facility
- Completed construction of the replacement of two treatment process additive systems at the water treatment facility
- Completed construction of a mezzanine within CWD's Plant Cold Storage Building for additional inventory storage capacity
- Continued coordination of expanded water storage at Water Tower Hill for multiple served water systems' future needs
- Continued CWD's replacement program for Supervisory Control and Data Acquisition (SCADA) units that bring in critical county wide information to the treatment control facility, as well as upgrading specific process control technology for redundancy and reliability reasons
- Continued investment with Efficiency Vermont to optimize daily energy usage and reduce overall annual electrical costs
- Continued to serve as the Vermont Training Center for the New England Water Works Association
- Continued implementation of a long term asset management database system for all CWD property, plant, and equipment
- Continued enhancement of emergency response planning via training and collaboration with Vermont Emergency Management and the Department of Homeland Security
- Continued the documentation process toward executing infrastructure ownership Memoranda of Understanding with all served municipal water systems

We thank our employees and elected officials for their effort, support, and dedication in allowing CWD to be proactively managed and operated to supply a drinking water product protective of public health. As always, we welcome groups of any size to tour our facility. Please call 864-7454 to arrange a tour, or if you have questions, or need further information on Champlain Water District.

Tom Besette, Chair CWD Board of Water Commissioners

Jim Fay, CWD General Manager

## CHITTENDEN SOLID WASTE DISTRICT

July 2013 - June 2014

CSWD owns and oversees 10 solid waste or recycling facilities in Chittenden County for its 18 member municipalities. A Board of Commissioners, who sets policy and oversees financial matters, governs CSWD. One Commissioner is appointed by each member community.

THE BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS OFFICERS include: Chair Paul Stabler of South Burlington; Vice Chair Michelle DaVia of Westford, and Secretary/Treasurer Alan Nye of Essex. EXECUTIVE BOARD MEMBERS include Paul Stabler, of South Burlington, Michelle DaVia of Westford, Alan Nye of Essex, Craig Abrahams of Williston, and Chapin Spencer of Burlington. CSWD GENERAL MANAGER is Thomas Moreau.

### **FINANCES:**

The unaudited FY14 General Fund expenditures were \$8.31 million and the revenues were \$9.23 million. This represents a \$63,000 decrease in expenditures (0.9%) and an \$834,000 (9.9%) increase in revenues compared with the FY13 General Fund operating results. The primary factor in the expenditure decrease is the lower costs associated with persistent herbicides in Green Mountain Compost (GMC) products in FY14 as compared with FY13. These lower costs were partially offset by cost increases in several other programs, most notably the Drop-Off Centers (DOC) and the Materials Recovery Facility (MRF). Of the \$834,000 revenue increase for FY14 over the prior year, \$530,000 is Solid Waste Management Fee revenues. While the tonnage of material subject to this fee increased only 1% over FY13, the revenue is up almost 20%, because the per-ton rate was increased from \$22.06 to \$27.00 effective September 1, 2013 (two months after the start of FY14). Also, DOC revenues were \$190,000 higher (11%) in FY14 vs. FY13, primarily due to tip fee rate increases that went into effect at the start of FY14.

### **SIGNIFICANT CHANGES/EVENTS:**

In FY14, CSWD's major initiatives were: 1) to continue to work on the Consolidated Collection proposal that weighs the advantages and disadvantages of municipal contracts for trash collection in Chittenden County and hold public information meetings with citizens and our member communities; 2) to work in the Vermont Legislature towards the passage of Act 175 that mandates the recycling of certain construction and demolition materials that have established markets and meet minimum tonnage and proximity to facilities requirements; 3) to assist in the passage of a battery product stewardship bill by the Vermont Legislature that will facilitate the recycling of these items throughout the state; 4) to complete work on a consultant study evaluating residential curbside collection of organics in terms of economic and environmental impacts for various scenarios; 5) to oversee a contract to upgrade the equipment at our Materials Recovery Facility (MRF) and to negotiate a revised operations contract; 6) to implement a higher solid waste management fee (5-year projection) due to lower trash volumes subject to our fee; 7) to prepare a succession plan for a new General Manager due in early 2016; and 8) to initiate a new 5-year strategic plan.

## ONGOING OPERATIONS:

**DROP-OFF CENTERS** located in Burlington, Essex, South Burlington, Milton, Williston, Richmond, and Hinesburg are available to District members who prefer to self-haul their trash and recyclables. Drop-Off Centers collected 3,116 tons of recyclables, a decrease of 0.38% from FY13, and 6,326 tons of household trash during FY14, a 0.11% increase from FY13.

The **MATERIALS RECOVERY FACILITY** in Williston is owned by CSWD and privately operated by Casella Waste Management. In FY14, 40,465 tons of recyclables were collected, sorted, baled, and shipped to markets. This represents a 1.43% increase from the previous year. The average sale price for materials was \$93.75 per ton, which is a 1.96% decrease over last year's average.

The **ENVIRONMENTAL DEPOT** and the **ROVER** are CSWD's hazardous waste collection facilities for residents and businesses. In FY14, 9,435 households and 670 businesses brought in 605,817 pounds of waste that were collected and processed at these facilities. This included 63,390 pounds (6,339 gallons) of latex paint re-blended and sold as "Local Color", 8,082 pounds of leftover products given away through the "Hazbin" reuse program, and 128,000 pounds (12,800 gallons) of latex paint processed for recycling in Canada and Illinois.

FY14 was a good year for CSWD's COMPOST facility. Spring 2014 marked the first time in over a year that bulk compost was available for sale to the public following the discovery of persistent herbicides in compost in 2012. Customers reported great results from growing in the new batches of compost and topsoil. Staff continued their efforts to research and educate around the presence of persistent herbicides in commercial composts everywhere. Ongoing testing and recipe modifications have translated into abundant saleable very high quality material. FY14 marked the launch of bag-your-own compost which extends the convenience of purchasing compost to customers with smaller gardens and no means of hauling large volumes. Compost inputs have continued to increase steadily as awareness around compost continues to spread and large generators are mandated to divert materials through Vermont's new Universal Recycling law. FY15 will mark a return of compost to garden centers as well as a return of the complete bagged product line. A total of 9,684 tons of material was accepted for composting in FY14 which included 3,629 tons of diverted food.

CSWD brokered 13,784 wet tons of sewage sludge for our member communities in FY14, which is 1.7% more material than last year. Most of the sewage sludge generated from the Essex Junction WWTF was landfilled over FY 14 due to a plant upgrade. The City of South Burlington's thermo-meso anaerobic digestion, 2PAD system, generated class "A" product which was distributed to local farms for land application, beneficial reuse, starting in October of FY 14. CSWD entered a 5-year contract with Casella Organics to send at minimum 78% of the sludge brokered by the district to a beneficial reuse facility called Grasslands, located in Chateaugay, NY. The BIOSOLIDS program is also looking at a sludge characterization study to optimize the beneficial reuse of the districts material for the future of the program.

## MARKETING –

CSWD participated in a state-wide working group that developed symbols and language for communicating Act 148 mandates consistently statewide. The group was made up of Solid Waste Management (SWM) entity staff, ANR staff, and interested stakeholders, including some haulers.

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We turned our attention to upgrading our event waste reduction toolkit to include more clear information, better tools, and fresh ways of getting people interested in putting on waste-free events. Every two years we send out an encyclopedic booklet detailing how to best dispose of recyclables, compostables, reusables and trash. The 2014-2016 book went out at the end of June, 2014.

We focused on how to revive the Green Mountain Compost brand after a two-year hiatus on the heels of the discovery that persistent herbicides had found their way into our compost. That two years was spent working with state and federal regulators, the chemical industry, and experts from around the country to set up a firewall of sorts to prevent a reoccurrence. Our transparent treatment of the issue has helped maintain our customers' trust. Our new protocols, testing, and on-site growth trials have yielded compost that we can stand behind with confidence, leaving us well positioned to reenter the market in Fall 2014.

Our part-time Web & Marketing Specialist position became full-time, which led our current specialist, Veronika Travis, to depart so she could focus more fully on her career path as a pastor. We wish her well as we crack into over a hundred resumes to find the best fit for the position.

A variety of EDUCATIONAL PROGRAMS and tools are available to assist residents, schools, municipalities, organizations, and businesses to reduce and properly manage their wastes. The CSWD Hotline (872-8111); Website: ([www.cswd.net](http://www.cswd.net)), e-newsletter, presentations, technical assistance, displays, workshops, facility tours, informational brochures, recycling bins and compost collectors (9,100 distributed), signage, discount compost bins, special event container loans, and grants (\$8,500 awarded) are part of this positive community outreach.

Thousands of employees, residents, students, and others were impacted by CSWD's business, school and youth, and community outreach programs.

RESEARCH AND DEVELOPMENT efforts, which have dual goals of reducing the amount of waste generated and landfilled along with making programs more convenient and cost-effective, focused on recycling and composting incentives and collection, trash collection systems, and markets for recyclables.

CSWD provides funding and staff time to support GREEN UP DAY efforts in Chittenden County. In May, 38 tons of litter, 2,648 tires, and 6.5 cubic yards of scrap metal were collected. CSWD covered the \$6,200 cost for recycling the tires and waived its fee on disposed litter. CSWD also contributed \$4,050 to Green Up Vermont on behalf of its member municipalities for bags, posters, and promotion. The COMMUNITY CLEAN UP FUND helps members keep their communities clean and litter free throughout the year. \$4,600 were expended by CSWD's member municipalities.





## July 2013 - June 2014 Annual Report

*The Lake Champlain Regional Chamber of Commerce advocates for a thriving private sector economy and works toward the collective prosperity of our members, their employees and our communities.*

The Chamber has many highlights to celebrate as we look back on the past year. We continued to help our members grow their businesses, provided cost savings to businesses and their employees and enhanced our community through both our programming and events. The Chamber served as a navigator organization for the roll-out of Vermont Health Connect and through that work helped countless businesses and employees understand the changes and get the information they needed to make informed decisions. Chamber Vice President for Public Affairs, Cathy Davis, joined Green Mountain Care Board Chair Al Gobeille at the Hampton Inn for a Colchester Community Development Corporation meeting in the spring to talk about Vermont's health care reform efforts to date and plans for the future.

The Chamber also hosted two of our popular events at businesses in Colchester. Our annual spring event at Saba Marine in Colchester featured a fun, surf rock band, great food and the opportunity to mingle while shopping for your next boat! This summer we brought members to BEVO's new event space in Colchester for a Cuban-themed event. We believe in the more, the merrier so keep up to date on our events at [www.vermont.org/events](http://www.vermont.org/events) and join us in 2015!

A large part of the Chamber's work focused on advocacy because we believe that with a thriving private sector comes the strong community we all value. The Chamber's two full-time lobbyists work to help legislators understand the value Vermont's businesses bring to our state and the connection between good jobs and economic prosperity. We were pleased to facilitate a tour of Hazelett Strip Casting in Colchester for the Senate Economic Development Committee this spring. The Senators had the opportunity to learn about Hazelett and speak with a number of employees.

Finally, Melissa Dever with C2 (formerly Competitive Computing) joined the Chamber's Board of Directors this year. C2 is located in Colchester at Water Tower Hill. They help clients achieve competitive advantage through the use of emerging technology solutions.

For more information on the Lake Champlain Regional Chamber of Commerce please visit [www.vermont.org/chamber](http://www.vermont.org/chamber) or give us a call at 802-863-3489.



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We want to thank the Town of Colchester for all its support during the past fiscal year and to request inclusion in the FY 2015 budget at the same level. As requested, I am forwarding some highlights of our collaboration:

- Each year we collaborate with Colchester High School to facilitate their Great Decisions program under the auspices of the Foreign Policy Association.
- In May Executive Director Dr. Gail Stevenson spoke with students in Jim Price's AP History class about the Middle East.
- In June a group of Kyrgyz educators met with Lauren Wooden of the Champlain Valley Educator Development Center (CVEDC)

Of course, we host countless events at and with Saint Michael's College and also collaborate with the Islamic Society of Vermont and the Vermont National Guard.

Almost half of our support comes from the community, so the support of the Town of Colchester and other members of the community is critical to the work of the VCWA. I would also add that the 3-month sequestration in the fall of 2013 meant that we hosted no international visitors for several months, but we are now back with renewed vigor and look forward to more engagement. We thank you again for your commitment to face-to-face diplomacy and to bringing the world to Vermont and Vermont to the world.

Yours very sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Gail Stevenson". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.