Small States – Big Players

Rhode Island’s and Vermont’s MRF Ownership Experiences

SARAH REEVES
Executive Director, Chittenden Solid Waste District
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Rhode Island Resource Recovery Corporation

Chittenden Solid Waste District

Maps found at gisgeography.com
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Similarities

- State chartered municipal entities
- Own the MRF property
- Own the MRF assets
- Revenue generated by selling sorted recyclables
- Sell recyclables through a broker
- Statewide mandatory recycling
- Strong education and outreach programs
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Differences

Rhode Island

- RI – One MRF
- No Tip Fee
- Own and Operate
- MRF employees are RIRRC employees
- Statutory Flow Control
- Subsidized by landfill revenue

Vermont

- VT – Two MRFs (1 public, 1 private)
- Tip Fee
- 3rd Party operator
- Drop-Off Center network
- Enterprise fund
Practical Matters

CSWD – To Build or Not to Build?

• State/Local laws
• Available property
• Volume and Type of materials
• Staffing capacity
• Funding capacity – Bond necessary
• Access to markets
• The bottom line – Will this be affordable to the community?
Questions to Ask

*Before you go too far down the road…*

Q: What is the problem my city/town needs to solve?
Q: Does my community want this? Is the political will there?
Q: What is my timeline? Can we afford the time needed to research, bid, construct, etc?
Q: What do the preliminary numbers say? Is net neutral OK, or are we expected to “turn a profit”?
Sarah Reeves
sreeves@cswd.net
(802) 872-8100 x209