

SUJATA GAUTAM - OUTREACH & EDUCATION SPECIALIST



Sujata is serving at the [Lamoille Regional Solid Waste Management District](#) for the second year in a row! She was able to use the time typically allotted to training for the service position as a chance to shadow her colleagues at the District in their day to day work. Sujata has learned a lot about how the District team works together to manage solid waste efficiently and effectively. An exciting development in the District is the potential of a new recycling facility in Stowe. Sujata has been able to assist with this project from an engineering stand-point, since her background is in civil and environmental engineering. She has been meeting with a board member, Charles Cooley, to discuss materials design for the new recycling facility. Thus far she is collecting data within the district on amount of material types that are collected as well as what materials would be the most profitable for the district to bale in their new facility. The Lamoille Regional SWMD currently sends all their collected materials to the Materials Recycling Facility in Williston, VT, therefore, having a facility of their own would allow them to avoid extra transportation and processing costs. Coming up on November 15th is America Recycles Day so Sujata has reached out to teachers in the district to ask if they would like a recycling workshop in their classroom that week. She has received so many requests for her workshop that she has had to start scheduling them for the week after as well! Another workshop that Sujata is developing is called Demystifying Waste. Demystifying Waste workshops are for community members to learn about the nuances of recycling and waste management so that they can recycle confidently. In 2020 the law will require that all Vermonters separate their food scraps from their trash so that they do not end up in the landfill. Sujata is in the middle of conversations with multifamily housing units to help connect these developments to the right resource in order to compensate for these changes in the law. Not that Sujata doesn't already have a lot on her plate, but she is also managing a volunteer group called Lamoille Waste Warriors. Waste Warriors are able to assist the District in a number of ways: tabling at events to answer questions, monitoring disposal stations at large events, and even writing blogs and articles for the District's website and social media platforms! Sujata is very happy to be able to serve another year at LRSWMD and is excited about the opportunities she has as a second-year member.