

## Report Responsiveness Summary

### To Comments on the 2023 Biennial Report on Solid Waste 1987 Act 78, 10 V.S.A. §6604(b)

On Tuesday November 8, 2022, the Agency of Natural Resources (ANR), Department of Environmental Conservation (DEC) posted the Draft 2023 Biennial Report on Solid Waste (the Report) on its website for public comment under public comment requirements. This Report is submitted in compliance with Act 78, 10 V.S.A. §6604(b), enacted in 1987, by which the Vermont General Assembly charged the Secretary of the ANR with submitting a report regarding the volume, amount, and toxicity of Vermont's solid waste stream. In making recommendations, the Secretary is directed to consider both legislative and voluntary mechanisms for reducing waste, and to post the draft Report for 45 days. A draft of this Report was posted for a 45-day public comment period prior to filing with the Legislature. ANR received four sets of comments, from the Lamoille Regional Solid Waste Management District, Greater Upper Valley Solid Waste Management District, and a letter from the following legislators (Senator Starr, Rep. Higley, Rep. Labor, Rep. Page, Rep. Sims, Rep. Smith, and Rep. Templeman).

1. **COMMENT:** We wish to begin by recognizing the work that the House and Senate Committees on Natural Resources has completed with its Draft Legislative Report titled "2023 Biennial Report on Solid Waste", dated 11/08/2022. The report will be officially reported out on 01/16/2023. This draft report raises several key points such as the need to decrease waste generation as well as the importance of planning for the selection of future disposal sites around the state.

**RESPONSE:** The 2023 Biennial Report on Solid Waste is a document created by the Agency of Natural Resources for the Vermont Legislature.

2. **COMMENT:** As you know, the issue of finding another landfill within the state has been an item of importance to many residents who live, work, and recreate within the Northeast Kingdom. We urge your agency to seek the necessary funding for the key takeaways that are mentioned within the draft report.

**RESPONSE:** The Agency is currently exploring waste reduction strategies with a small stakeholder group with resulting recommendations expected in early 2023. Funding could certainly help identify feasible landfill sites within the state, however, as previous ANR reports have shown, the challenge comes with building and operating landfills.

3. **COMMENT:** Also, on the reverse under discussion it is worth elaborating on "researching feasible disposal sites" as well as a plan for reduction in waste.

**RESPONSE:** ANR has made changes to the Report in response to this comment.

4. **COMMENT:** I read the draft of the very concise Biennial Report on Solid Waste and thought perhaps it would be valuable to include information on EPR for paper and packaging. This is not out of the blue and something many legislators have grappled with at some level in the past and will hopefully be on the docket in the near future.

**RESPONSE:** ANR has made changes to the Report in response to this comment.

5. **COMMENT:** KEY TAKEAWAYS, Bullet #3 - "...producer responsibility MUST help manage..."

**RESPONSE:** ANR appreciates this sense of urgency and the significant HHW cost burden municipal solid waste management entities are experiencing currently.

6. **COMMENT:** DISCUSSION, PFAS - "These persistent chemicals...and municipalities to treat (for) in drinking water..." Is the "for" necessary?

**RESPONSE:** The "for" is necessary, since it is the water, not the chemicals, that is being treated.

7. **COMMENT:** DISCUSSION, HHW COSTS - I think there needs to be funding for effective public education regarding the purchase of non-toxic alternatives to cleaners, fertilizers, and pesticides. Every Vermont resident must be made aware of the disposal cost and environmental consequences of these products. (GUVSWMD received today an invoice for **\$56,000** for our 4-hour HHW collection in September.)

**RESPONSE:** One of the ANR Performance Standards in the 2019 MMP is a "statewide outreach campaign promoting the reduction in use of hazardous products and encouraging proper disposal." ANR staff are considering options for outreach on this topic.