



## WINDHAM SOLID WASTE MANAGEMENT DISTRICT

### 327 OLD FERRY ROAD, BRATTLEBORO, VT 05301

PRESS RELEASE

Earth Day 2025

Brattleboro, VT

The Windham Solid Waste Management District is hosting a grand opening of its new state-of-the-art food scrap and organic materials composting facility on Thursday May 8 at 3 PM. Michelle Cherrier, Chair of WSWMD Board of Supervisors and Dummerston's representative, will be the master of ceremonies. Her welcome will be followed by remarks by local and state officials. A tour of the facility will be offered, as well as refreshments in the District conference room. The monthly meeting of the Board of Supervisors will start at 5 PM. Participants in the grand opening not staying for the board meeting can leave by 4:30 if they wish.

Michelle Cherrier characterized the compost facility "as possibly the most important development since the creation of the District in 1995." She said that the \$750,000 capital investment was brought about without the District incurring long-term debt thanks to a Vermont Agency of Natural Resources grant of \$277,000, a USDA grant of \$150,000, \$9,000 from the Brattleboro Development Credit Corporation, and \$305,000 from District surplus revenue. "The facility is providing a valuable service by recycling food scraps, which are banned from landfill disposal by Vermont Act 148. Trash haulers have developed new business to collect and haul organics to the District composting facility, and they are major partners in this venture which started in 2012 at the request of the Town of Brattleboro and Triple T Trucking, prior to the state mandate" she said.

Bob Spencer, Executive Director of WSWMD, stated that attendees of the grand opening will be given a tour of the facility to see how heat and moisture from active compost piles is captured and directed to new compost piles to jump start the process. "This facility is using a technology known as compost aeration and heat recovery (CAHR) from Agrilab Technologies, a company based in Enosburg Falls, VT," he explained. "The accelerated composting process allows the District to more than double the permitted capacity of the facility on the 3-acre parcel adjacent to the District's 5 MW solar array constructed on the closed landfill."

Brian Jerosé, President, and Co-Founder of Agrilab Technologies, said that while the company has over 20 installations on farms, commercial and institutional sites, this is the company's first municipal facility. "We were pleased to have been selected by WSWMD to provide our equipment and services. This system should produce compost more efficiently, increase total capacity, and give operators more process data and control," he said.

Spencer said another benefit of the facility is the production of "Brattlegrow Compost" as well as a topsoil blend which are sold to 5 distributors in Vermont and New Hampshire. The compost and topsoil blend are used in gardens and lawns. "Organic materials are the only recyclable materials that is reused locally since other products are shipped to distant processing facilities," he said.

Spencer acknowledged the support received from state legislators, and the Vermont Agency of Natural Resources in obtaining financing and permits for the facility. In addition to Agrilab Technologies, the other construction contractors were Zaluzny Excavating and Clear Span fabric buildings, as well as the engineering firm of Sanborn Head.

"Planning for the new facility started in 2018 and took nearly seven years to come to fruition," he said.