

## Northern Berkshire Solid Waste Management District CY 2023

The Northern Berkshire Solid Waste Management District (NBSWMD) was established in 1988 through legislation passed by the Massachusetts General Court. By forming the solid waste district, the small municipalities in Northern Berkshire County have been able to pool resources and obtain professional waste management services to conduct recycling and outreach education programs, hazardous and special recycling collections. We have a vision to seek regional solutions to attain sustainability and environmental objectives through solid waste and recycling programs.

The 14 member -towns that comprise NBSWMD include Adams, Cheshire, Clarksburg, Florida Hancock, Hinsdale, Lanesborough, Monroe, New Ashford, Peru, Savoy, Windsor, and Williamstown. The newest Town is Dalton, each town appoints a representative to serve on the NBSWMD Board.

Board Officers for 2023 included: Joseph Szczepaniak Jr., Chair (Lanesborough), Douglas McNally, Vice Chair (Windsor); and Barbara Belisle Treasurer.

### **In 2023, NBSWMD services included:**

- Linda Cernik, District Director since 2016, and newly 2023 Certified Third Party Inspector with MassDEP. Linda conducts all our Transfer Station Inspections pursuant to 310 CMR 19.018, all of which have been highly rated.
- Serving as Bid Administrator for 5 years hauling and processing waste, recyclables With Casella Waste Systems, INC.
- Coordinates all outreach activities, Special Collections, and marketing materials. CY23 Full execution of our Annual Earth Day Kick off events, Household Annual Hazardous Waste Collection, over 165 HH in attendance. This event helps keep unwanted chemicals from the waste stream. Also, Community paper shredding Event, 3 Bulky and electronics collections. All of these are shared services and allow all 14 Member town's residents to attend.
- Management and compliance of the Town's Transfer Station services. Including Recycling sheds, Tires, Textiles, Mattress "HUB", Scrap metal, books, Swap shops, and Universal Waste sheds. Town's that house swap shops are as follows, Hinsdale, Savoy, and Windsor. Cy 24 will bring new recycling services such as Food Waste collections & swap shops. Our District is always looking to improve our recycling and shared service model.
- Coordinating our Annual Home Composting Units at a subsidized rate for all member town's residents to take part in. CY23, we had 60 Units sold and offered Public Education.
- Worked closely with Commonwealth of Massachusetts Community Service program! Along with the States 3 Coordinators of the Program, participants that are on community service have provided the district with over 1,000 hours of help. Projects

such as painting Sheds at our Transfer Stations. Helping maintain and organize Town of Hinsdale Swap shops, help at all or our Special Collections with offloading and loading items for our Bulky and E waste events, Community paper shredding events (2), HHW event, helps and clean out of universal waste sheds. (Lightbulbs and battery recycling). This program has been recognized throughout the state and Coordinator took part in a survey highlighting the benefits. Participants are not only working towards their community service hours, but they are also benefiting from learning about the environment.

Such as re-use, recycling, toxic materials banned from the waste stream, NEW waste ban regulations effective November 1, 2022. Working together as a team to get the job done professionally. This allows the participants to gain experience in the field of waste management.



Community service painting recycling shed.

- Outreach with local youth groups introducing MassDEP “Green Team” Program. NBSWMD and Casella Waste Systems hosted a Touch A Truck Event in CY23. This was part of the Green Team program, MassDEP. Not only was it a fun day, but the youth also learned about recycling, composting and the career opportunities available in the Field. Highlight of the Day was the Kid’s getting to sit in the Big Trucks and blow the air horns!



Youth Center Inc Touch a Truck 2023

- Yearly Linda submits for the Town’s Sustainable Materials Recovery Program “RDP” awards based on merit points. This is based on best practices for each town within the Recycling services. In CY23 NBSWMD 14 Towns and Solid Waste District were awarded a total of \$52,810. The Town of Dalton was also awarded a \$5,000 grant for a universal waste shed. Yearly the Grants benchmarks become harder to reach the goals, collectively Linda Works with the Town’s Directly to help them achieve as many points as possible.

- Public speaking events, conference attendance, Coordinator member of Springfield Materials solid Waste Advisory group, The Western Mass Regional Planning Coordinator group, and interfaces with local, regional, and state officials.

District in 2023 held its annual household hazardous waste collections April 22, 2023, held in the Town of Adams for all 13 member Town's residents. 165 Households participated in this event. (This was held before the Town of Dalton joined NBSWMD). This year our Annual Household Hazardous Waste collection will be held Saturday, April 20, 2024, with all 14 Member Towns, to kick off Earth Day. This allows residents to properly dispose of toxic cleaners, oil-based paints, oil, pesticides, and other products that are deemed hazardous.

The day -to-day program operations of the NBSWMD are managed by the Director. Linda Cernik, only employee! She also serves as a representative to the Springfield Materials Recycling Facility, The Solid Waste Advisory Committee, The Western Mass Regional Recycling Coordinator group, and interfaces with local, regional, and state officials, and newly appointed to Mass Recycle Board. Linda works closely with all the town officials and departments that oversee the Town's Transfer/ Recycling Facilities, such as DPW, BOH, Town Administrators, NSWMD Board of Commissioners and more! We have a great Team and I thank you for your continued Support.

During the past year, the NBSWMD member-towns collectively sent 723 tons of recyclable materials to Casella Waste Systems INC, Vermont MRF; 60 Earth Machines were subsidized and distributed to all 14 member towns, for composting household brush, leaves, food. District wide diverted over 123,979 pounds of textiles from the waste stream. Electronics recycling with East Coast Electronics, over 40,567 pounds. The district donated some of the Earth machines to local youth groups, Town outreach events, schools and more. Thank you to all the district volunteers, town's DPW, officials, and the residents of all the member towns. Your continued support in recycling and waste reduction keeps our communities a beautiful place to call home. I am proud to be part of the district and expanding our towns in the right direction of sustainability within the environment.

Earth Day 2024! Let's make everyday Earth Day!

Best Regards~  
Linda Cernik, Director

