



## DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENTAL CONSERVATION

**Waste Prevention** is preventing waste from being generated in the first place, meaning it doesn't need to be disposed, recycled, or otherwise diverted from disposal.

### Why (is Vermont doing waste prevention planning)?

Waste prevention is Vermont's highest waste management priority. Both Vermont Statute (see 10 VSA Chapter 159) and the Vermont Solid Waste Management Plan Waste statute clearly state this. In Vermont, waste generation and disposal are increasing while waste diversion (i.e. diverting waste from disposal in landfills or incinerators) is decreasing. We, meaning everyone in Vermont including individuals, businesses, government, and institutions need to do more and reverse this trend.

Despite being the highest priority and despite DEC's, solid waste districts', and other private and public-sector efforts, there has been limited success implementing effective waste prevention strategies and programs in Vermont. We need to change this, that is figure out what waste prevention strategies are both appropriate for Vermont and will reduce waste generation and disposal.

### What (is Vermont doing)?

Vermonters and DEC are working together to develop a waste prevention strategy to reduce the amount of waste we generate. Once developed, the strategy will be incorporated into the Vermont Solid Waste Management Plan <http://www.anr.state.vt.us/dec/wastediv/solid/pubs/VTSWMgmtPlan.pdf> adopted by the Agency of Natural Resources in September 2006. The strategy will guide DEC's efforts and resources over the next five years and further.

### Who (are the stakeholders that should be involved in waste prevention planning)?

Everyone - that is all Vermonters including individuals, businesses, trade organizations, advocacy groups, institutions, solid waste districts, and state and local government. We are all "stakeholders" in that we either generate waste and/or are involved with materials (that ultimately must be thrown out) that could have been prevented from being manufactured or produced in the first place.

### How (will waste prevention strategy be developed)?

DEC recognizes developing an effective waste prevention strategy for Vermont needs to be a collaborative process involving all stakeholders. Encouraging and accommodating early and sustained "buy-in" from stakeholders will provide the best chance for success. DEC also understood this would best be accomplished using a professional facilitator. Jeff Edelstein of Edelstein Associates (<http://www.jeffedelstein.com>) was selected through a competitive process from a large field of well qualified applicants.

DEC understands that in order for the processes to be effective, stakeholders need a good understanding of waste prevention, the realm of potential strategies, and how the process (to identify strategies) might play out. To help provide this, on April 12, 2007 DEC held a stakeholder's forum with the goals of:

- Identify what exactly is waste prevention?
- Provide an understanding Vermont's wastestream and waste materials to target; and
- Identify successful waste prevention strategies used by others.

Since then, with stakeholder and Jeff Edelstein's input and assistance, DEC started the stakeholder process. Please see the Waste Prevention Steering Committee webpage for more information on current Committee members and development of the waste prevention strategy.

Although the process to develop the Waste Prevention Strategy has started, **your participation is welcome and important**. Please return to the Waste Prevention in Vermont webpage for more information about how you can participate, or contact us at [Carolyn.Grodinsky@state.vt.us](mailto:Carolyn.Grodinsky@state.vt.us)