

## Water & Waste Disposal Loan & Grant Program

### Success Story: Organics to Energy in Montpelier, Vermont

**\$11.9 Million**

WWD direct loan from  
USDA RD

**\$2.6 Million**

WWD grant from  
USDA RD

**\$2.3 Million**

Pollution-control grant  
from VT DEC

**2,823**

Town residents served by  
upgraded WWT facility

**452,852**

Rural residents  
positively impacted

**100%**

Project cost offset from  
facility energy production

#### The NEED

Because of its age and condition, Montpelier's wastewater treatment infrastructure was inefficiently handling the demand of the area's growing population. The city needed to expand and enhance its facility's capacity and capability to keep up with demand and maintain high environmental standards. Water quality was of growing concern, and because of Vermont's universal recycling law, there was an essential need for the city to provide organic waste disposal options for regional businesses.

#### The CHALLENGE

Large-scale upgrades to WEP infrastructure represent a significant cost to residents, so securing diversified revenue streams to minimize the financial burden was a crucial component of the project. Also, Montpelier had laid out environmental-stewardship plans that include a net-zero energy target. The town's wastewater treatment facility, however, was among its most demanding energy consumers, posing a huge obstacle to the ambitious 21st-century goal.

#### The SOLUTION

Upgrades to three anaerobic digesters allow for high-strength organic waste from area farms and restaurants to run the facility and send excess power into the city grid. Operating costs, greenhouse emissions and water pollution are all greatly reduced due to methane gas capture and increased intake of organic waste. The renewable energy of the first 'Design-Build' WEP project in the VT/NH jurisdiction will offset all of its costs—a shining example for other towns to follow.

For program regulations and requirements, please go to the [USDA RD fact sheet](#).

