

## Water & Waste Disposal Loan & Grant Program

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

**\$23.7 Million**

WWD direct loans from  
USDA RD

**\$6.1 Million**

WWD grants from  
USDA RD

**\$5.5 Million**

Pollution-control grants  
from VT DEC

**2,823**

Town residents served by  
upgraded WRRF facility

**452,852**

Rural residents  
positively impacted

**100%**

Phase 1 costs offset from  
facility energy production

#### Choosing a Future of RENEWABLE ENERGY

Residents of Montpelier, Vermont, approved a net-zero energy target for 2030. This goal, along with the capital city's growing population and the state's universal recycling law, demanded a significant upgrade to water and waste infrastructure. Innovative city leaders laid out an ambitious, 2-phase project to enhance organic intake capacity at the Water Resource Recovery Facility (WRRF), improve sewer and storm run-off, and produce clean energy to offset project and power costs.

#### Navigating Today's TOUGH CHALLENGES

The WRRF is among Montpelier's most demanding energy consumers, posing a huge obstacle to the ambitious net-zero goal. The project also had to meet state and federal water-quality and air-pollutant standards to minimize environmental damage and eliminate costly fines. Large-scale upgrades to water and waste infrastructure represent a significant cost to residents, so securing diversified revenue streams to mitigate the financial burden was a crucial project consideration.

#### Collaborating to Find INNOVATIVE SOLUTIONS

With help from USDA RD and Vermont Department of Environmental Conservation, Montpelier had the funds to start Vermont's first 'design-build' water and waste treatment project. Improved organic digestors will produce enough methane gas to heat the WRRF and put excess power into the grid, while a high-tech dryer system will turn sludge waste into recyclable biochar, minimizing landfill costs. Also, city sewer and stormwater improvements will prevent run-off into the Winooski River.

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

