

10/7/19 Testimonial from Audrey Bethel, current member of the Hillsboro Solid Waste Advisory Board:

We have certainly be wrestling with the changing recycling market (especially plastics!) and the lack of local market for recycled glass has made it so that "glass is trash" for our transfer station. I feel that local concrete businesses could get incentivized to experiment more with mixing crushed glass into some of their products rather than new raw material-- as glass is heavy and expensive to truck around-- local use for the recycled glass seems to be key. I think there could also be more done to try to have crushed glass be pushed on our DOT for re-surfacing the roads when there are paving projects-- however, I gather this was tried in Maine, and now they aren't doing it as much -- which makes me wonder ? -- Perhaps some follow up could be done with folks at Dept of Transportation in Maine?

As for our state's # of Transfer Stations-- I think there should be more regional hubs, so that each town/ or small group of towns in our case, do not have to fend for themselves in terms of making deals with the NRRRA and other vendors for each aspect of their waste stream. We are all dealing with the same problems and yet, town to town the deals are different, and that, in turn, impacts the things that are able to be recycled. Another thing we have been working on with our committee is trying to group in a few more local communities to be able to join our annual "Hazardous Waste Collection Day". For these days, our town makes a contract with a company out of Massachusetts called Clean Harbors to come and run the collection day. Right now, we do have several other communities join in our day Antrim and Bennington, but they are divided up by counties. (Which is challenging in our region, because for example Washington, NH is supposed to go all the way to the Hazardous Waste Day in some larger community in Sullivan County , even though their residents come to Hillsborough all the time for errands, and their kids attend the Hillsboro Deering schools.)

Another thing that we have also been looking into is being able to compact our plastics , so that we are not spending so much in trucking costs... (Currently, we spend approx. \$250/ 2X a week to send our plastics up to White River Junction, VT.) We would do better to compact and truck half as often. However, it costs a lot of money for our town to purchase another vertical bailer machine, ( We do already have one for cardboard) and we would actually need two more-- because plastics' shape has "memory" and so they bounce back , if you don't compact them and let them sit for a while, and then press them again. -- I heard this from taking a tour of the Warner Transfer Station where they do bail all their plastics. The thing is Warner is much smaller volume of solid waste-- we have a lot more residents, so on a busy Saturday , we need to be able to have two machines , so as when one fills up we do not get back-logged!

I have other thoughts that I will try to get down into writing if I cannot physically make it to Concord for one of your upcoming meetings.

Thank you, Audrey Bethel resident of Hillsborough, NH for the majority of my 41 years.