

Press Release, Tuesday June 22, 2021

Danville Receives Grant to Build New Recycling Center



Current location of the Danville Recycling and Compost Center is the old railroad station located at 347 Peacham Rd adjacent to the Lamoille Valley Rail Trail (photo credit Clayton Cargill)

The Town of Danville has been awarded a \$39,372.00 2021 Materials Management Grant from the Vermont Department of Environmental Conservation (VTDEC) to be used toward infrastructure improvements for the establishment of the Town recycling center at a new location. Danville's current recycling center is busting at the seams. Every Saturday the facility is only open for four hours and it fills to overflowing during this short period of operation. Since parking is limited and residents need to navigate stairs with their bins of recycling, the center is not easily accessible to many of its residents. Current recycling attendant Clayton Cargill says "This place is flurry of activity on Saturday mornings. As the attendant, I'm part recycling instructor and part traffic director. Ultimately, I find myself very worried when we get busy about both traffic issues and the ability of our aging community members to safely navigate the lot and the difficult steps while carrying their recycling."

The decades old recycling center is a service provided to Danville residents by the Town of Danville. It is a convenient way for townspeople to recycle locally and the Selectboard wants to make it safer and more accessible. Paul Tomasi, Director of Northeast Kingdom Waste Management District (NEKWMD), the organization that collects the materials each week, has helped the Town manage its recycling waste and more recently household compost as well. Paul was "pleased to hear Danville received this assistance to help them move their recycling operations to a new location with more capacity." The new facility will be on ground level, sited at the Town Garage complex, with expanded parking and more space. Town Road Foreman, Keith Gadapee, who is overseeing the project says "that while the center will certainly increase the activity at the Town Garage on Saturday mornings, we plan to build the facility such that it won't interfere with Town Garage operations and it will get the hustle and bustle of Saturday mornings off the Peacham Road."



Modification proposed for Town Garage Complex. Expanded area for parking, 60' x 15' addition for facility and road widening for improved traffic flow. Yellow denotes town owned parcel.

Roughly 60% of 210 respondents to a [2017 Town Meeting Day survey](#) indicated they used the Danville facility for their recycling needs. Then in 2021, [via Australian ballot at Town Meeting Day](#), the town voted to expend funds to build a new Recycling Center, to be erected at the Town Highway facility. The measure passed 461 to 243 and would use up to \$100,000 in reserve building funds.

The historic Danville Railroad station that currently houses the recycling center, sits along the finished and popular section of the [Lamoille Valley Rail Trail](#) (LVRT). As such, LVRT users often park in the recycling center's parking lot further reducing the limited space for parking on Saturday mornings and sometimes preventing the NEKWMD from accessing the building to take the collected materials away. The town owned facility was a focus point of the [Danville Village to Village Project](#) (V2V). "This property is key to helping connect users of the LVRT with the businesses in Danville" says Chair of the V2V project, Kate Whitehead. "Moving the recycling center out of the Railroad Station opens up more possibilities with respect to our plans to better connect the trail and the village center." Moving the center opens possibilities for restoring and repurposing the historic Railroad station as well. The [Danville Train Station Committee](#) which was formed by a charter from the Danville Planning Commission has been meeting around this topic since January 2021. "As we work to determine how best to restore and repurpose this valuable town asset, having the recycling center moved out will help us better compete for funding moving forward" says Michael Hogue, Chair of the committee. "It's one less thing our committee has to tackle."

According to Josh Kelly, Materials Management Section Chief at the VTDEC, "The grant funding comes from the six dollar a ton surcharge tax that is put on trash disposal in the state. DEC is pleased to help improve access to recycling and food scraps collection in Danville with this grant award." This is a one-

time grant opportunity, there is currently no plan to offer this particular grant again. In previous years, this extra revenue was offered as grant programs for composting and household and hazardous waste. Kellie Merrell, Danville Selectboard member said "The timing turned out to be just right for Danville. I'm looking forward to using the new facility, as my family currently recycles in St. Johnsbury."