

## Public Facilities and Services: Strategy

Access to quality education is necessary for Lamoille County's economy. Public services provided to the community include education, cemeteries, and solid waste management. Electrical utilities can be found in the Energy Chapter while Land Use outlines municipal wastewater and water systems. Other public services are found in the Human Services and Public Safety Chapters. The educational needs of Lamoille County should support a highly skilled regional workforce that meets the needs of existing employers and supports new ones, while growing healthy, active, and engaged young people ready to face the next decades.

The following strategy is intended to guide policies and action items related to public facilities and services: *Community investments such as educational, cultural, recreational, healthcare, and municipal services will aid in attracting economic development opportunities.* Many people who choose to settle in Lamoille County do so because of the quality of life they find here. People who grow up here may choose to stay for many of the same reasons. Maintaining and strengthening community investments and public services will stimulate local and regional economies to encourage growth.

### POLICIES & ACTION ITEMS

**Policy:** *Encourage efforts to develop a safe, stimulating, and inclusive region that offers good schools and opportunity for its young people, and respects the region's values, natural beauty, and resources (including both the natural and constructed).*

#### Action Items

- Upon request, assist municipalities with amendments to ordinances and zoning that promote crime prevention and reduce substance misuse in licensed establishments, retail outlets, and public spaces.
- Assist municipalities with identifying non-regulatory tools to strengthen healthy communities.
- Collaborate with regional and local partners to improve and identify new parks, recreation, and green spaces as well as strategies to build vibrancy throughout the region.
- Support projects that reinforce the value of youth in the community.
- Prioritize infrastructure investments that promote environmentally safe and healthy lifestyles.

**Policy:** *Support broad access to enriching educational opportunities for residents of all ages.*

#### Action Items

- Support the expansion of educational offerings for all levels of education.
- Assist school boards and communities with tracking population changes to ensure

enrollment needs and capacities are met.

- Support inter-municipal coordination in planning for changes in school capacity, class sizes, and programs.
- Support schools and parent/teacher groups with grant writing and research to expand, improve, or develop facilities, resources, services, and programs.
- Foster connections between Farm-to-School organizations and schools in Lamoille County to increase access to healthy foods and support local food producers.
- Encourage schools and educational institutions to work with retirees in transferring skills to the next generation through volunteering, mentoring, or other partnerships.
- Work with schools, municipalities, parents, and other organizations, to find creative ways to improve safe walking routes to school and reduce student time on busses.
- Upon request, assist communities and schools with utilizing facilities during off hours and vacations.
- Aid organizations and schools with linking and developing trail systems, community green space, and recreation in the region.
- Encourage public facilities to upgrade HVAC systems to improve air quality.
- Encourage schools and school facilities to be disaster resilient. Many schools also serve as local emergency shelters so equipping them with generators and increasing flood resiliency is important.
- Encourage emergency preparedness education in the classroom by collaborating with emergency responders.

**Policy:** *An adequate supply of public facilities is encouraged in downtowns and village centers.*

#### **Action Items**

- LCPC supports locating community “anchors”, such as municipal offices, schools, libraries, community gathering/green space and churches in downtowns and village centers.
- Infrastructure extensions should be focused in designated growth centers and in municipalities that have current Capital Budgets in place.
- The location of State of Vermont agencies, departments, divisions, and programs are encouraged in Lamoille County communities.
- Encourage municipalities to plant shade trees and install public drinking water fountains in public outdoor spaces.
- Work with municipalities to identify abandoned or underutilized public facilities and explore opportunities for reuse.

**Policy:** *An adequate supply of materials/needle collection facilities should be made available throughout the region for all residents.*

**Policy:** *Lamoille County businesses, residents, and public facilities should be equipped to enact and follow Act 148, Vermont's Universal Recycling law.*

### **Action Items**

- LCPC supports working closely with public facilities and solid waste management organizations in the appropriate siting for new facilities for waste collection. Enterprise Areas may be most appropriate for new waste facilities, provided siting criteria are met.
- Infrastructure is encouraged to support implementation of Vermont's Universal Recycling law, including increased accessibility to composting sites for organics diversion.
- LCPC is committed to working with public facilities, such as schools, and large businesses to reduce the amount of waste created or sent to a landfill.
- Work to ensure local and state regulations allow and encourage agricultural operations to continue composting organics to increase diversification of operations, support on-farm activities, and increase the number of locations that accept organic waste.
- Support Lamoille Regional Solid Waste Management District with enacting Universal Recycling changes as requested.

## **Public Facilities and Services: Background and Inventory**

### **Education**

Access to a system of quality education is necessary to achieve social and economic goals. Sustained regional and economic development will be impossible in the region unless financial and geographic access to education is affordable and geographically convenient. Without a well-educated work force, the region, like the rest of Vermont, will be unable to compete with other states for well-paying jobs.

Throughout the late 1980s and 1990s, recessions emphasized the relationship between economic development and an educated work force. Economic restructuring has resulted in a shift away from jobs in manufacturing to service sector employment. Many of these new jobs are at lower wage levels. Personal income levels increase with gains in educational attainment. The earning gap between college graduates and high school graduates remains significant, with college graduates earning 70% more. Poverty decreases with educational attainment.

In particular, workforce development needs to start at an early age. Ensuring the systems, partnerships, and support networks are in place for a coordinated and appropriate education system across the county is one of the roles of LCPC.

### *Early Education*

Early education has been shown to be critical to the future success of children in school. There are a variety of early care and educational opportunities available to residents of Lamoille County. Several private, pre-kindergarten educational programs are located within many communities' elementary schools. The Lamoille Family Center (LFC) offers a range of early education services through a coordinated service network known as Children's Integrated Services (CIS). Programs offered through this network include Maternal Child Health, Early Childhood and Family Mental Health, and the Early Intervention Program for children with developmental delays.

### *Primary School*

There are 8 public elementary schools in the region, one in each of the local school districts associated with the 10 towns in the region. These schools range in size from a one-room school house in Elmore to the Hyde Park Elementary School, which is almost at capacity.

In addition, a private Mennonite School in Wolcott provides education to members of their community. All Saints School in Morrystown, is an independent Catholic school for children in pre-kindergarten through eighth grade. Home schooling in most of the school districts in the region is monitored through the Vermont Department of Education.

### *Secondary Education*

There are three public high schools (Lamoille Union, Peoples Academy, and Stowe High School), as well as the Green Mountain Technology and Career Center, serving the secondary educational needs of the county. Some students also attend Hazen Union or Craftsbury Academy.

### *Peoples Academy*

Peoples Academy, located on Copley Avenue overlooking Morrisville, serves the secondary educational needs of the community of Morrystown. Peoples Academy also serves students from the neighboring communities of Elmore and Wolcott.

### *Stowe Middle/ High School*

Stowe Middle/High School, located on Barrows Road in Stowe, serves the educational needs of students from grades 6 through 12. Stowe Middle/High School also serves students from the nearby communities of Elmore and Wolcott.

### *Lamoille Union High School*

Lamoille Union High School is located in Hyde Park, Vermont. It is part of the Lamoille North Supervisory Union which serves the six towns of Belvidere, Cambridge, Eden, Hyde Park, Johnson, and Waterville. The High School shares a campus with the Lamoille Union

Middle School and the Green Mountain Technology and Career Center.

Table 5-4. School Enrollment Trends (K-12)

	Enrollment 2021-2022	Enrollment 2023-2024	Supervisory Union	Capacity Concerns?(The current concern is possible closure rather than capacity )
Belvidere Elementary	<i>Attend Waterville Elementary</i>	Attend Waterville Elementary	Lamoille North	No. May re-open if population trends change.
Cambridge Elementary	315	345	Lamoille North	Potentially if capacity surpasses 400.
Eden Elementary	116	135	Lamoille North	No concerns.
Elmore Elementary	18	17	Lamoille South	No concerns.
Hyde Park Elementary	205	209	Lamoille North	Yes. Concerns about capacity; renovated in 2015.
Johnson Elementary	226	235	Lamoille North	No. Renovation in 1997 has capacity for 350.
Morristown Elementary	353	344	Lamoille South	Yes. Concerns about capacity.
Stowe Elementary	409	415	Lamoille South	No. Expansion in 1991
Waterville Elementary	<i>74 (includes Belvidere students)</i>	<i>86 (includes Belvidere students)</i>	Lamoille North	No. New facility opened in 1996.
Wolcott Elementary	113	121	Orleans Southwest	Yes. Monitoring enrollment and population trends.
Lamoille Union Middle School	274	267	Lamoille North	No. Expansion in 2002.
Lamoille Union High School	507	506	Lamoille North	No. Expansion in 2002 has capacity for 640.
People's Academy Middle	266	236	Lamoille South	Unsure due to changing enrollment.
People's Academy High	272	308	Lamoille South	Unsure due to changing enrollment.
Stowe Middle/High	449	452	Lamoille South	No. Expansion in 1991.

Source:

Vermont Agency of Education District Enrollment Reports

*Green Mountain Technology and Career Center*

The Green Mountain Technology and Career Center (GMTCC) has a close association with, but is separate from, the Lamoille Union High School. It shares the same physical location and the same Board of Directors on matters concerning finances. GMTCC falls under the Lamoille North Supervisory Union.

GMTCC provides technical education to area high school students and adults. GMTCC offers programs in 13 different areas to students from Lamoille Union High School, Hazen Union High School (Hardwick), Stowe High School, People's Academy (Morrisville), and Craftsbury Academy. Many of the programs have agreements with colleges and universities that allow students to earn college credit. Students who are interested in attending a full-day

technical program are selected based on an application process that includes academic record, interest, attendance record, credit status for graduation, and potential for success. Part-day opportunities exist on an individual basis.

GMTCC students participate in activities at their home high school. Academic coursework is available to all students during the day. College preparatory classes are offered in addition to classes that support students who plan to enter the workforce immediately after high school graduation. Noteworthy and award-winning programs include forestry and land management, automotive technology, culinary arts, and heating, ventilation, and air conditioning (HVAC).

### *School Choice*

Vermont's statutes allow for school choice. Towns that do not maintain secondary grades may tuition students to a school determined by the parent or guardian of the student. Parents may choose from public or approved independent schools. The school board will pay full tuition to any public school, or any school deemed by law to be a public school. The school board will pay full tuition for an approved independent school or the state average tuition for union high schools, whichever is less. The electorate may authorize a higher payment to independent schools.

Wolcott "tuitions" its 7<sup>th</sup> – 12<sup>th</sup> grade students to regional schools of their choice. Most students attend Lamoille Union Middle and High School, Hazen Union High School in Hardwick, Craftsbury Academy in Craftsbury Common, People's Academy in Morrisville, or Stowe Middle and High School in Stowe. Elmore also "tuitions" its middle and high school students outside the town. Elmore students can enter a lottery to attend a school of their choice outside their School District. Elmore students go to Peoples Academy by default. Since bus transportation is provided to Morrisville, the majority of Elmore's middle and high school students attend People's Academy in Morrisville but other students attend surrounding schools within the Lamoille Valley.

### *School Boards and Supervisory Unions*

Each Vermont town is a School District with a governing School Board. School Districts are grouped together to form Supervisory Unions, governed by a Board with representatives from each member School District and employing a Superintendent and staff. The Supervisory Union budget is voted annually.

Supervisory Unions are statutory creations to coordinate educational efforts, increase economies of scale, enhance cost efficiencies, and expand educational opportunities for students. The Supervisory Unions, through their superintendents, administratively oversee the member towns' schools. The Unions also provide special educational, financial, and

planning services. The supervisory unions do not own any of their own facilities. Lamoille County is part of three Supervisory Unions.

### *Schools and Health*

Much can be done to maintain and enhance the educational and nutritional programs at schools throughout the region in order to improve health and wellness among children, including:

- Educating students on healthy eating habits
- Providing ample recreation and physical activity opportunities
- Increasing access to healthy and locally produced food

Schools may have gardens, which can serve as a teaching tool, source of food for the school's lunch program, offer physical activity for students, and increase exposure to new foods for kids. Some schools in the region implement tenets of the farm-to-school movement. For example, the Green Mountain Farm-to-School Network, based out of northern Vermont, provides resources, education, and assistance to schools for fresh food in cafeterias, to support local farms, and to provide education programs, events, and activities for students and the community.

Providing recreational facilities, such as playgrounds, fields, or gyms, encourages students to be more active. Nurturing partnerships with existing athletic facilities or ski resorts, nearby trails, and recreation areas provides kids with exposure to routine physical activities. Schools may choose to adopt wellness policies and utilize resource tools to promote wellness among children while building on existing curricula. Afterschool programs may offer classes that promote fitness and wellness.

Additionally, schools can encourage healthy practices such as walking and biking to school by coordinating safe school routes and identifying improvements made to the transportation network. Many parents will drive their children to school because of unsafe or inadequate routes due to poor sidewalks, lack of crosswalks, dangerous traffic situations, or long travel times on busses. This is time children could spend on school work, recreation, or social interaction.

Ensuring schools stay current with changes in dietary needs, food system advancements, transportation needs, and educational tools is a collaborative effort for school officials, parent/teacher organizations, supervisory unions, farmers, and other partners.

In 2015, Act 46 was adopted, aimed at encouraging and eventually requiring school districts to merge into one another over the course of 4 years. The aim of the Act is to create a more streamlined education system in the county.

## **Post- Secondary Education**

### *Vermont State University, Johnson*

Founded in 1828 and later designated as a college dedicated to teacher training, Vermont State University, Johnson (VSUJ) is in the Vermont State College system. Today VSUJ offers more than three dozen undergraduate programs, three master's degrees, and associate's and certificate offerings. In addition to education, notable programs include the sciences and the fine and performing arts. In the summer of 2023, Johnson State College joined the Vermont State University school system.

VSU Johnson encourages area residents to take advantage of campus facilities and programming. The VSU Johnson Library is open to residents year-round. During the academic year, VSU Johnson offers an array of cultural, educational, and athletic events that are free and open to the public. These include music and theater performances, guest lectures, readings and exhibits by visiting writers and artists, and home games for 13 varsity sports.

One of the campus facilities most widely used by area residents is the VSU Johnson SHAPE Center. Features include an Olympic-sized indoor swimming pool, modern fitness center and weight rooms, an indoor rock-climbing wall, and a spinning studio. Group fitness classes are offered throughout the academic year. VSU Johnson also offers an 18-hole disc golf course to area residents.

Other, less tangible services provided by VSU Johnson are the volunteer efforts of its students and employees; serving the greater community is a core value of VSU Johnson. In 2013, VSU Johnson became an outpost of the South Burlington Vet Center, providing counseling and advice to area veterans and military-connected students on Fridays. Previously, veterans and their families had to travel to South Burlington or even farther to meet with a veterans' representative to discuss such issues as benefits, readjusting to civilian life, or personal concerns. In 2014, VSU Johnson explored a partnership with the Veterans Administration in order to further increase the campus-based services available to area veterans.

Public service permeates the culture at VSU Johnson in numerous other ways as well. The "SERVE Local" program provides weekly opportunities for students to volunteer with regional organizations. Activities include cleaning up the Lamoille River, serving lunch at the weekly Johnson CommUNITY Lunch program (and raising funds for the Johnson Food Shelf in the process), hosting blood drives for the American Red Cross, stacking firewood and helping to weatherize the homes of low-income residents, and collecting food for

Thanksgiving dinner baskets distributed by the Johnson Food Shelf. VSU Johnson students also serve as mentors to local youth.

In addition to participating in many student-led service programs, VSU Johnson faculty and staff hold leadership positions with a number of civic, educational, and charitable organizations. In 2013, a survey showed they served as board members and representatives of at least 19 local organizations.

Since 1971, VSU Johnson has housed Vermont's longest running Upward Bound program, a federally funded program that serves high school students from families with modest incomes who show academic potential to succeed in college. It consists of a six-week campus-based residential program in the summer and academic support and programming throughout the school year. Over 100 high school students from seven area high schools in Lamoille and surrounding counties participate annually.

The VSU Johnson campus encompasses 350 acres that extend into both the Town and the Village of Johnson. The College also owns and manages the Babcock Nature Preserve in Eden.

VSU Johnson is one of the largest employers in Lamoille County, with more than 250 full- and part-time employees. The College generates an estimated \$23 million in economic activity for the region annually.

#### *Community College of Vermont*

The Community College of Vermont (CCV) is an accredited member of the Vermont State College System. CCV offers programs for students seeking an Associate's Degree and those interested in a Certificate Degree in a particular field. Many CCV students are adults returning to college for higher educational opportunities in order to improve their earning ability.

CCV has 12 field offices across the state, including one in Morrisville. The Morrisville office has an enrollment each semester of 200 to 250 students. Classes are offered five days a week and four evenings a week. The Morrisville office is looking to expand their facilities in the near future. Classes are currently held at the CCV office and at two local high schools.

#### **Other Educational Opportunities**

##### *Vermont Studio Center*

The Vermont Studio Center is a private, not-for-profit institution located in the Village of Johnson offering advanced study for established artists, many of whom have advanced

degrees. The Center owns and/or leases facilities throughout the village that provide residential housing and space for studios, galleries, and Center administration. Throughout the year, the Studio Center offers exhibitions, public lectures, and readings for the community.

The Studio Center offers a free summer art program for children, teenagers, and adults. In addition, the Center's Community Arts Director teaches art classes at the Johnson Elementary School.

#### *Central Vermont Adult Basic Education*

CVABE offers free literacy instruction for adults and out-of-school youth in Morrisville. CVABE helps students in reading, writing, math, computer literacy, and/or English as another language. CVABE helps students achieve a high school credential and prepare for employment and/or further education. CVABE has six learning centers through Lamoille, Orange, and Washington Counties. Paid and volunteer staff deliver the free instruction.

#### *Laraway Youth and Family Services*

Laraway Youth and Family Services, located in Johnson, is a private non-profit organization employing over 100 people. Laraway's two main programmatic components include the Laraway School and Substitute Care program. Laraway is a licensed independent school, approved for special education. The School serves 4<sup>th</sup> – 12<sup>th</sup> grade students who have special emotional and behavioral circumstances that keep them from being successful in their own schools and who want to return to their own schools once they get their behavior under control. Laraway Substitute Care is a behavioral treatment program that serves youth who experience problems that make it difficult for them to live in their own communities. Laraway provides services designed to support children, adolescents, and their families as they identify effective ways to address those problems.

Laraway is also a Licensed Child Placing Agency administering a statewide Foster Care program that provides daily care, intensive care management, treatment, and crisis intervention services.

#### *Learning Together*

The Lamoille Family Center's Learning Together program is a Vermont-recognized independent school for adolescent girls who are pregnant, parenting, or are at-risk of becoming pregnant.

#### *Athletic Academies*

The Mt. Mansfield Winter Academy (MA) is an independent winter sports academy that provides a quality academic program for alpine and snowboard student athletes in grades 7

through 12. Since 1993, students from New England and beyond have come to MMWA for a highly individualized winter program in Stowe.

Other ski and recreation-based schools are located throughout northern Vermont. These private institutions offer a targeted education curriculum combining recreation and skills-based learning opportunities.

### **Non-formal Education Opportunities**

Vermont Interactive Technologies (VIT) is available at Vermont State University, Johnson. VIT allows participants to engage in classes or meetings that are held off-site. UVM Extension, for example, offers Master Gardener courses through VIT. This technology allows for greater exposure to educational opportunities offered close to home.

Numerous groups exist throughout the county which support and enrich the educational opportunities of all Lamoille County residents of all ages and abilities. These groups, organizations, and activities should be supported as they provide non-formal educational opportunities. Further, schools that work with special populations or focus areas provide targeted educational opportunities for diverse audiences. Examples include therapeutic horse farms, charter schools, and art-based curricula.

### **Workforce Development**

Essentially, workforce development means providing opportunities for education and training for high-quality jobs for everyone. The Vermont Workforce Development Council, a statewide initiative, aims to provide the following to all Vermonters: a well-rounded education, innovation and creativity with a passion for lifelong learning, and the personal and social skills needed to succeed in collaborative workplaces. Competition for jobs occurs at the local, regional, state, and national levels.

Vermont is a state that is susceptible to the “brain drain”: young adults are educated in Vermont but leave the state for higher salaries and more challenging employment opportunities. Retirees then move back to Vermont to enjoy the quieter life. This is noticeable in Vermont’s changing population, where the population of older citizens is increasing but overall population growth is declining.

Organizations such as the Lamoille Workforce Investment Board, Lamoille Chamber of Commerce, and GMTCC are focused on workforce development and investment throughout the county. Their current focus is on education at all age levels. For example, through encouragement of the Workforce Investment Board, GMTCC students are not only graded on academic performance but also on their life skills, such as how they perform in mock interviews, courses in finances, how they dress, and their demeanor. These grades stay on

their permanent transcripts and have been requested by prospective employers. In this way, students learn both the “hard” and “soft” skills.

Workforce development is not the responsibility of one organization. Community collaboration can identify the needs and strategies to develop new and improve upon workforce development strategies already in place, while encouraging adaptation to changing economic trends. The needs of employers and employees must be considered, including the expertise of retirees in transferring skill development to the next generation. This is an unexplored avenue in Lamoille County.

Regional discussions have identified the following workforce opportunities:

- A need for adequately trained workers residing in the Region or willing to move to Lamoille County
- Improve Lamoille County workforce basic skills knowledge, such as computer proficiency
- More competitive salaries in Lamoille County to compete with neighboring regions
- Affordably priced workforce housing
- Inter-regional communication regarding available training and education opportunities, for example connecting local resorts to the hospitality training program at Vermont State University, Johnson or expanding hospitality training opportunities

### *Public Facilities*

Municipalities in Lamoille County have town and village offices. For information on the condition, capacity, and prospective use of those facilities, please contact the municipality.

As the Shire Town, Hyde Park hosts a branch of the State’s Court System, including the Lamoille Superior Court, which includes the Lamoille Probate Court, Lamoille Family Court, and Lamoille District Court.

The Department of Health has a district office located in Morrisville. This office offers the following programs: Breastfeeding & Mother-to-Mother Support; Children’s Integrated Services (through the Department of Children and Families); Early Periodic Screening, Diagnosis, and Treatment Program; Eligibility Screenings for 3SquaresVT, Reach UP, and Medicaid; Ladies First, and Vermont WIC: Women, Infants, and Children. The District Office includes all of Lamoille County plus Craftsbury, Greensboro, Hardwick, Stannard, and Woodbury.



The Agriculture Building in Morristown offers branches of the federal Natural Resources Conservation Service and Farm Services Agency as well as the UVM Extension. The VTrans has district garages located in Cambridge, Eden, and Morrisville. All towns have a post office with varying levels of service provided. State offices are encouraged to locate in Lamoille County.

### *Cemeteries*

There are approximately 121 acres of cemetery in Lamoille County.

In Vermont, authority to manage public cemeteries is vested with the local legislative body. The day-to-day maintenance and care of cemeteries in the region falls to three types of entities: cemetery associations, cemetery commissions, and interested individuals. Cemetery associations are private, non-profit corporations that exist to own property and act on a regular basis to take care of the cemeteries under their purview. Cemetery commissions also act routinely to care for the cemeteries; however, their authority to act in this capacity is a delegation of the authority granted to the Selectboard.

The cemetery commissioners and the cemetery associations are responsible for laying out the cemeteries, selling lots, and securing on-going care and maintenance of the cemeteries, as well as maintaining records of the cemetery. Local commissions are responsible for assessing cemetery need.

There are no crematory facilities in Lamoille County. Those seeking cremation are serviced out of South Burlington or St. Johnsbury. There are three operating mortuaries in the county. Alternative options to traditional forms of burial have become more popular in Vermont. Lamoille County residents should reach out to the appropriate businesses if they would like to inquire about alt-burial services.

### *Solid Waste and Materials Management*

Under Vermont law (10 VSA §6602), solid waste is defined as any discarded garbage, whether solid or liquid, including hazardous waste. Excluded from this definition is animal manure. Solid waste management is any activity resulting in the storage, transportation, treatment, or disposal of the wastes. Historically, refuse in Vermont has been trucked to two state-controlled landfills or recycling facilities, private landfills or recycling centers, composted, or trucked out of state to landfills. With the passage of Act 148 (Universal Recycling Law) in 2012, and the closing of one of Vermont's state landfills, Vermont's waste management system is undergoing a change.

All towns in Lamoille County, plus Craftsbury and Worcester, belong to the Lamoille Regional Solid Waste Management District (LRSWMD). The LRSWMD is one of 15 solid

waste management districts established by the State of Vermont. Lamoille County has eight transfer stations, with six maintained by LRSWMD and two privately owned (see map below). Seven private facilities accept refuse.

*Universal Recycling Law (Act 148)*

Act 148 is the nation’s first ever statewide Universal Recycling Law. Starting in July 2015, it became illegal to throw away mandated recyclables. In 2016, leaf and yard debris and clean wood scraps were made illegal to dispose of in a landfill. In 2020, food scraps were banned from landfills. The law was phased in over time by material and generator type to allow for the services and infrastructure to be developed.

LRSWMD, private facilities and collectors who offer trash or curbside services, must also provide services for mandated recyclables, leaf and yard debris, and food scraps. The type and location of services needed for rural areas of Vermont is regulated by ANR. The fee structure for these services is controlled to protect ratepayers and provide incentives for higher diversion of valuable materials. Public buildings and public lands with garbage and/or recycling containers will be required to offer separate bins for trash, recyclables, and organic materials (i.e. food scraps).

*Compost*

The move to composting organics may be the biggest change. Everyone, from private residences to large institutions such as hospitals and schools, are required to divert organic residuals from landfills. Residential organic residuals are almost 1/3 of all residential waste! As organics decompose in landfills, they emit methane gas, which is a greenhouse gas that is 20 times more harmful than carbon dioxide. The Food Recovery Hierarchy offers ways to reduce, divert, and recover organics (at right).



The law provides new opportunities for residents and businesses. Currently, facilities are limited in Lamoille County to receive organic materials for composting. It is best to check for available facilities regularly. Some unregistered facilities also accept organic materials. Anything above a “backyard” level of composting is regulated under Vermont law, with certain exemptions offered for qualified agricultural operations. In recent years, composting has gained traction and interest as the “food renaissance” has blossomed.

Consider:

- Composting reduces greenhouse gas emissions (some people estimate that composting a 5 gallon bucket of food scraps equals 1 gallon of gasoline that is not burned)<sup>1</sup>
- Composting reduces costs and energy associated with managing waste
- Compost is a better use of organic matter and nutrients than sending food scraps to the landfill
- Compost creates a rich, healthy fertilizer for gardens and landscaping
- A dearth of composting facilities in Vermont is an opportunity waiting to happen
- Composting improves water quality by building healthier soil to retain water and control erosion and strengthen our resilience to climate change
- Using compost instead of fertilizer not only saves farmers and gardeners money, it helps their nutrient management plans by improving soil quality

### *Hazardous and Other Wastes*

Hazardous wastes have properties or contain chemicals which make them dangerous or capable of having harmful effects on public health or on the environment. A waste is considered to have been “generated” when it is put into a container for disposal or a determination has been made that the material is no longer useable. Hazardous wastes managed in the course of running a business – this includes wastes from municipalities and from businesses operated out of a home – are regulated by the State. Household hazardous wastes are common household products that exhibit characteristics of hazardous waste, such as being toxic, corrosive, ignitable, or reactive. As a result, these products may be harmful to human health and/or the environment. These products include household cleaners, automotive products, and lawn and garden products.

LRSWMD offers hazardous waste collection periodically throughout the year. Contact the LRSWMD for more information. Paint can often be recycled through PaintCare, a program that allows leftover paint to be returned anytime of the year at no cost to registered collectors. More information is available at [www.paintcare.org](http://www.paintcare.org).

Vermont offers a free “e-cycle” program: computers, monitors, televisions, printers, and computer peripherals, regardless of age or condition, can be recycled at registered facilities for free. Check with the LRSWMD for more information and locations. Fluorescent bulbs

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<sup>1</sup> Vermont Agency of Natural Resources, Department of Environmental Conservation, Waste Management & Prevention Division, <http://www.anr.state.vt.us/dec/wastediv/compost/main2.htm>

containing mercury, a substance banned from landfills in Vermont, can also be recycled through various retailers in the area, or can be dropped off at any of the LRSWMD stations.

Unwanted pharmaceuticals also pose safety, health, and environmental threats. Unwanted medications can pose environmental risks when flushed or discarded in the trash as their residue may ultimately end up in ground or surface water. As a result, consumers are encouraged to use year-round collection locations such as police departments and pharmacies or one-day collection events for proper disposal, so that unwanted pharmaceuticals can be collected and then incinerated. Information on where to properly dispose of unwanted pharmaceuticals is available through Healthy Lamoille Valley.

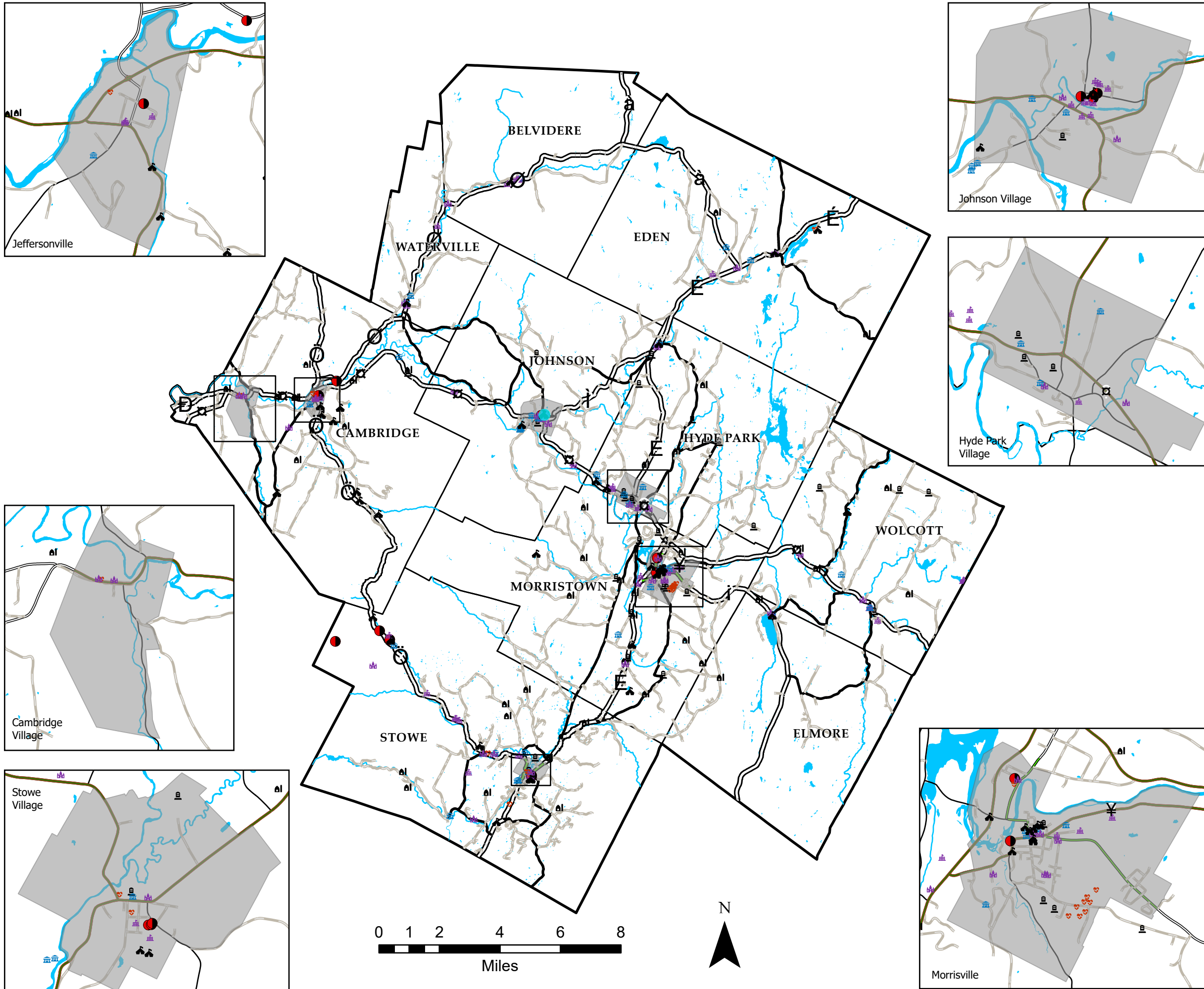
### *Needs Assessment*

When the State landfill in Moretown closed in 2012, landfill traffic was consolidated at the state-owned landfill in Coventry, most easily accessible by driving up Route 100 through Eden, with trucks traveling the length and width of Lamoille County. While ANR estimates sufficient landfill capacity in Vermont, the increased truck traffic hauling waste to Coventry through Lamoille County has caused negative impacts on the transportation network and community fabric of Lamoille County. To address these issues, expanding facilities capable of receiving solid waste are needed across the state to remove undue burden from Lamoille County. Ultimately, no solid waste solutions are complete unless the amount of waste created and landfilled is reduced. The Universal Recycling Law is a step towards addressing waste that cannot be reclaimed.

To meet the intent of Universal Recycling, registered composting facilities in the region have increased capacity with mobile compost services being offered. Transfer stations are still limited in the rural reaches of the region. Appropriate trucks are used to haul the different types of residuals. The LRSWMD and private haulers have adapted to the changes and finished the process of charting future opportunities. All Vermont residents, businesses, and public facilities have adapted to the Universal Recycling law. Convenient and consistent materials management across Vermont is a goal of the new law, and ensuring all residents and business owners understand the law is integral to its success.

With the implementation of Universal Recycling, some municipalities have begun discussing how to meet the law. Schools, hospitals, and other large or public buildings will need to install equipment and enact new systems for collecting and sorting refuse, including food scraps and organics. These upgrades come at a capital cost. LCPC is available to provide assistance with meeting the new regulations. The Agricultural Land Use Planning Modules also provide guidance in how to plan composting facilities. It is available at [www.vtfarmtoplate.com](http://www.vtfarmtoplate.com).

# Community Resources Lamoille County



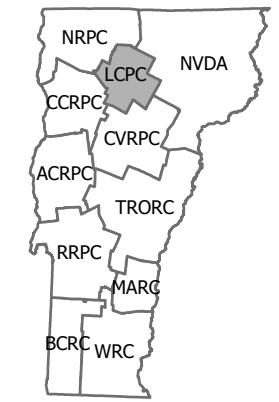
## Legend

### Community Facilities

- Cemetery
- Commercial Farm
- Cultural
- Educational
- Governmental
- Health Clinic
- House of Worship
- Public Gathering
- Village Boundary

### Road Class

- State Highway
- Town Highway Class 1
- Town Highway Class 2
- Town Highway Class 3
- Stream/River
- Lake/Pond



Data Sources  
 Facilities: VT Data - E911 Site Locations (address points), VCGI, 2025  
 Political Boundaries: VT Data - Town and Village Boundaries, VCGI, 2025  
 Roads: VT Road Centerline, VTrans, VCGI, 2022  
 Water Bodies: VHD-USGS, VCGI, 2001

