

**ICB**  
**Waste Management**  
***FAQ and Informational Sheet***

*The following are questions asked by ICB's sub-committee and FIWMD's answers.*

**COST**

**What is the current estimated cost (as precise as possible) of the initiative?**

Estimated cost of the project is \$4,148,659

- Necessary Repairs                      \$1,413,899
- Upgrade & Repairs to Bldg            \$527,000
- New Compost System                  \$1,124,065
- Combining Stations                    \$297,000
- Contingency Items & Equip.          \$786,695

**Does WM have any thoughts about / plans for ways they could programmatically increase revenues to offset the increased tax burden of the residents of FI?**

Currently, the District is looking into a pay-as-you-throw system. This would entail residents to purchase special marked waste bags in order to discard the trash at the station. This is becoming more common at waste facilities all over.

The District is also planning to have a scale system, which is included in the cost of the facility upgrade. The scale would allow the District to better charge for materials being discarded at the facility that current have charges associated with them.

**On average, what is the cost of the expansion going to be per-household on Fishers Island?**

It is contingent on the tax rate of each property.

**What grants, and in what amounts, is the WM targeting to bring down the cost? Are these grants considered accessible or highly-competitive by WM? What's the timeline on the application / pay-out process and what are the stipulations up front?**

Due to the scope of the project, there is no one grant that would cover the overall project. The District is working with its consultant KGO Consulting, Inc. to look at possible grants. The District has also recently started working with the New York State Pollution Prevention Institute to also use them as a means to find grants and apply for them. While many of the grants would be through the NYS DEC, the District will be looking at all grants that would cover any aspect of this project to bring the cost down.

**Why has it been so difficult to nail down and communicate the final cost for the project?**

The undertaking of this project began in the 1990's, as the District realized that the growth of waste on the island was quickly growing faster than the facilities could handle. As the District researched alternatives to the problem, state and federal regulations have continued to change in their requirements adding to what is needed at the facilities. The District has also revisited the plan when the estimated costs were higher than anticipated. However, with any undertaking that has lasted more than twenty years, costs do continue to rise, and the District will continue to address any issues as they change.

**With successful completion of the consolidation- what are your expected Operating Budgets on 5-yr timeline (FY19 – FY23)? What about without?**

The District expects any Operating Budget increases to be between 1 and 2 percent, based on normal operating cost increases.

**Could the project be done in phases over the next 10 years? As phase 1, could you just renovate the compost area to cover OSHA safety issues, reduce dust from grinding and prepare site for phase 2?**

Yes, the project could be done in a drawn-out fashion. Each time would require the District to go through the bonding process and there is also the possibility of each phase increasing in cost.

**Is the automated tax worksheet, circulated by WM, working correctly?**

Yes

**You were able to defer raising property taxes for many years by using funds from the Picket Land Fill project to offset rising operating costs. The taxpayer just had to absorb a substantial increase in property taxes in 2018. What type of increases do you expect over the next five years?**

Please see the prior question.

**Will this project reduce the funds spent on ferry trips and thus increase the probability of increases in Ferry taxes or rates?**

While the project would reduce trips on the ferry, there would still be a fair amount of hauls. As such, any openings created would be available for other commercial or residential reservations.

**Could the Picket Landfill be sold to offset the costs of the project?**

Yes, however the purchaser of the property would be responsible for all maintenance of the property, including making sure the membrane on the cap is not damaged and any testing that is required by the DEC. Furthermore, no building would be allowed on the property.

**What are the grant opportunities that you are pursuing?**

Please see the above question.

## **PHILOSOPHY**

**What are the costs / fines of doing nothing?**

There are no set fees since fines are done by a case by case base. A typical fine could be \$7,500, with \$1,500 per day per infraction until the infraction is remedied.

As an example, the Town of Southold in 1993 was fined \$850,000 for failure to close their landfill by 1990. While the Town took the State to court, the Town lost and eventually closed the landfill. (See attached news article from The New York Times.)

**Where can a community member find a copy NYS guidelines for 2030?  
What are the specific requirements of DEC part 360 regulations?**

The guidelines can be found at:  
<https://www.dec.ny.gov/regulations/regulations.html>

Scroll down to “Solid Waste Management Facilities”

**According to FIWM recently published strategic plan the average solid waste (MSW) per person in 2010 in NY state was 4.1 pounds and the objective is to reduce that number to .6 lbs per person by 2030. The FIMW plan states that currently the FIWMD has already achieved a MSW disposal rate of .76 lbs per person and should be complemented for this achievement. Further the plan states that by implementing the plan FI will achieve the .6lbs per person by 2023 and exceed it by 2030. Why does FI need to beat NYS stated goals?**

While the District is happy that we are at our current levels, there is still much work needed to reach the State’s mandate. The District is not trying to “beat” any goals but is trying to provide the best management of waste generated by the island and to be a leading force in the stewardship for the environment. The District also needs to be constantly aware of changes coming from the State and Federal regulators.

**What is the penalty if FI failed?**

Since it is a New York State law, the Attorney General could step in and take the District to court and order the work done, plus any fines that are leveled by the DEC and the State.

**According to the newly published strategic plan, much of the rationale for consolidating facilities is based on a 1997 study that recommended this with a cost of \$530k versus a cost of renovating both sites of about \$480K.**

**Much has changed in the Ferry District area. How have these changes been considered?**

The District has been working on the strategic plan since the 1990's. At that time the Ferry District area was a commercial work area with many contracting businesses utilizing the buildings. The first Strategic plan was filed in 2007, just after the Community Center opened in 2006.

In May of 2014, the District went to the ICB meeting with the newest 2 - 5 year Strategic Plan, which included the Combining of the two stations at the Compost Facility. At that time, there was no mention to the District of future plans for the Ferry District area.

**Fishers Island currently sends it MSW to Connecticut, what percentage is FI's waste to the total handled by that facility? Are there any issues with shipping garbage to CT.**

In 2016, Coventa's Preston trash-to-energy facility was burning 689 tons daily. For nine months of 2018, the District has shipped 240 tons to the facility.

Currently, there are no issues with the District shipping waste to Connecticut. However, due to an overall reduction in waste being sent to trash-to-energy facilities, the costs could rise after our 2022 agreement with the Southeastern Connecticut Regional Resources Recovery Authority (SCRRA) expires. The District has been fortunate in that the 1992 contract with SCRRA set the rates at the same as the regional Connecticut membership towns. This will probably change with a new contract.

**Where are our facilities currently out of compliance – what needs to be addressed immediately? What regulations are you expecting to need to address on a 5-year timeline? 10-year timeline? Has the DEC cited FIWM for Flood Zone issues? What alternatives have been explored regarding a flood zone exception given that garbage is not processed but just collected in compactor? Are there options to remediate the flood zone issue by changing access through property that Ferry district leases to Race Rock Landscaping and raising level of compactors?**

Both facilities are out of compliance with a number of issues from the NYS DEC's Part 360 including Part 361-3.2, Part 365-5.2, Part 361-6.2, and Part 262-3.2. These cover the areas of composting, construction debris, tires, electronic waste and transfer station. The biggest issue is the lack of proper drainage for the

handling of storm run-off and leachates. At this time neither facility has any form of approved drainage.

While it is hard to determine what regulations may be coming in the future, as the waste management field is always changing. The new facility will have concrete pads for the initial processing of compost, with a leachate waste water retention system. As of this time, the DEC does not require a concrete pad; however, the District was told that the DEC is considering that all compost windrows be on either a Gore-tex membrane or a concrete pad.

In terms of the "flood zone" issue. The DEC has not cited the District for any issues as they are aware that we are currently trying to address them with the updated facility. The issue with the "flood zone" is what would be needed to lift the Transfer Facility up in order to install a proper drainage system that would not leak into the ground water. Also, there is the issue of storm flooding. During Hurricane Sandy, the Transfer Station flooded due to storm surge and the entire electrical system was destroyed including the compressors for the compactors. Furthermore, it is unlikely that any type of building would be allowed in the "flood zone", which is common, and one reason the Town of Southold is moving their salt barn.

At the Compost Facility, an aging infrastructure is rapidly deteriorating. While OSHA has not cited the District, the chain "railing" is not up to code. The District's insurance company has allowed the District to temporarily make repairs as they are aware of the District attempt to update the facility.

**If one of the goals of the plan, is to deal with the increasing amounts of garbage generated on FI, how is Waste Management working to proactively bring down the amount of garbage that we need to ship off the island?**

The District has been actively looking at ways to continue to pull material from the waste stream for recycling, including textile and mattress.

Furthermore, the District has been reaching out to commercial waste generators, such as the Clubs, the Pequot and the school, in an attempt to work with them in ways to reduce their waste stream. The District has also set up a table at last summer's July Art show and discussed ways to reduce waste.

This winter, the District will be working with the Pollution Prevention Institute to set up more educational programs for the community.

**What are volumes of garbage and recyclables shipped by month over the past three years? What are the future projections used in your modeling? And how were they determined?**

For volumes, please see attached paperwork. For projections and how determined, please refer to the District's Local Solid Waste Management Plan, Pg. 13, Section 2.2.

**What was the specific engagement request for the consultant? Can we get a link to consultant's report?**

At the time the consultants were charged with looking at feasible options to handle the increased waste being produced by the island.

Please refer to the District's Review of Facilities Options (1997).

**Did consultant do a feasibility study with pros and cons? If so is it available?**

Please refer to the District's Review of Facilities Options (1997), Pg. 18 – 19.

**Will the proposed improvements to the facilities bring our WM facility towards the top of its class? Will it just get us into simple compliance with the current and expected on-coming regulations? Why do you need so much new building square footage?**

While its hard to know what regulations will be coming in the future, the District does follow what is happening through trade organizations and attending conferences. Judging what the DEC is leaning toward, the District is planning for the future. The District has already been informed that our plan for concrete pads for compost windrows maybe a requirement by the DEC in the near future.

The Mixing building needs to be large enough to process all materials that arrive and allow loading equipment inside to move the mixed product. The Maintenance Building will be able to house all the District's heavy equipment.

**Has WM considered applying for a special exemption from the NYS Regulations?**

While the DEC does offer exemptions in cases of extreme hardship, it is very difficult to get them as this would lead to a precedent.

**Why is Ownership of the site is important? What other sites have been explored? Would WM be amenable to a land swap for their current site if another piece of Town owned land was suitable and available? Would the town be amenable to this?**

The District looked at both sites that are currently used by the District. When the project was first conceived the area of the Fort that the Compost Station sits on was mostly used for commercial use. While a land swap with the Town could be possible, most of the land the Town owns is either in a flood zone (Parade Grounds and Airport), or in the area of the current Compost Station.

**What percentage of the project fulfills NYS requirements vs. what percentage of it is driven by ecological/environmental ideals? What do we have to do vs. what should we do?**

The project is about 50/50, though many of the State's requirements are environmentally driven. As of yet, the DEC is not mandating composting; however, they are looking to start with commercial organic waste being taken out of the waste stream, and then follow through with residential. As stated, they have not mandated composting, but they are strongly suggesting it.

The District continues to look at ways for the island to better handle its waste for the betterment of the island environment.

**What is the timeline from here - is the project moving forward from this point, regardless?**

Currently, the District is waiting for the Town Planning Board to address any requirements they may have, and then the project will continue to the Town boards. Once this is completed, then the project can go out to bond.

The Planning Board had the project on their September 24<sup>th</sup> agenda; however, the District has yet to receive any notification as to what transpired.

**What are the issues, if any, with shipping garbage to CT. or RI? Actual if any and potential?**



As long as another state meets the requirements of the NYSDEC, then there are no issues. However, RI still relies on one large landfill north of Providence. Connecticut no longer relies on landfills but has a limited number of trash-to-energy plants.

Also, recent developments concerning recyclables and China have added pressure on the recycling industry. This has resulted in increasing costs and in some areas of the nation, municipalities having to scramble as facilities close. So far, there have been no issues with facilities that we use in Connecticut, but the District continues to monitor the situation.

## **PLANNING WORK**

**We understand that a FULL SEQR report was obtained? Did it consider the residential development plans of the Ferry area? What are the noise and dust abatement requirements mandated by the SEQR? How much do these requirements cost? Is there a risk of smell and rodents in this residential and school area?**

At the time the report was written, the District was unaware of any plans to develop the Ferry area. The final SEQR report was filed with the DEC in September of 2017.

For information on noise, dust and odor please see the SEQR report Section 3.4, page 52.

In accordance to DEC Part 360, Subpart 361-3.2, Article 12, all organic waste must be processed the day it is received or stored in an enclosed container (dumpster) for up to three days. The District will be mixing all organic waste inside an environmentally controlled Mixing Building. Also, how the compost is mixed will aid in reducing any risk of smell or rodents.

**We understand that landfills are being eliminated in many states. Can you provide information on Connecticut and NYS garbage processing plans. We understand that Connecticut has passed legislation to eliminate use of landfills but does not have the money to enact the legislation? Is this correct? Once they do build new composting facilities why wouldn't they take Fishers Island garbage? FIWM currently has transfer contracts with a private garbage processor in Ct that runs through 2021. What if any concerns do you have about extending this contract?**

Both Connecticut and New York have made closing landfills a priority. The last Connecticut landfill was scheduled to close in 2015, and the last landfill on Long Island (Brookhaven) is scheduled in 2024.

Connecticut current law for composting: Public Act 11-217, as amended by Section 4 of Public Act 13-285, provides a phased-in approach to commercial organics recycling. The law (CGS Sec. 22a-226e) says that if you are a commercial food wholesaler or distributor, industrial food manufacturer or processor, supermarket, resort or conference center, **AND** you generate a projected annual volume of 104 or more tons per year of source separated organic material, **AND** you are located within 20 miles of a permitted recycling facility that can accept that material, then you must ensure that those materials are recycled. In 2020, the projected annual volume triggering regulation decreases to 52 tons per year. Other compliance options under the law include on-site composting, or installation of permitted on-site organics treatment equipment.

However, the Connecticut only has seven composting facilities available and they are mostly in the western part of the state. Due to the hauling charges, many municipalities have opted not to take part in this program. Most towns in Southeastern Connecticut do not participate.

On the other hand, New York is taking a more pro-active approach by having smaller compost facilities available and offering grant money to assist in the building of these facilities. The District will be applying for this grant.

The District is currently in talks with SCRRRA about the future of our contract with them for handling the MSW from the island. While both parties are optimistic about the continuation of the contract, there may be an increase in charges.

**Do you have any documentation to back up the environment testing – noise / dust / traffic – that was done that informed the environmental impact of the plan? What are the risks of increased cost overruns in the site development? How long will construction take How many square feet of new construction will you be building? Why do you need new equipment repair bays? Doesn't the existing building have two bays?**

For information on noise, dust and odor please see the SEQR report Section 3.4, page 52.

For information on traffic, please see the SEQR report Table 3, page 10.

Construction is planned to take five months.

The Mixing Building would be 4,500 square feet and the Maintenance Building would be 2,400 square feet.

The new Maintenance Building would allow the District's heavy machine equipment to be worked on and stored from inclement weather. It would also handle air quality for the diesel machines. The current machine bays are neither large enough or able to handle air quality.

**What did Waste Management do to gather information and build a consensus from the immediate stakeholders in the area – FI School, Ferry District and Island Community Center?**

The District went to the ICB in 2014 to notify them of the project, and the District had discussions with the School Superintendent.

**Does WM feel that community feedback is important to their process? If so, where does WM feel that the community, it's tax payers and immediate stakeholders, were brought into the process? Where has WM created space for feedback? How are they listening, digesting and responding?**

The District does feel community feedback is important. The planning for this project has been going on since the 1990's and has been well discussed at the District's public monthly meetings all along; as well as on the District's webpage. However, public input has only come out in the final hour of the project after much planning and money has been spent. While certain aspects of the project will continue to move along, the District is still open to suggestions and input.

**The recently published strategic plan estimates that seasonal residents were 4216 in 2010 based on an assumption of 8 persons per residence. Why did you use an 8-person assumption when Suffolk County uses 5? The 8 person assumption and a linear regression analysis projecting new seasonal housing units were key components to the 2020 and 2030 projections of 4816 and 5424 seasonal residents respectively. Is this practical as it implies 151 new seasonal residences from 2010 to 2030?**

The District worked with its consultants to reach the "8 person" number after looking at several reports. However, these reports did not take into account the large number of visitors to the island that arrive by ferry, air traffic, private boats, and charter boats. Nor did the reports take into account the large and increasing number of seasonal help that the island commercial enterprises bring in to work for the season. The biggest problem is that there is no clear-cut way to record the vast quantity of people visiting the island during the summer months. If the island

had hotels/motels or inns, there would be a better record kept. Therefore, the District add three individuals to each house hold for a more reasonable figure.