

I don't live near the proposed landfill site. Why should I be concerned?

On the surface, it would seem that only homeowners in Williston and Essex located near River Rd. would be impacted by the landfill. Actually, the consequences and implications actually reach far beyond that area.

There is a great deal of research indicating people who live within a few miles of a landfill have higher rates of a variety of cancers, asthma, low birth weight babies and birth defects. This is due to the toxins emitted into the air as the trash decomposes. Residents within a few miles of the landfill will be impacted by the health issues, as will employees at the nearby industrial sites and students at the schools in the area.

The landfill also has far reaching implications for all Chittenden County residents. A landfill will bring many environmental and health problems to the Lake Champlain region. Under federal law, landfills can accept hazardous waste from households and small, exempt parties. As garbage decomposes, landfills emit a slew of chemical toxins. Despite the fact that the CSWD plans a double lined, state-of-the art, facility, it's an indisputable industry fact that all landfills leak. The plastic liners and water collection pipes deteriorate over time and can eventually leak toxins into the environment, not to mention the storm water runoff. In this case, the environment includes the Winooski River, which sits just 1/3 mile from the site, and is a direct path to Lake Champlain. More toxic lake pollution certainly would impact all Vermonters who enjoy recreating on the lake.

Every Williston and Essex resident could also feel the landfill's financial sting. Research strongly indicates newly sited landfills depress property values up to three miles away by as much as 20-60%, depending on proximity. The potential property devaluation could be massive and Williston and Essex towns could be forced to raise the tax rate to make up for property tax shortfalls.

The landfill is not needed. We do not require additional landfill capacity. Every Chittenden County resident must fight this unnecessary and detrimental proposal now. We must protect our citizens and future generations from a legacy of financial, environmental and health problems.