

Community Facilities Direct Loan & Grant Program

Success Story: Tamworth Addresses Seasonal Influx with Modern Transfer Station

\$493,000

USDA Community
Facilities Disaster Grant

\$916,630

Town of Tamworth
project contribution

3000 → 5000

Full-time town population
→ Summer population

371 Tons/year

Reduction of household
waste sent to landfill

8% → 35%

Pre-project recycling rate
→ Post project rate

\$60,000/year

Municipal savings from
reduced landfill costs

Managing the Surplus of Summer

Tamworth, New Hampshire, has a population of roughly 3,000 full-time residents. Located between the Granite State's Lakes Region and White Mountains, the area teams with recreation-friendly opportunity and is a popular destination for weekend tourists, extended vacations and seasonal work. The community receives a regular boost to its economy when the summer population swells to roughly 5,000, but the Tamworth transfer station had a hard time keeping up with the extra waste.

Innovative Tradition Takes on Modern Challenge

The people of Tamworth have an inventive, practical approach to community development rooted in a rich rural history. The town boasts one of the oldest repertory theaters in the U.S., a 200-year-old working farm and museum, and locally provided health care. But the coronavirus, along with several storms and floods, had a devastating economic impact. Built in 2000, the transfer station's age and limited capacity meant municipal leaders had to put their imaginations to work once again.

A Win-Win with Efficient Waste Management

A group of concerned citizens formed the Tamworth Recycling Project in 2018, which led to a town committee and contact with USDA Rural Development. RD approved a Community Facilities Disaster Relief grant application to modernize the station. A new storage and loading area, truck scale, baler and forklift will vastly improve source-separated recycling and sorting capability. The town's recycled items will be sold back to the community, benefitting both the economy and environment.

For program regulations and requirements, please go to the [USDA RD CF fact sheets](#)



Photo courtesy of the Northeast Resource Recovery Association: NRRA SWAT team members consult with Tamworth leaders



Local school children created a mural on the station's trash compactor to encourage recycling