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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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**THREE CHITTENDEN COUNTY HIGH SCHOOLS HOST
TRASH ON THE LAWN DAY**

Trash sorts highlight the importance of continued waste reduction efforts throughout Chittenden County high schools, and provide a strong visual reminder of the materials that make up our trash that could have been recycled, composted, or reused.

Next week students at three Chittenden County high schools will put on jumpsuits, throw their trash on the lawn, and sort through it to see how well their recycling programs are doing. **Colchester High School, Champlain Valley Union High School, and South Burlington High School** will take all the trash generated in one day and see how much is made up of items that could have been recycled, reused, or composted. These one-day trash sorts, called “Trash On the Lawn Day” (TOLD), were designed by the Association of Vermont Recyclers (AVR) and implemented with help from the Chittenden Solid Waste District (CSWD). They invite the school and surrounding community to see how easy it can be to reduce the amount of trash that ends up in the landfill.

Trash generated and collected at each school will be sorted and displayed into several categories of waste including what could be composted, reused, recycled, and what is actually trash. Student and faculty volunteers will spend the day sorting the waste the amount of waste in each group will be tallied. Representatives from CSWD, Intervale Compost Products, and AVR will be present.

A TOLD conducted last year at Champlain Valley Union High School (CVU) revealed that recyclable materials made up more than 14 percent of what had been thrown away as trash. This finding spurred CVU to look at ways to be more sustainable by improving their recycling infrastructure, starting a composting program, and growing some of their own produce. At this year’s audit they’ll get a chance to gauge their success.

This year marks the first time a TOLD event will be held at both Colchester High School (CHS) and South Burlington High School (SBHS). The SBHS “Green Team” hopes the audit results will spur its school community to start a composting program in its cafeteria, while CHS hopes their audit raises community awareness on the importance of the three R’s: Reduce, Reuse and Recycle.

According to Jessica Sankey, Waste Reduction Coordinator at CSWD, “TOLD is a snapshot of how an entire school community is managing its waste, and is often times used as a catalyst for change. Many students want to improve school purchasing policies, raise awareness about recycling rates, create a compost program, or estimate their school’s ecological footprint. Data collected from a TOLD event can be the perfect tool to generate support for specific environmental initiatives by sending a strong message on the needed areas of improvement to the student body, faculty, staff, and the administration.”

Stop by one of the upcoming trash sorts and you'll see first-hand what it takes for an institution to understand its own impact on the waste stream and devise ways to reduce it.