



Solid Waste Disposal Capacity in the Northeast

Prepared by the Northeast Waste Management Officials' Association (NEWMOA)

April 2026

(export data updated August 2026)

Introduction and Overview

In recent years, solid waste officials, researchers, advocates, industry members, and consultants have raised concerns about the available disposal capacity in the Northeast U.S. NEWMOA prepared this report to inform these conversations and provide an overview of current solid waste disposal capacity in the region.¹ In addition to a regional summary, this report includes state-by-state disposal and capacity information in the [Appendix](#).

Scope

Disposal facilities covered in this report include waste-to-energy (WTE) facilities that incinerate municipal solid waste (MSW) to produce energy and landfills that dispose of MSW, WTE ash, construction and demolition debris (C&D), and/or other bulky wastes, such as furniture and mattresses.

The report quantifies in-region and exported *disposal* of MSW and C&D. It does not cover *generation* of these waste streams. There are significant quantities of generated materials, such as recyclables and wood waste, that are diverted to recycling markets but are not within the scope of this report because they do not require disposal capacity.

Importance of the Data

The report identifies the potential for significant disposal capacity loss in the region within the next five years. Although state environmental agencies play a key role in solid waste management by permitting disposal facilities and providing regulatory oversight, these agencies are not typically responsible for the actual development of new disposal capacity, though this responsibility or authority can vary significantly from state to state. It is nonetheless clear that the collection and analysis of this data is essential for states to

¹ The “region” and the “Northeast” are defined for this Report as the eight states that are members of NEWMOA: Connecticut, Maine, Massachusetts, New Hampshire, New Jersey, New York, Rhode Island, and Vermont.

focus policy and programs to ensure the needs of residents, businesses, and municipalities are met.

Meeting the Challenge

There are three basic ways to meet the challenge of diminishing disposal capacity in a state: develop more capacity, export the waste, or reduce the demand for disposal. Of these, decreasing disposal demand—through curbing generation or diverting more to reuse and recycling—is seen by many state officials as the most desirable and efficient way to meet the looming challenge.

Waste characterization studies in the region have shown that a significant portion of waste bound for disposal is material that could be diverted to reuse or recycling. Nationwide, circular economy proponents are shifting the conversation by focusing on the enormous economic development potential of reducing and diverting materials from disposal. Great opportunities exist when we view our waste as an economic development tool rather than a burden to be managed and shipped away at great cost.

Data Considerations and Notes

The estimates of solid waste disposal capacity in this Report are based on tonnages from the calendar year 2024 and limited to the capacity that is approved and permitted by state authorities as of February 2026, which may be subject to change in the future. Some landfills have the space and conditions that would enable them to expand beyond their currently permitted capacity. However, this expansion requires that the facility go through a process of revising its permits and is not guaranteed. Therefore, only the currently permitted facilities and their approved capacity limits are presented in this Report. Similarly, there is no guarantee that the waste-to-energy (WTE) facilities that are in operation at this time will continue to operate in the future.

This Report focuses only on disposal capacity at facilities located in the eight Northeast states that are the members of NEWMOA: Connecticut, Maine, Massachusetts, New Hampshire, New Jersey, New York, Rhode Island, and Vermont. Some of the solid waste generated in these states is sent to disposal facilities located different states, and for many NEWMOA states, most of it is transferred to another NEWMOA state. However, a significant quantity of solid waste is also currently transferred out of the region to disposal facilities located primarily in Ohio, Pennsylvania, and Virginia.²

² More detail on the interstate flow of MSW and C&D materials is available at:
<https://www.newmoa.org/projects/municipal-solid-waste/>

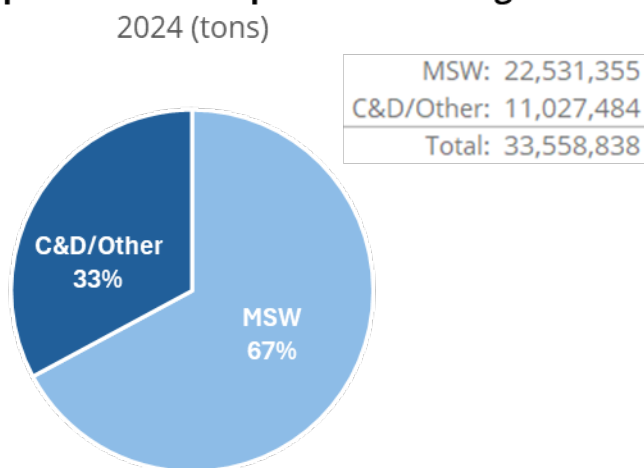
The data summarized in this report were provided by each of the NEWMOA state environmental agencies and cover the calendar year of 2024. In general, state officials report that the quantity, type, and source of waste received by disposal facilities does not vary significantly from year-to-year. While the report accounts for MSW separately from C&D and other wastes, this is reliant upon the waste type designation as reported by disposal facilities, which in some cases may be mixed or inaccurate.

Regional Summary

Solid waste disposal facilities located in the northeast disposed of a total of 33,558,838 tons of solid waste in 2024. As shown in Figure 1, 67% was MSW, and 33% was other wastes, including C&D debris and WTE ash. WTE facilities dispose of mainly MSW, and landfills are used for the disposal of other types of solid waste in addition to MSW. The percentage of total MSW disposed of at facilities located in each state ranges from 48% in Maine, to 90% in Rhode Island.

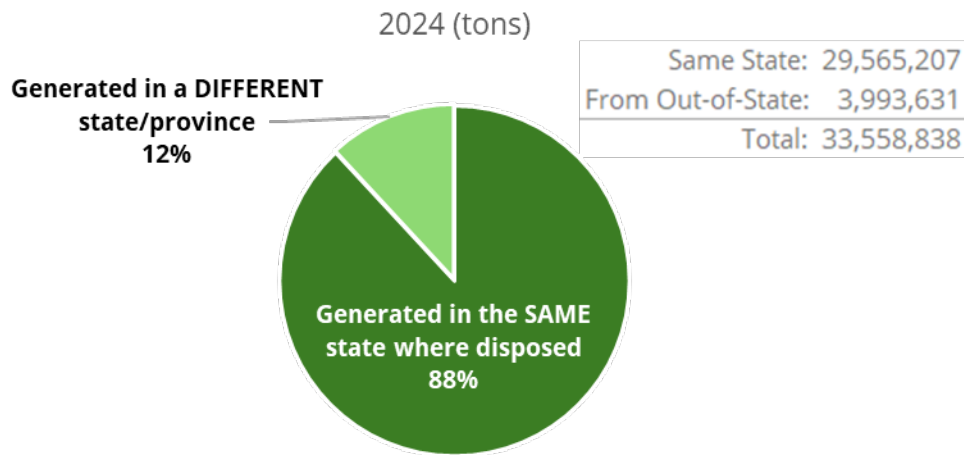
State-by-state data is presented in the [Appendix](#).

Figure 1: Type of Waste Disposed in the Region



As shown in Figure 2, 88% of disposed solid waste was generated in the same state as the disposal facility, and 12% was generated in a different state or province. The percentage of total disposed waste generated in that same state ranges from 61% in New Hampshire to 100% in Rhode Island.

**Figure 2: Source of Solid Waste Disposed:
In-State versus Out-of-State**

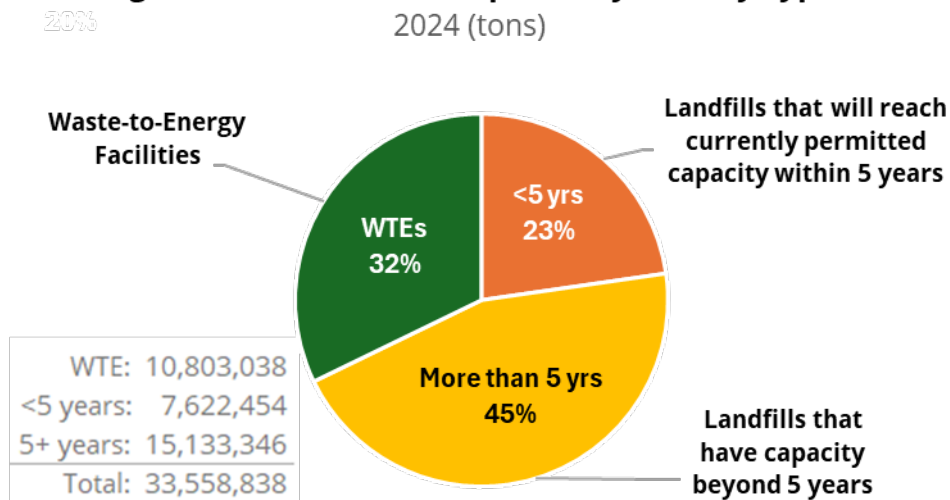


Waste-to-Energy Facilities

Connecticut, Maine, Massachusetts, New Hampshire, New Jersey, and New York have Waste-to-Energy (WTE) incinerators, while Vermont and Rhode Island do not. In the 6 states that have WTE facilities, a total of 27 facilities disposed of about 32% of the solid waste that was disposed of within the region, as shown in Figure 3. WTE facilities handled between 10% (NH) and 72% (CT) of the waste disposed of within each respective state.

WTE facilities generate a significant quantity of ash. In 2024, 2,373,591 tons of WTE ash required disposal region-wide, representing 10% of total solid waste disposed of at landfills. 17% of ash was disposed of at landfills that will reach their currently permitted capacity within 5 years. Massachusetts and Connecticut received ash from out-of-state for disposal.

Figure 3: Solid Waste Disposed by Facility Type



Anticipated Loss of Capacity, Based on Currently Permitted Capacity

Currently, there are 92 landfills handling 68% of the solid waste that is disposed of in the region. As shown in Figure 3, based on the currently permitted landfill disposal capacity in the region, the landfills that received approximately 23% of the total solid waste disposed of will reach their currently permitted capacity within the next five years. New York State has the largest portion of potential closures, amounting to 34% of its in-state capacity, and accounting for 66% of the potentially lost capacity region-wide.³ In Maine, an anticipated loss of 53% of current disposal is imminent with the potential closure of its largest landfill.⁴

If additional capacity is not permitted, 7,622,454 tons⁵ of solid waste previously sent to those facilities will need to be reduced, recycled, or find new disposal locations before 2030.

Changes in Regional Summary from 2018 to 2024

This Report is based upon a similar report conducted in 2021 on 2018/19 data, allowing comparison and assessment of changes over the six-year period. Overall, solid waste disposal capacity has not changed significantly, as shown in Table 1.

Table 1: Changes to Findings from 2018 to 2024

	2018	2024	Δ	
Total Solid Waste Disposed in the Region	35,180,905	33,558,838	-5%	Decrease
Percent of Solid Waste that is MSW	67%	67%	-	No change
Percent imported from out-of-state for Disposal	12%	12%	-	No change
Total number of WTE facilities	31	27	-13%	Decrease
Percent of Solid Waste going to WTE facilities	33%	32%	-3%	No significant change
Anticipated Capacity Loss within 5 years	23%	23%	-	No change

³ Approximately 5.0M of the 7.6M of anticipated lost capacity resides in NYS. The largest landfill in New York (receiving 1.5M tons in 2024) has submitted an application for a “valley infill” expansion.

⁴ The Juniper Ridge Landfill (JRL) is due to reach its current capacity in 2028, which handled 856,845 in 2024, almost half of the material disposed of in Maine.

⁵ This figure would drop to 5.2M if the NYS landfill expansion application is approved and the JRL in Maine receives an expansion.

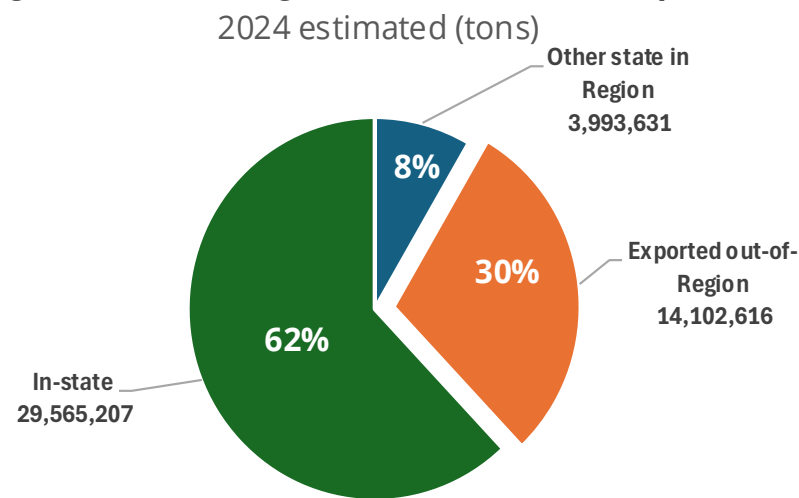
Regional Exports

Limited capacity and rising disposal costs in the region have resulted in the transport of solid waste outside the 8 states. In 2024,⁶ 14 million tons of waste were shipped by truck or rail to disposal sites outside of the region, representing 30% of total waste disposed.

Ohio accepted 5.5 million tons, Pennsylvania and Virginia around 3 million each, and Alabama, South Carolina, Indiana, Michigan, and New Brunswick also received waste from the region. In addition, 1.2 million tons were exported to unreported out-of-region locations.

As shown in Figure 4, for waste originating in the region, 62% was disposed of in the same state it was generated, 8% was disposed of in another regional state, and 30% was exported out of the region for disposal.

Figure 4: Where Regional Solid Waste is Disposed

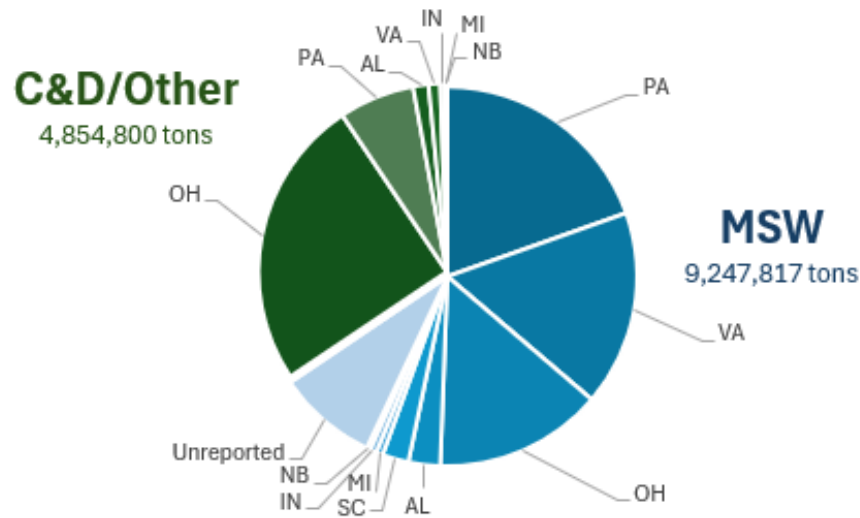


Of the 30% of solid waste exported out-of-region, MSW exports exceed those of C&D/Other waste by about 2 to 1, as shown in Figure 5. The three largest destination points for MSW are Pennsylvania, Virginia, and Ohio. The single largest destination point for C&D/Other waste is Ohio.

⁶ Estimated using data from both 2022 and 2024 as available.

**Figure 5: Out-of-Region Exports
by Type and Destination**

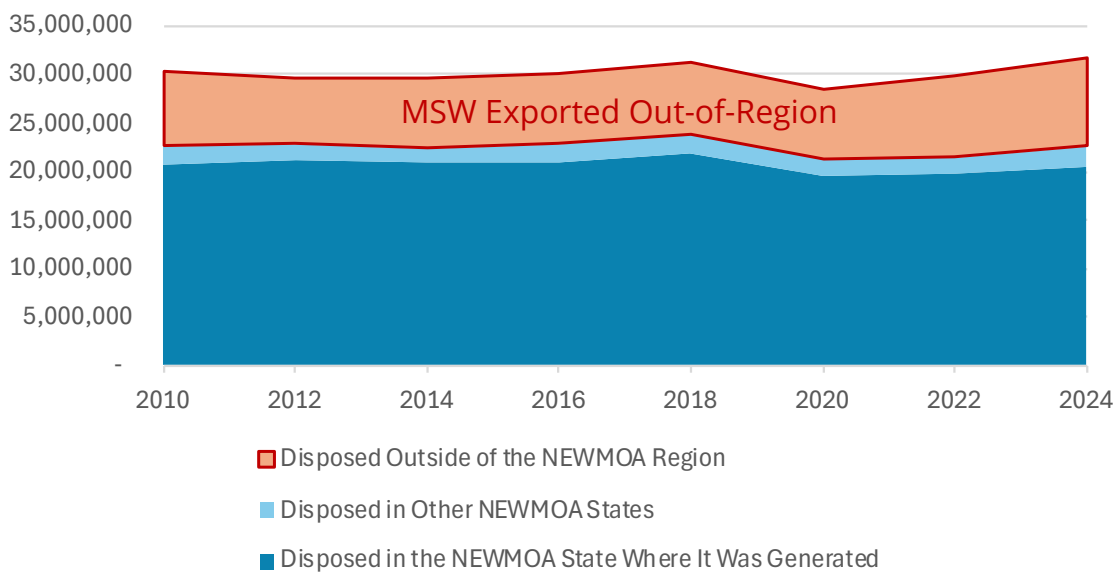
2024 estimated (14,102,616 tons)



MSW Export Trends

Although out-of-region MSW exports have remained fairly stable over the last decade, an upward trend may have begun post-pandemic as shown in Figure 6. New York and Massachusetts have experienced the largest increases from 2022 to 2024, at 15% and 17% respectively.

Figure 6: MSW Disposal Location



Acknowledgements

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Disclaimer

The views expressed in this presentation do not necessarily reflect those of each of the NEWMOA-member states. Mention of any company, process, or product name should not be considered an endorsement by NEWMOA or the NEWMOA-member states.

About NEWMOA



The Northeast Waste Management Officials' Association ([NEWMOA](#)) is a non-profit, non-partisan, interstate association whose membership is composed of the state environment agency programs that address materials management, hazardous waste, solid waste, waste site cleanup, toxics use reduction, sustainability, pollution prevention, and related environmental challenges in Connecticut, Maine, Massachusetts, New Hampshire, New Jersey, New York, Rhode Island, and Vermont.

Appendix

State-specific Disposal Capacity Data

[Connecticut](#)

[Maine](#)

[Massachusetts](#)

[New Hampshire](#)

[New Jersey](#)

[New York](#)

[Rhode Island](#)

[Vermont](#)

Connecticut

In 2024 in Connecticut, there were:

- 4 solid waste landfills (down from 6 in 2018)
- 5 WTE facilities (same as in 2018), and
- 2 WTE ash landfills (up from 1 in 2018)

Connecticut facilities disposed of a total of 1,929,275 tons of solid waste in 2024 (down from 2,552,101 tons 2018). As shown in Figure A1, there was an estimated 70% of MSW disposed, and 30% was other solid waste such as C&D debris and WTE ash. An estimated 3% of disposed solid waste (66,922 tons) in 2024 was generated in other states as shown in Figure A2.

Figure A1: Type of Waste Disposed at Connecticut Facilities

1,929,275 tons in 2024

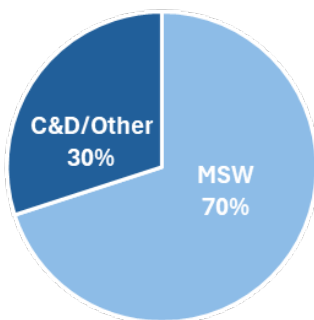
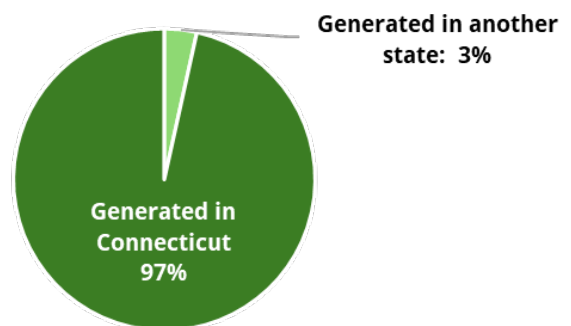


Figure A2: Source of Solid Waste Disposed in Connecticut

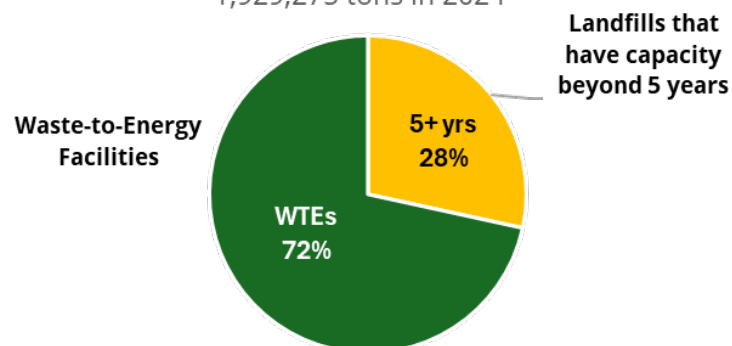
1,929,275 tons in 2024



There are six solid waste landfills operating in Connecticut, 4 disposing bulky/special wastes such as C&D debris, and 2 disposing of ash from WTEs. None of these landfills dispose of MSW. As shown in Figure A3, 28% (a total of 548,124 tons in 2024) went to landfills that have capacity beyond 5 years, most of which is WTE ash.

Figure A3: Solid Waste Disposed in Connecticut by Facility Type

1,929,275 tons in 2024



The 5 Connecticut WTE facilities disposed of 72% (1,381,151 tons) of the solid waste disposed of in 2024. The WTE facilities generated a total of 309,874 tons of ash in 2024, 85% sent to ash landfills in Connecticut, and 15% sent to a landfill in Massachusetts.

Maine

In 2024 in Maine, there were:

- 5 solid waste landfills (down from 7 in 2019)
- 3 WTE facilities (same as in 2019), and
- 2 WTE ash landfills (same as in 2019)

These facilities disposed of 1,719,668 tons of solid waste in 2024. As shown in Figure A4, 48% was MSW, and 52% was other solid wastes such as C&D debris, special wastes, contaminated soils, and WTE ash. An estimated 5% of the solid waste that was disposed of at Maine facilities (92,152 tons) was generated in other states as shown in Figure A5.

Figure A4: Type of Waste Disposed at Maine Facilities

1,719,668 tons in 2024

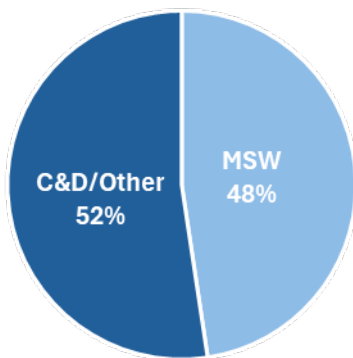
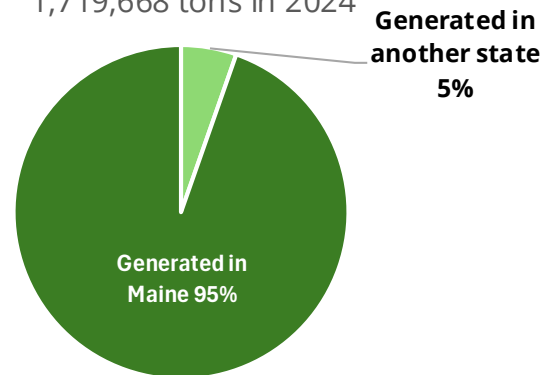


Figure A5: Source of Solid Waste Disposed in Maine

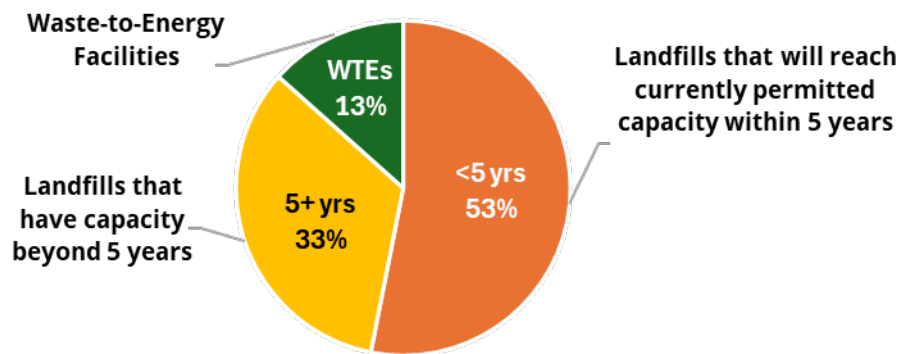
1,719,668 tons in 2024



In 2024, there were 5 solid waste landfills operating in Maine, with another temporarily closed. They all accept MSW, C&D, and other wastes. There are two ash landfills that accept WTE ash from their respective in-state incinerators. Because the largest landfill in Maine is due to reach capacity in 2028, 53% of the total solid waste disposed of in Maine (a total of 913,338 tons in 2024) went to landfills that will reach capacity within 5 years, as shown in Figure A6. 33% of landfilled waste went to landfills which will reach capacity beyond 5 years, and 13% went to WTE incinerators. One of the WTE facilities has been closed recently; reopening the facility would help ease capacity restraints in Maine.

**Figure A6: Solid Waste Disposed
in Maine by Facility Type**

1,719,668 tons in 2024



Massachusetts

In 2024 in Massachusetts, there were:

- 12 solid waste landfills (up from 11 in 2019)
- 5 WTE facilities (same as in 2019), and
- 2 WTE ash-only landfills (same as in 2019)

These facilities disposed of 4,401,627 tons of solid waste in 2024. As shown in Figure A7, 76% was MSW, and 24% was other solid wastes such as C&D debris and WTE ash. Approximately 8% of the solid waste disposed (417,327 tons) in 2019 was generated in other states, as shown in Figure A8. In 2024, waste received from other states was primarily from Rhode Island and New Hampshire.

Figure A7: Type of Waste Disposed at Massachusetts Facilities

4,401,627 tons in 2024

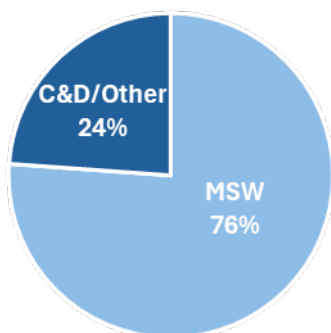
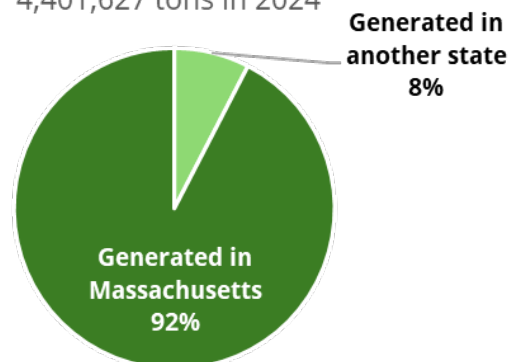


Figure A8: Source of Solid Waste Disposed in Massachusetts

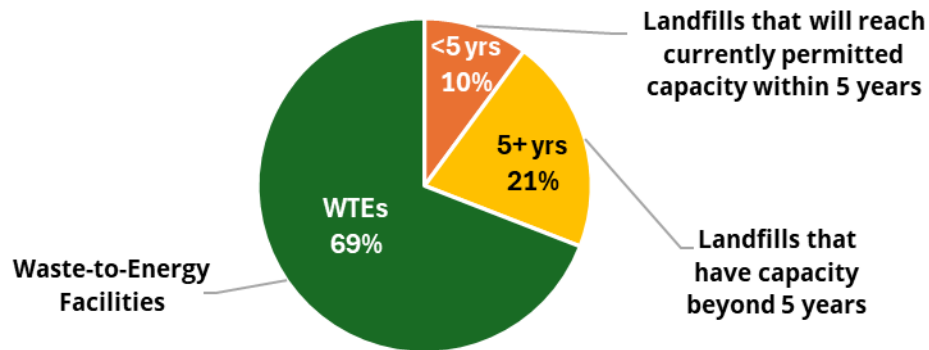
4,401,627 tons in 2024



The 14 Massachusetts landfills disposed of 1,360,134 tons, or 31% of the total solid waste disposed in 2024 (down from 36% in 2019). In the next 5 years, 6 landfills that disposed of approximately 10% of the total 2024 tonnage will reach their currently approved capacities (see figure A9). In the previous report that used 2019 data, this figure was considerably higher: 25% of the capacity was to reach their approved capacities before 2024. Some of these landfills did indeed reach capacity and close, but others have extended their ability to operate by accepting tonnage lower than permitted or by receiving expansions.

**Figure A9: Solid Waste Disposed
in Massachusetts by Facility Type**

4,401,627 tons in 2024



As shown in Figure A9, the 5 WTE facilities disposed of 3,041,493 tons or 69% of the solid waste disposed. The WTE facilities generated 648,597 tons of ash in 2024. All of the ash generated by Massachusetts WTE facilities was managed at landfills located in Massachusetts. Two Massachusetts landfills dispose of WTE ash only, disposing of 292,980 tons of WTE ash and contaminated soil in 2024. Three other landfills in Massachusetts dispose of mostly WTE ash and received the remaining quantities of ash generated by Massachusetts WTE facilities. One of these landfills received a significant quantity of WTE ash that was generated in New York in 2024, as well as some WTE ash generated in New Hampshire. Within the next six-to-eight years (by 2033), all five of the landfills that dispose of WTE ash in Massachusetts will reach their currently approved capacity.

New Hampshire

In 2024 in New Hampshire, there were:

- 6 solid waste landfills (same as in 2019)
- 1 WTE facility (same as in 2019)

These facilities disposed of 1,725,435 tons of solid waste in 2024. As shown in Figure A10, 61% of the total disposed of was MSW, and 39% was other solid waste such as C&D debris and special wastes. An estimated 39% of the solid waste that was disposed of at New Hampshire facilities (671,021 tons) was generated in other states as shown in Figure A11. This is a decrease from 45% in 2018.

Figure A10: Type of Waste Disposed at New Hampshire Facilities

1,725,435 tons in 2024

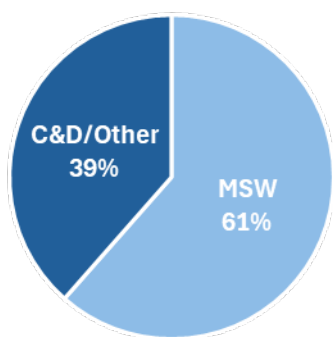
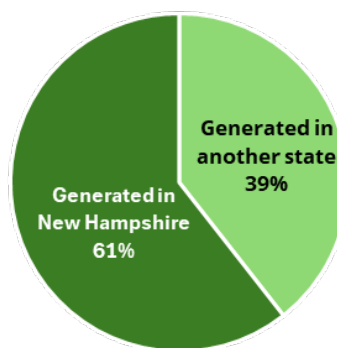


Figure A11: Source of Solid Waste Disposed in New Hampshire

1,725,435 tons in 2024

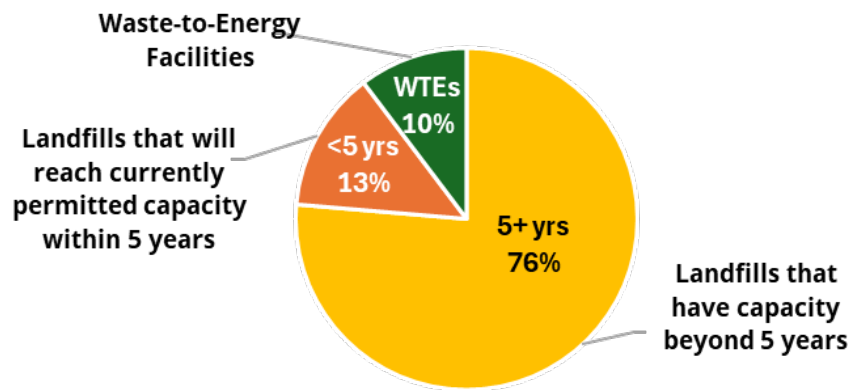


The largest landfill in New Hampshire has permitted capacity through 2034. Two of the smaller landfills⁷ are expected to reach permitted capacity within 5 years, and handled a total of 230,213 tons in 2024, or 13% of disposal in New Hampshire, as shown in Figure A12. The majority (76%) of waste went to landfills which will reach capacity beyond 5 years, and 10% went to WTE incinerators. NH's WTE facility generated 51,554 tons of ash in 2024. The ash was disposed of at a landfill in Massachusetts.

⁷ North Country Environmental Services (NCES) in Bethlehem, and the Lebanon regional Solid Waste Facility in Lebanon. NCES, which handled 186,486 tons in 2024, submitted an application for a capacity expansion in late 2025 which is currently under review.

**Figure A12: Solid Waste Disposed
in New Hampshire by Facility Type**

1,725,435 tons in 2024



New Jersey

In 2024 in New Jersey, there were:

- 18 solid waste landfills (up from 13 in 2019)
- 4 WTE facilities (down from 5 in 2019)

In New Jersey, 18 solid waste landfills and 4 WTE facilities disposed of a total of 14,988,585 tons of solid waste in 2024. As shown in Figure A13, 73% was MSW, and 27% was other solid wastes such as C&D debris, incinerator ash, and special wastes. An estimated 9% of the solid waste that was disposed of at New Jersey facilities (670,949 tons) in 2024 was generated in other states as shown in Figure A14. The majority of imported waste was MSW from New York and Pennsylvania going to New Jersey's WTE facilities.

Figure A13: Type of Waste Disposed at New Jersey Facilities

7,720,672 tons in 2024

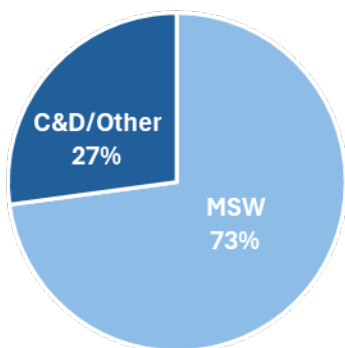
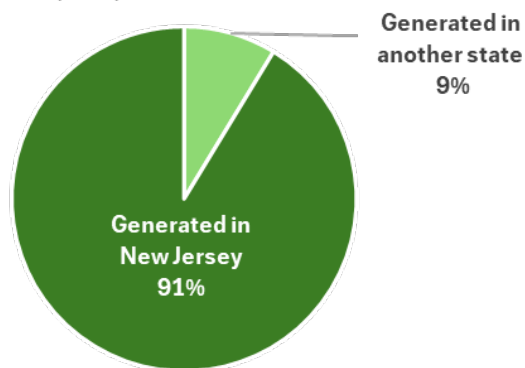


Figure A14: Source of Solid Waste Disposed in New Jersey

7,720,672 tons in 2024

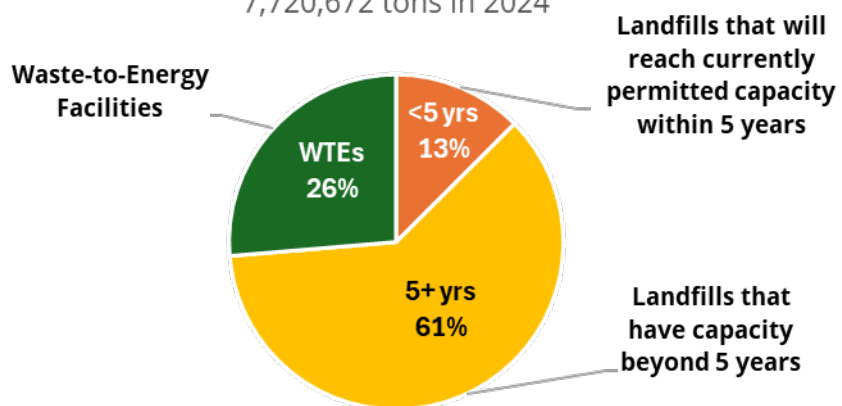


The 18 solid waste landfills disposed of 5,687,129 tons, or 73% of the total in-state disposal, as shown in Figure A15. This is a 47% increase from 2019, indicating an increase in reliance on landfilling in NJ. In the next five years, 3 landfills disposing of approximately 13% of the total 2024 tonnage will reach their currently permitted capacity. Two of the three have applied for an expansion or are expected to in the near future.

The 4 WTE facilities in New Jersey disposed of 26% of the solid waste, or a total of 2,033,543 tons in 2024, as shown in Figure A15. This represents a 3% decrease from 2019 tonnage. The WTE facilities generated a total of 419,644 tons of ash in 2024, all managed at landfills located in New Jersey.

**Figure A15: Solid Waste Disposed
in New Jersey by Facility Type**

7,720,672 tons in 2024



New York

In 2024 in New York, there were:

- 35 solid waste landfills (same as in 2018)
- 10 WTE facilities (same as in 2018)
- 1 WTE ash landfill (same as in 2018)

In New York, 36 solid waste landfills and 10 WTE facilities disposed of a total of 14,988,585 tons of solid waste in 2024. As shown in Figure A16, 64% was MSW, and 36% was other solid wastes such as C&D debris, incinerator ash, and special wastes. An estimated 14% of the solid waste disposed in New York in 2024 (2,039,33 tons) was generated in other states or provinces as shown in Figure A17. Those states included each of the NEWMOA states, as well as Ontario, Pennsylvania, Maryland, Ohio, Kentucky, and Wyoming. One incinerator also reported accepting industrial waste from Indiana, Michigan, Wisconsin, Minnesota, Virginia, North Carolina, and Puerto Rico.

Figure A16: Type of Waste Disposed at New York Facilities

14,988,585 tons in 2024

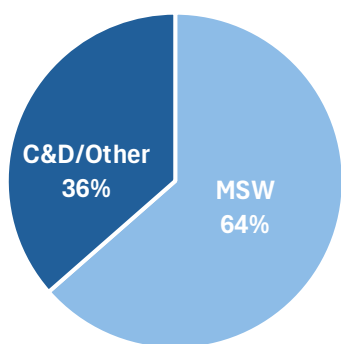
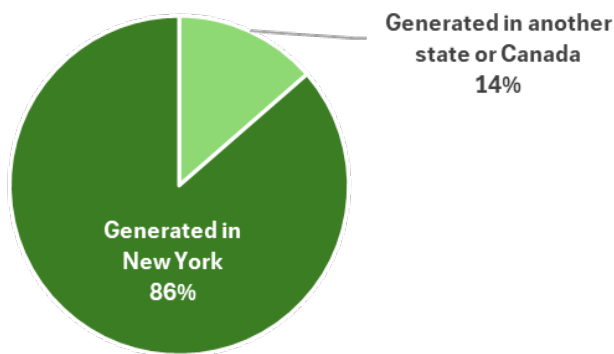


Figure A17: Source of Solid Waste Disposed in New York

14,988,585 tons in 2024

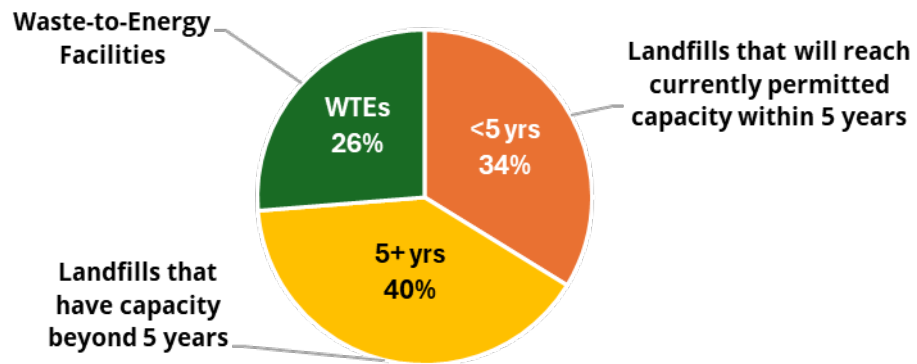


The 10 WTE facilities in New York disposed of 26% of the solid waste, or a total of 3,938,392 tons in 2024, as shown in Figure A18. The WTE facilities generated a total of 890,783 tons of ash in 2024, all of which was managed at landfills located in New York. Almost half of the ash generated (46%) went to landfills that will reach permitted capacity within 5 years.

New York has a significant amount of landfill capacity reaching permitted capacity within 5 years. In 2018 it was 30%, and in 2024 it is up to 34%, as shown in Figure A18. Although new capacity came on line in the interim, New York is currently facing the closure of its largest landfill as their permit expired in 2025. An application for expansion is being considered by NYS DEC, and if approved the capacity could be extended to about 2040.

**Figure A18: Solid Waste Disposed
in New York by Facility Type**

14,988,585 tons in 2024

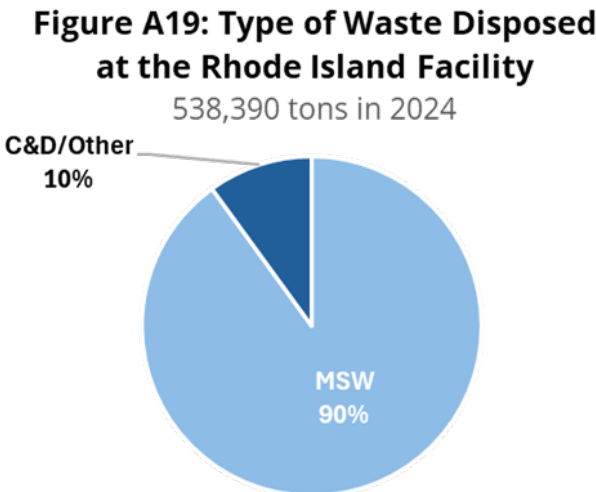


Rhode Island

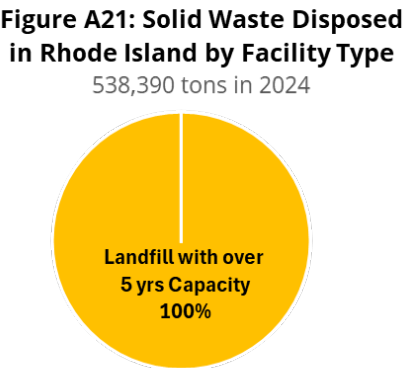
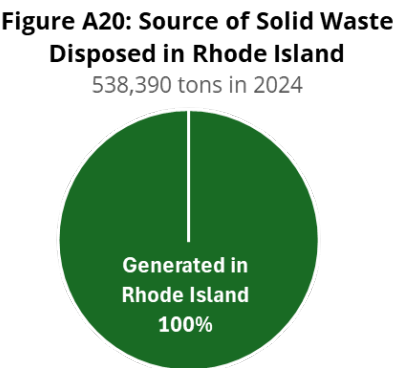
In 2024 in Rhode Island, there was:

- 1 solid waste landfill (down from 2 in 2018)

Rhode Island has only one solid waste disposal facility—a large quasi-governmental landfill. The last remaining small municipal landfill closed in 2022. As shown in Figure A19, the landfill disposed of a total of 538,390 tons of solid waste in 2024, 90% of which was MSW, and 10% was C&D and other wastes.⁸



There are no WTE facilities in Rhode Island. As shown in Figures A20 and A21, none of the solid waste disposed of in 2024 was generated in other states, and the large landfill is projected to reach its currently permitted capacity well beyond five years, in 2047. Rhode Island exports MSW and C&D waste to Massachusetts, New York, Connecticut, and Alabama.



⁸ To clarify, 33% of waste generated in Rhode Island is C&D/Other waste, which is in line with the other states of the region. The great majority of the waste (260,438 tons in 2024) is transferred to disposal out of state, mostly to Ohio, and not disposed of in RI and therefore not included in this graph.

Vermont

In 2024 in Vermont, there was:

- 1 solid waste landfill (same as in 2019)

Vermont has one active solid waste disposal facility—a landfill that disposed of a total of 535,186 tons of solid waste in 2024, 59% was MSW and 41% was other solid wastes (such as C&D, sludge, asbestos, ash, contaminated soil, paper sludge, foundry sand, sand blast grit, special waste, and MRF residue from out of state), as shown in Figure A22. The estimated date that the landfill will reach its currently permitted capacity is 2044.

Approximately 16% of the total solid waste disposed of in 2024 was generated in other states as shown in Figure A23. No MSW was received from other states; the imported waste contained C&D, MRF residue, WWTP sludge, asbestos, contaminated soil, sewer grit, and paper sludge. This material primarily came from Massachusetts, with some received from Connecticut, New Hampshire, and New York as well.

Figure A22: Type of Waste Disposed at the Vermont Facility

535,186 tons in 2024

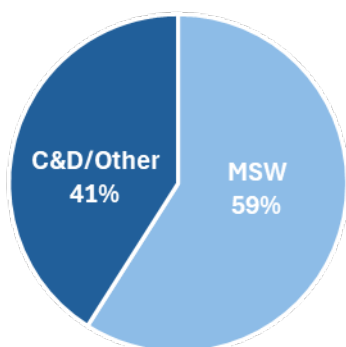
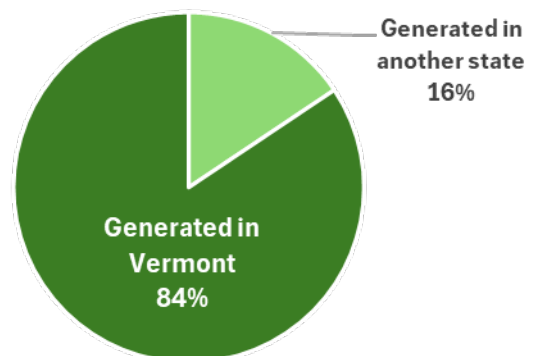


Figure A23: Source of Solid Waste Disposed in Vermont

535,186 tons in 2024



There are no WTE facilities in Vermont. Vermont exports MSW and C&D waste to New York, New Hampshire, and Massachusetts.