



Our mission is to develop farm- and land-based enterprises that generate economic and social opportunity while protecting natural resources.

March 5, 2008

Dear Friend of the Intervale Center,

You may have read or seen the recent media coverage of the February 26th decision by the Intervale Center's Board of Directors to take steps to wind down the operations of Intervale Compost Products at its current location. We wanted to communicate directly with you to ensure that you are informed about this situation.

Our Board took this step because the Intervale Center cannot afford to continue to pay toward an uncertain and increasingly expensive permitting process for Intervale Compost. Hiring civil engineers, wetland scientists, hydrologists and other technical experts, as well as legal counsel and required site work, cost the Intervale Center about \$200,000 in 2007. Even more than that total would be needed to conduct the archaeological assessments and other analyses necessary to continue permitting work in 2008. These costs are too great for the Intervale Center to support from its current revenues. (We should also note that scientific testing to date clearly shows that Intervale Compost neither contributes to groundwater pollution nor in any way negatively impacts public health.)

The winding down process for Intervale Compost will be orderly. For the near future, Compost will operate as usual. The considerable inventory of compost and soil products will continue to be sold to current and new customers.

While the steps toward closing Intervale Compost are disappointing, they have been fiscally necessary to ensure that the rest of the Intervale Center's initiatives are able to continue. Winding down Compost now actually takes considerable pressure off of the Intervale Center as a whole, and it will strengthen the bottom line of our other programs.

Indeed, the Intervale Center's other programs remain poised—with continued support from foundations, businesses, and the community—to thrive and expand in 2008.

During the next several months, the Intervale Center will work diligently with the Composting Association of Vermont, the Vermont Legislature, and the State Administration on the issue of composting in Vermont. Should the regulatory situation or the financial outlook change dramatically, the Intervale Center will consider halting the closure process to revisit the issue of commercial composting at the Intervale.

In the meantime, the board and staff of the Intervale Center very much appreciate the continued support of our funders, our community, and concerned citizens across Vermont. Should you have any questions or concerns about this situation or its impact on the Intervale Center and its programs, please don't hesitate to contact us.

Sincerely,

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