

Electricity Consumption

- From the years 1999 to 2001, electricity consumption increased by just under 7%, from 151,229,112 KWH to 161,473,072 KWH. Since this is greater than the population increase over the same period (about 5.6%), our use of electricity is increasing slightly in both absolute and per-capita terms.
- Our electricity comes from a combination of fossil fuel and nuclear sources.
- Increased background lighting can degrade the visibility of the night sky, affecting the rural character. The increasing sizes of homes being built require more energy to heat, cool and illuminate.

Solid Waste Stream

- During the 1990s, five of the six town landfills closed permanently. Chilmark had the last operating landfill but closed it in 2004. It now only accepts construction and debris materials. Thus, the majority of solid waste is shipped off-island to treatment facilities. The transporting of waste represented just over 11 percent of all SSA freight trips in 1997 but increased to one out of every seven freight trips, or 14 percent, in the year 2000.
- While there is no regional composting facility on Martha's Vineyard, the Towns of Tisbury and Oak Bluffs accommodate the composting of yard waste. The MVRD facility is designed for a composting operation that is to begin in the near future. Since the 1990s, the ability to recycle certain materials has improved significantly.
- From 1995 to 2002 the total tonnage of solid waste has increased steadily, from 13,816.08 tons in 1995 to 18,202 tons in 2002.
- The Solid Waste figures are a combination of three sources; the Martha's Vineyard Refuse District, which is a partnership between Aquinnah, Chilmark, Edgartown, and West Tisbury, and the two other sources are from the Towns of Oak Bluffs and Tisbury. All three sources, Tisbury and Oak Bluffs Districts and the Martha's Vineyard Refuse District, operate differently and therefore data is not maintained in a consistent, comparable manner to each other, which would aid in an island-wide analysis. Differences in the amounts of solid waste generated by residential and commercial land uses need to be determined, as well as comparisons between the peak and off-peak seasons. Other information regarding the disposal of hazardous materials and septage from septic tanks should also be examined.