

Do you have any suggestions for collecting overdue water bills from mobile homes that are located in a mobile home park?

Collecting overdue water bills from mobile home parks can be difficult as often times there is no way to turn off water to a delinquent ratepayer without turning it off to the entire park. However, state law provides that water delinquencies are a lien upon real property in the same manner as taxes are a lien upon real property. 24 V.S.A. § 06. This allows municipalities to use the tax sale process to recoup delinquent water delinquencies. State law also allows a fire district (many of which distribute municipal water) to elect the town collector of taxes to serve as the district's collector, even if the town collector is not a resident of the district. 20 V.S.A. § 2486. For more information on tax sales, see VLCT's *Handbook for Collectors of Delinquent Taxes*, available online at www.vlct.org under Resource Library.

- Dominic Cloud, Director, VLCT Municipal Assistance Center

VLCT News, January 2007