

Solid Waste Advisory Committee (SWAC) Meeting Summary
April 23, 2009

Massachusetts Department of Environmental Protection Updates

John Fischer, MassDEP, shared the following announcements:

- MassDEP is sponsoring a free workshop titled Surviving the Recession: Assistance for the Recycling Business Community on May 20, 9 to 11 AM at the MassDEP Central Region Office in Worcester. Speakers from several state agencies will describe grants, loans, and other incentives available to help recycling businesses get started and/or stay sustainable. RSVP to Alissa Bilfield at: Alissa.bilfield@state.ma.us . For directions to the Worcester MassDEP office see: <http://www.mass.gov/dep/about/region/centralr.htm#directions> .
- The Massachusetts Division of Capital and Asset Management (DCAM) has amended its specifications to require that any construction project greater than 20,000 square feet must recycle its clean drywall scrap. This applies to new drywall scrap, not post-consumer drywall. DCAM encourages contractors to source separate drywall at the construction site, though this is not required.

Waste to Energy Credits (“WECs”) and Sustainable Materials Recovery Program (SMRP) Development

Greg Cooper, MassDEP, provided an update on progress in implementing the Green Communities Act (Chapter 169 of the Acts of 2008) provision for municipal waste combustors (MWCs) to qualify to receive Class II Renewable Energy Credits (RECs). Subsequent sale of RECs would, in turn, provide funding for the Sustainable Materials Recovery Program (SMRP) being developed by MassDEP.

Greg reported that MassDEP and the Massachusetts Department of Energy Resources (DOER) completed the draft regulations for this program, conducted two hearings, and held a comment period that ended April 15, 2009. A response to comments has been drafted, and the regulations are being finalized, with a target date for promulgating the regulations by the end of May.

To qualify for the RECs, MWCs have to apply to MassDEP by submitting a permit modification including a written plan describing how they will meet the following requirements:

- Implement electronic tracking of incoming waste loads to facilities
- Conduct a composition study of incoming waste every three years
- Perform enhanced waste ban inspections, which includes reporting to MassDEP on failed loads and the generators/haulers delivering failed loads.

If the MWC plans meet requirements, MassDEP will approve the permit modifications and notify DOER that the facilities have qualified to receive RECs. Then DOER will issue RECs to the MWC facilities, and the facilities can sell them. The goal is for MWCs to complete this

process by June 30, 2009, which would allow RECs to be issued for the first quarter of the 2009 calendar year onwards.

Fifty percent of the funds raised from the sale of RECs will be allocated to the Sustainable Materials Recovery Program (SMRP) administered by MassDEP. MassDEP will place the funds in a trust fund or dedicated account from which to award grants. MassDEP will solicit proposals in Fall 2009, with anticipated start of funding awards in January 2010. Proposals will be ranked and funded according to consistency with goals and objectives set forth in the Solid Waste Master Plan.

Currently, MassDEP is designing a framework for the SMRP, and additional research is underway to support and inform development of this framework. This includes a Market Development study just launched, and planned meetings with municipal and business groups. MassDEP also will form a SWAC workgroup to make sure that the Solid Waste Advisory Committee participants have input into these discussions. Greg anticipates that this group would have one or two meetings in late May or early June.

Persons interested in volunteering for this workgroup should contact Greg Cooper at: greg.cooper@state.ma.us or Tina Klein at: tina.klein@state.ma.us.

2007 Solid Waste and Waste Reduction Data

John Fischer, MassDEP, presented the *Massachusetts 2007 Solid Waste Data Update*, which provides statistics showing the overall waste management picture in the Commonwealth for 2007. Please see the handout accompanying these notes, or view the report which is posted at: <http://www.mass.gov/dep/recycle/priorities/dswmpu01.htm>.

Solid Waste Master Plan Development

John Fischer, MassDEP, presented highlights of inputs for the Solid Waste Master Plan (SWMP) from workgroup meetings held this spring. Altogether, seven workgroups met two to three times each for a total of 19 meetings.

A handout *Draft Summary Points from Solid Waste Master Plan Workgroups, February – April 2009* lists five key summary points for each workgroup. The full workgroup meeting notes are available at <http://www.mass.gov/dep/public/committee/swmpwkgp.htm>. John Fischer clarified that the workgroup inputs and information are all being considered by MassDEP as it moves forward with developing a draft Solid Waste Master Plan. John added that if anyone feels that something was missed in the process so far, or they wish to submit additional comments, they should get in touch with the workgroup staff leads listed at: <http://www.mass.gov/dep/recycle/priorities/swmpwork.doc>.

Discussion

SWAC attendees voiced a number of comments and questions on the summary of the workgroup discussions, including:

- Other states are taking more steps to restrict out-of-state waste so that Massachusetts may be forced to take greater responsibility to manage waste within the state (e.g., Pennsylvania is taxing waste and North Carolina and South Carolina are considering a moratorium on waste imports).
- Exporting waste for disposal in other states forces other states to bear the impacts of the disposal of Massachusetts waste.
- There also are inequities with regard to intrastate waste flows across different parts of the state (e.g., waste from Boston is being disposed in central Massachusetts).
- By exporting waste that can be used as an energy source, Massachusetts is actually exporting fuel that could be used to create energy in Massachusetts.
- The state should require all public buildings to have recycling collection systems for cans and bottles.
- The mixed track record of conversion technologies is on economics, not environmental performance, and this statement should be changed.
- Technologies that are working effectively in Europe and Japan should be able to be translated successfully to the US.

Next Steps

John Fischer outlined next steps in the Solid Waste Master Plan (SWMP) process as follows:

- MassDEP will develop a proposed draft SWMP to be released in the summer.
- Once the draft plan is released, MassDEP will hold public hearings and a public comment period on the draft plan.
- MassDEP will prepare a written response to comments received at the hearings and will publish the response to comments along with the final plan. MassDEP's schedule calls for completing the final plan by the end of 2009.

Attendees who have additional comments on issues not covered by the workgroups should forward those comments to John Fischer at john.fischer@state.ma.us.

Please mark your calendars: The next meeting of the Solid Waste Advisory Committee will be on Thursday, June 25, 2009, 1:00 - 3:30 PM.