

Massachusetts Solid Waste Master Plan Development

Solid Waste Advisory
Committee

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Solid Waste Master Plan - Background

- Chapter 584 of the Acts of 1987 (Chapter 16, Section 21)
- Develop and maintain Solid Waste Master Plan
- Must go through public hearing and comment

Solid Waste Master Plan - Background

- 1990 SWMP – 1990-2000
 - Several updates during the 1990s
- 2000 SWMP – 2000 – 2010
 - Mid-course update in 2006
- Next Step – vision for the next decade and beyond
- New policy drivers – energy, climate change, high value of raw materials

2006 Massachusetts Data

- 2006: 60% waste reduction rate
 - 2010 Milestone: 70% waste reduction rate
- 2006: 47% overall recycling rate
 - 71% C&D recycling
 - 37% MSW recycling
 - 2010 Milestone: 56 % overall recycling rate

2000-2006 Solid Waste Trends

	2000 Tons	2006 Tons	% Change
Generation	13 million	13.9 million	Up 7%
Recycling	6.2 million	6.5 million	Up 4%
Disposal	6.5 million	6.6 million	Up 1%

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Wasted Opportunities

- 1.6 million tons of paper with value of \$100 million disposed at average cost of \$75/ton
- Similar trends for other materials
- Opportunities to conserve resources, reduce greenhouse gas emissions, generate jobs and business development

Working Principles

- Shift waste management to materials management
- Maximize waste reduction, reuse and recycling
- Determine best way to manage residual materials
- Improve lifecycle environmental results
- Spur new production and technology development based on value of diverted materials
- Save money through cost-effective materials mgmt.

Shift Thinking

- Progress has leveled off
- Current approach will not get us the major gains we need
- State resources extremely limited
- Rethink entire Master Plan approach and strategies
- Develop new ideas for incentives and how to leverage change

Barriers to Further Progress

What Needs to Happen?

- If the benefits are so great, why isn't this all happening already?

Barriers to Further Progress (cont.)

- Savings are widely distributed/divided
- Costs and benefits not always aligned for those making decisions
- Or, benefits not readily apparent
- Often require up-front investments

Barriers to Further Progress (cont.)

- For Municipalities
 - Political effort/challenge
 - Up front capital/staff costs
 - Other local government priorities

Barriers to Further Progress (cont.)

- For residents
 - Many do not have financial incentive
 - Not always as convenient and simple as could be
 - Some residents don't think about recycling

Barriers to Further Progress (cont.)

- For Businesses
 - Solid waste is low percentage of costs
 - No consequences for disposing banned materials
 - Up front capital/staff costs

Areas to Focus On

- Sectors
 - Large businesses
 - Small businesses
 - Residents/municipalities
- Materials
 - Paper
 - Organics
 - C&D
- Managing residual materials

Large Businesses

- Opportunities to save money
- Commercial Waste – 1.6 million tons potential additional diversion
- Ensure greater compliance with waste bans
- Hauler/generator enforcement

Small Businesses

- Technical assistance, support development of collection systems
- Business Assistance Coordinators
- Sustainable Business Networks (e.g., Boston, Devens)
- Chambers of commerce, local governments

Residents/Municipalities

- Great cost savings potential
 - Many examples of savings through avoided disposal and recycling revenue
- Pay As You Throw Programs
- Single-stream recycling
- Mandatory recycling enforcement
- Effective contracting practices

Paper

- 1.6 million tons potential additional diversion
- Largest diversion potential from large and small businesses, residents

Organics

- Waste ban on commercial/institutional food waste
- Promote anaerobic digestion and other organics processing capacity
- Leverage state economic development and purchasing

C&D

- Expand waste bans – gypsum wallboard, asphalt shingles
- Continued market development – e.g. recycled gypsum wallboard
- Tighten C&D BUDs (e.g., organic content of fines/residuals)

What about residual materials?

- Area with considerable difference of opinions
- Will require all parties to problem solve together
- Even at a very high recycling rate, we will still have a lot of material left
- How do we manage these materials for the best environmental outcome?

Next Steps

- Listening sessions
- Next SWAC Meeting –January 22, 2009
- Develop draft plan for public comment
- Public comment and hearing
- Revised plan and response to comments
- Concurrently move forward with pilot projects and other ongoing initiatives

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