

DRAFT Summary Points from Solid Waste Master Plan Workgroups February – April 2009

Workgroup meetings notes and summaries are available on the MassDEP web site at <http://www.mass.gov/dep/public/committee/swmpwkgp.htm>.

Reducing Waste Generation

- Broad support for extended producer responsibility requirements, including framework producer responsibility legislation. Particular products recommended for EPR included electronics, household hazardous products, and packaging.
- Some concern that EPR requirements that are too specific could put Massachusetts businesses at a competitive disadvantage.
- State should speed adoption of PAYT through either mandatory PAYT legislation or increased incentives to municipalities.
- State can do more to reduce waste through better leveraging state contracts (e.g, packaging take-back, leasing with return to supplier).
- State should provide more incentives/assistance to businesses to reduce waste, particularly including packaging.

Education

- Educating residents and businesses about recycling needs to occur throughout the period covered by the Solid Waste Master Plan, through a series of campaigns that target specific groups of generators and/or materials and focuses on delivering information in ways that are likely to make an impact on each group.
- Outreach and education to businesses about recycling should be incorporated as part of a broader environmental stewardship outreach campaign – recycling alone is not a big enough issue to get most businesses' attention.
- For residential recycling, MassDEP should partner with other organizations to conduct a statewide education campaign that focuses on the recyclables that are common to recycling programs across most communities.
- The state needs to have web-based recycling information resources and templates that are easier to use and access.
- Recycling should be incorporated into school curricula at all age levels.

Municipal Capacity/Regionalization

- State should require municipalities to establish PAYT or increase the incentives to municipalities adopting PAYT (i.e. favorable points on the “cherry sheet”).
- If funding is available, the state should reinstate the Municipal Recycling Incentive Program (MRIP) (or a version thereof) which provided per ton incentive payments linked to programmatic and performance criteria.
- Should expand the number of Municipal Assistance Coordinators (MACs) and add Business Assistance Coordinators.
- Successful long-term development of regional groups requires initial support (including time of MACs) across multiple years.
- State should support development of regional reuse/recycle facilities in underserved regions (central, western Massachusetts) where most residents rely on private haulers that do little if any recycling.

Waste Bans/Business Recycling

- Create a new Business Assistance Coordinator program (modeled after MAC program) to provide technical assistance to help businesses develop sustainable, cost-effective recycling programs
- Establish a hauler certification requirement and require haulers to report recycling and solid waste tonnages.
- Work with groups such as chambers of commerce and cities and towns to set up cost-effective recycling programs for small businesses
- Enforce waste bans at the solid waste facility, hauler, and generator levels to ensure a level playing field
- Partner with haulers to educate business generators about the waste bans and establishing recycling programs

Market Development/State Procurement

- Pass minimum recycled content legislation for products/packaging sold in Massachusetts
- Mandate state agency purchasing of proven recycled products (specific products mentioned included recycled asphalt pavement and shingles and recycled concrete aggregate).
- Require source separation and recycling of C&D materials by construction and demolition contractors
- Establish a regional recycling market development center to facilitate market development connections and information sharing
- Establish tax credits and partner with local universities to foster new technologies and products that support local recycling market outlets in Massachusetts

Siting Waste Diversion Facilities

- MassDEP should eliminate the 100 TPD size limit for conditionally exempt recycling facilities
- If maintain TPD limit, need to determine how that applies to single-stream MRFs
- How do you permit/approve new technologies when they don't have a clear track record?
 - Can we establish some type of pilot or verification process prior to full scale development?
- Need clear roadmap for how different types of facilities will be permitted so that developers have certainty about the process
- Should expand limits for farm-based composting, but maybe tie to the size of the farm

Performance and Viability of Technologies for Residuals

- MassDEP continuing to work on summary chart summarizing available data
- MassDEP should not pick technology winners or losers, but should ensure what is approved is safe
- Very difficult to do "apples to apples" comparison of different types of technologies that handle different types of materials at different scales
- Conversion technologies such as gasification and pyrolysis have a mixed track record with some successes and some failures
- Facilities that work OK in Europe and Japan may not work as well in the US due to different cultures, different waste stream compositions, and different levels of government subsidies