Beyond Waste: A Sustainable Materials Management Strategy for New York State

The League of Women Voters of the Mid-Hudson Region

New Paltz, NY
November 16th, 2011

Presented By
David Vitale, Director
Bureau of Permitting & Planning
Division of Materials Management

Why a New Plan?

- Review 20+ years of experience
- Set new goals
- Address emerging issues and materials
- Finite resources and new opportunities
- Recommend a course of action

The Planning Process

- Stakeholder Meetings (9)
- Advisory Group
  - 15 Members representing various stakeholder groups and regions of the state
- Released Draft (for public comment) – May 2010
- Hearings and Meetings – Summer 2010
- Final Plan Adopted – December 27, 2010

Beyond Waste: Key Findings

- 20 years after SWMA, still wasting 65-80% of materials
- Waste contributes to climate change
- Wide variation in program performance statewide
- Organics are 30 percent of MSW; recycling organics critical to progress

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**Beyond Waste: Vision**
A materials management system that:
- Captures economic value of materials
- Minimizes greenhouse gas emissions
- Maximizes materials and energy efficiency
- Impacts the design of products and packaging
- Achieves ever-increasing levels of recovery

**Beyond Waste: Reduction Goals**
- A progressive reduction in the amount of waste managed in combustors and disposed in landfills on a per capita basis
- Reduce from 4.1 lbs/person/day disposed to:
  - 3.4 lbs/person/day in 2014
  - 1.7 lbs/person/day in 2020
  - 0.6 lbs/person/day in 2030

**Beyond Waste: Major Areas of Focus**
- Improve waste prevention, reuse, recycling
- Increase organics recycling – especially food waste
- Implement product and packaging stewardship

**A goal without a plan is just a wish.**
—Antoine de Saint-Exupery, French writer (1900 - 1944)
Beyond Waste: Agenda For Action

- Legislative Initiatives
- Programmatic Initiatives
- Regulatory Initiatives

Beyond Waste: Initial Activities

- Reorganized Program and Created the Division of Materials Management
- Developed Schedules for 2011 Plan Initiatives

Beyond Waste: Recommended Legislative Initiatives

- Update Solid Waste Management Act
- Product Stewardship
- Revenue Generating Programs
- Returnable Container Law
- Mercury Containing Products

Beyond Waste: Implement Product Stewardship

- Enact PS for:
  - Household Hazardous Waste
  - Pharmaceuticals
  - Paint
  - Carpets
  - Automobiles
  - Mercury Containing Products
  - Appliances
  - Packaging

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**Beyond Waste: Regulatory Initiatives**

- Update Part 360 Solid Waste Management Facility Regulations

**Beyond Waste: Programmatic Initiatives**

- State Agencies Lead By Example
- Local Materials Management Planning
- Outreach & Technical Assistance
- Educate the Public
- Combat Climate Change
- Develop Reuse & Recycling Infrastructure and End Use Markets

**Status of LSWMPs**

- Currently 68 Planning Units
- 40 LSWMPs currently expired
  - 24 submitted for review
  - 3 Approvable
  - 21 In Various Review Phases

**Prime Focus Area: LSWMPs**

- Planning units will be asked to:
  - Evaluate and propose methods to reduce waste, increase reuse, recycling and composting
  - Work as aggressively as possible to reduce waste destined for disposal

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Key Elements of LSWMPs

- Maximization of Reduction & Recovery in All Generating Sectors
- Organics Recovery Strategies
- PAYT/SMART Alternatives
- Education & Enforcement Opportunities
- Data Collection

LSWMPs: Commonly Expressed Areas of Concern

- Lack of Data/Information
- Fiscal Constraints
- Staffing Limitations
- Lack of Expertise
- Lack of Political Support

It is a bad plan that admits of no modification.

– Publilius Syrus – Maxim 469 (circa 42 B.C.)

Current Funding Opportunities

- Funding available from the Environmental Protection Fund (EPF)
- Determined annually as part of the budget

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Types of Grants

- Recycling capital investment in facilities and equipment.
- Recycling education and recycling coordinator salaries.
- Waste reduction projects.
- Household hazardous waste collection & disposal projects.
- Landfill Closure
- Landfill Gas Management

Reimbursement grants with cap of $2 million per project.

Grants Awarded

Since 1988, DEC has awarded...

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Project Type</th>
<th>Number of Contracts</th>
<th>Dollar value</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Recycling Equipment</td>
<td>769</td>
<td>$208.7 million</td>
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<tr>
<td>Organics Recycling</td>
<td>191</td>
<td>$31.5 million</td>
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<tr>
<td>Education</td>
<td>160</td>
<td>$30.8 million</td>
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<tr>
<td>Waste Reduction</td>
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<td>HHW</td>
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<td>Landfill Closure</td>
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<td>$12.3 million</td>
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<tr>
<td>Total</td>
<td>1,554</td>
<td>$699.5 million</td>
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</tbody>
</table>

Information & Contacts

Beyond Waste Plan: Dave Vitale
dxvitale@gw.dec.state.ny.us

LSWMPs & Grants: Gus Carayiannis
gjcarayi@gw.dec.state.ny.us

Region 3 Office (New Paltz): Terry Laibach
tllaibac@gw.dec.state.ny.us