

Solid Waste Masterplan- Meeting Notes

Group 1: Organics

- Mandates critical for commercial, industrial, and institutional (CII) Compliance/Action on Glass @Venues
 - Food Discussion
 - Contamination from residential stream needs time/education
 - Big venues here- much potential
 - Groceries vs. prepared food- two different paths
 - Some starting/ are doing- many/others can do
 - Many venues suggestions
 - Report on inventory of locations
 - Also, hotels, universities, hospitals, etc.
 - TSU, Belmont, Piloting Software
 - Technical assistance may be helpful approach
 - Music City Marathon/Cups not recyclable- not a great example
 - Requiring zero waste in event permits can be an important approach
 - Love to see green sports council link
 - Organics Discussion
 - How can we ensure that small businesses' inclusion? (Compost Nashville)
 - Equity should be embedded in the plan
 - Designate areas/communities where only small businesses can bid
 - Older Metro trucks could be acquired by small businesses through a discounted sale.
 - Organics contamination as a big concern for residential curbside pickup as well as for businesses (The Compost Company has no capabilities to de-package)
 - Efficient integration of digesters and composting facilities

- Interest in backyard composting program
 - How can it be better promoted?
 - Backyard composters issued by Metro are not effective
- Market composting as a benefit to community gardens
- Commercial vermicomposting (e.g. Larger scale operations in Milwaukee called Growing Power)
 - \$400/cubic yard is retail price for vermicompost (worm castings)! Highly sought soil amendment...can be registered as a fertilizer.
- Executive Order to implement food waste reduction. (Agencies, schools)
 - Livable Nashville
- Immediate action
 - Food waste reduction strategies that can be implemented right away on the Livable Nashville recommendations
 - Press release from Task Force about the Middlepoint Landfill imminent closure. Greater need to divert food waste.
 - Branding efforts – team with a PR or marketing firm
- Health approach to composting – kitchens are extremely dirty because of food scraps
- Job descriptions in kitchens, manufacturing facilities to include diversion responsibilities
- Encourage the use of all-compostable packaging materials to reduce the need for sorting. ASTM 6400
- Restaurants often offer compostable kitchenware to support a “sustainable brand” that, more often than not, does not have a channel to get properly composted
- Food Safety Modernization Act-opens the door for more food recovery.

Group 2: Commercial

- How can we protect small businesses?
 - Designate areas/communities where only small businesses bid
 - Equity should be embedded in plan

- Older trucks to be “inherited” by SB
- Contamination is big concern of curbside program.
- Integration of digesters & composting facilities
- Need will/drivers from the entire county
 - Gain control over USD & GSD
 - Public support
- Backyard composting program
- How to deal w/ packaging?
 - Vermiculture: retail price \$400 yard³
- Executive Order to implement food waste red. (Agencies, schools)
 - Livable Nashville recommendation
- Immediate action
 - Taskforce press release
- Faulty backyard composters from Metro
 - Create a brand -PR/Marketing firm
 - “Keep kitchens clean” approach to composting- health
 - New jobs descriptions to incorporate diversion
 - Encourage use of all-compostable packaging to eliminate need for sorting
 - Restaurants provide compostable kitchen ware that don’t have a composting channel

Group 3: Construction & Demolition

- Landfill = disposal costs is too cheap
 - Closing Middle Point Landfill will help
 - C & D is huge % of waste stream; 30% of total stream and is 97% recyclable (R)
 - Will slow down growth
- Can’t manage what you don’t measure
 - Better reporting

- Baseline
 - Verify recycling facilities
- Life cycle analysis- to determine not only the cost of landfilling, but also the embodied energy that goes into mining, producing and using the materials. This could include GHG emissions from both production and disposal.
 - An LCA or feasibility study of C&D should be completed. Items to include would be: amount of material being produced in Davidson County, markets for the materials, cost of disposal versus recycling/reuse, GHG emissions for production and disposal, mandate for developers to recycle (use Portland, OR or similar – for example if the building is larger than X sq ft or higher than \$X, then you must prepare a recycling plan and recycle to get a deposit returned), assistance for C&D recyclers since there are very few in our region due to low tip fees, education for contractors, communication on how and why to recycle.
 - If 1st cost to residential is higher, will slow down residential growth
 - Make residential costs lower than LF
 - C & D surcharge
 - Support residential facilities NOT LF
 - Preferable purchasing-
 - Metro require recycling
 - Metro requires
 - ADC
 - Other Reuse of C & D products
- Prioritize- top 10 ideas from plan
 - C & D will be one
- Work with TDEC on the following:
 - “beneficial reuse”
 - Better reporting of C & D
 - Surcharge
 - Permitting regulations
 - Statutes/regulations that inhibit residential growth
- Transfer stations vs. residential facility

- Incentivize C & D Reuse/Recycle
 - Reduce teardowns
 - Deconstruction vs. Reuse
- Ordinance
 - Deposit must be “significant”
 - Enforcement- penalties for GCs who are not compliant
 - REQUIRE – C & D recycling

Group 4: Residential

- GSD receives direct bill; USD covered from general fund via property tax
 - Pick-up changes
 - Illegal dumping concerns
 - The group really stressed simplicity/convenience
 - No division between recyclables/solid waste. Treat all the same.
 - No need to separate what doesn't have to be separated by citizens/separate at facility
 - In this approach, is contamination a concern?
 - The group wants to drive quick change. What can be done immediately to move the needle? (low or no cost)
 - What can be done FY 2019?
 - Waste to Energy- where does it fit in the overall plan?
 - Public awareness/education has to increase. Very important to success.
 - Incentives/penalties for citizens- Property Tax Incentives
 - Ways to control/penalize/incentivize businesses ⇒ Licensing bans
 - Solid Waste Task Force Press Release- Group put together release out of the process.
 - Design/Branding is important. Really interested, as indicated above in what other cities have done.
 - All elements/Phasing/All the way through 100%. Really driving that 90% is not enough.
 - Phasing of Plan

- What are the best ways to reach multiple demographics?
 - Small Business Saturday
 - Neighborhood Assoc.
 - Churches
- Examples of Public Outreach
 - Requested specific examples from other cities mentioned in presentation; Austin, TX or others
- Present benefits of the system recommendations first, and then costs
- Group would like to see survey results; recommend sharing with Davidson County Region Board and the Solid Waste Task Force members
- Negative idea/perception of Save As You Throw (SAYT)
- Strong support from group to keep costs in property tax for USD
 - Really based on low-income residents and socio-economic concerns
 - Group did not want new bill for solid waste service

Group 5: Facilities

- Move from “waste” to “resource recovery” facilities
- Agreement that processing facilities will be a big part of the material recovery effort
- Is there a way for compost material to be centrally located where the Parks & Recreation Department could have easy access for use?
- Intra-governmental cooperation will be needed.
 - Integrate overall mission into other departments
- Use of compost and recyclable materials into all Metro facilities and construction. Also have Nashville work with state buildings and facilities to use recyclable materials.
- It will be hard to get facilities built within Nashville. Locating facilities in Nashville will run into challenges with zoning issues and the high cost of property.
- All of the potential “low-hanging fruit” sites within Middle-Tennessee are gone. We will need to consider “Brownfield” sites.
- Greater Nashville Regional Council (GNRC) – they are supportive and are willing to provide assistance with the development of facilities that benefit the region.

- Nashville can take the lead or work with 2 or 3 counties to start the process of developing regional facilities.
- Former City of Franklin Solid Waste Director Becky Caldwell may be beneficial/resource
- GNRC supportive of regional authority branching outside county
- TDEC is also supportive of regional approaches to facility development
- Metro Public Works will need more staff to implement the Solid Waste Master Plan including development of facilities.
- Anaerobic Digestion/Energy recovery facilities – one facility is currently being built within Nashville by local restaurant owner Seema Prasad.
- Work with the building community/businesses to develop C&D recycling and processing facility requirements
- Link efforts to Livable Nashville document & recommendations

Suggestion from Sharon Smith: to itemize full list strategies by Diversion impacts and year of implementation