

**Waste Reduction Reuse and Recycling Outline
SWMP Steering Committee Meeting
Draft for Steering Committee Discussion
March 17, 2009**

- Existing Programs
- Enhancements resulting from SWMP Modification
- Considerations for the new SWMP

EXISTING PROGRAMS

33% Recovery rate achieved in 2007

Waste Reduction and Re-Use

- City of Albany and many member municipalities provide for the separate collection (and recycling, if feasible) of HHW and electronic waste. Even if some of these materials are not recycled, these programs reduce the toxicity of the waste stream going to landfills and can thus be classified as waste reduction.
- NYSDEC Municipal Waste Reduction and Recycling Grant Program
 - City of Albany has used utilized to purchase recycling trucks, recycling bins and an assortment of compost equipment. Also for HHW collection program.
 - Some of the municipalities within the planning unit have utilized the Recycling Coordinators grant
- Groups such as The Salvation Army, community drop-off/swap sheds and church groups already operate in many of the Planning Unit municipalities.
- State level programs
 - Existing container deposit law, and pending expansion
 - Plastic bag collection required from large retailers and grocers, starting January 1st. Similar to a pre-existing law enacted in Albany County.
 - Grant Funding for waste reduction and recycling program.

Recycling Programs

- City of Albany
 - DGS provides weekly curbside collection of designated recyclables.
 - Mixed Paper
 - Commingled Glass metal and plastic containers
 - Details provided in Brochure prepared by DGS.
 - Yard waste collection (in season) for delivery to Connors Blvd composting facility.

- Tires, white goods, and other bulky trash are collected and recycled.
- HHW and electronic waste are collected at the Rapp Road site.
- Recycling is also mandatory for other waste generators
- Recyclable materials are banned, along with other unacceptable materials, from delivery to the Rapp Road Landfill.
- Sections 313-11 through 313-24 of the City Code establish mandatory source separation and recycling requirements for all residential, commercial, industrial, and institutional generators in the City.
- Other communities in the Planning Unit have similar mandatory recycling requirements. Many communities also provide resident drop-off for recycling and solid waste.
- Several well-established private sector recyclable material markets exist in the Planning Unit and the Capital Region.
- Worsening economic recession has resulted in recent downturns in commodity prices which have negatively affected local recycling markets and will challenge local recycling programs.

ENHANCEMENTS RESULTING FROM SWMP MODIFICATION

Waste Reduction and Re-Use

- PURC will be an area-wide resource to promote waste reduction and recycling.
- PURC will work with member municipalities to take full advantage of existing as well as future grant programs in the area of recycling and waste reduction.
- PURC will compile information and instructions from each municipality regarding their waste reduction and recycling programs. This information will be made readily accessible to residents and businesses of the Planning Unit by posting it to a new recycling website to be established.
- Back yard composting programs will be promoted as a waste prevention strategy throughout the Planning Unit.
 - The PURC will coordinate with the recycling coordinators of each municipality and the NYSDEC Regional Solid and Hazardous Materials Engineer to provide periodic backyard composting demonstrations.
 - Brochures and website postings to encourage backyard composting and other appropriate on-site management techniques (and discouraging municipal and residential burning).
- Programs to reduce office paper consumption will also be coordinated throughout the Planning Unit. Initially the effort will be focused within the City of Albany government buildings. Policies to encourage/allow double sided copying will be implemented and communicated to all City employees. Additionally, the use of e-mail over paper copies will be encouraged as appropriate and use of shared electronic files rather than many paper copies will be encouraged. The PURC will prepare simple educational/informational materials to be distributed to schools, government buildings, office buildings, and businesses. This effort will be expanded and coordinated with all member municipalities.
- Educational material will be provided through the Planning Unit website regarding the benefits of buying items with reduced packaging.

- In addition, the existing programs that reuse and redistribute materials will be reinforced. Groups that reuse and redistribute furniture and household items will be an important part of this program. These groups will be identified and promoted on the Planning Unit Website.

Recycling Programs

- Increase education and enforcement of existing mandatory recycling laws, especially for commercial, industrial and institutional generators, but also for the residential sector.
- Re-consideration of PAYT concept for the City.
 - Economic incentive to reduce, reuse and recycle based on volume –based collection charges.
 - Study is underway as part of USEPA’s SMART program. (Save Money And Reduce Trash)
- Enhanced Organics Recovery
 - It may be feasible in the short term to recover additional organics, such as food waste at existing yard waste compost facilities. Management of food waste and biosolids (such as sewage sludge) at other specially developed facilities designed for maximum use and recovery of this material will be evaluated as part of the New SWMP.
 - The City is proposing to jump-start the organic waste recycling effort by forming a planning unit wide task force including institutional food waste generators like OGS.
- Recycling in Public Spaces
 - As part of their overall recycling program the PURC will initiate a public space recycling program. Planning for this program will begin with the identification of several public space recycling locations. A three month pilot program will be initiated at several locations throughout the City. If the pilot program is successful, the City will expand the program to additional locations.

CONSIDERATIONS FOR THE NEW SWMP

- Overall Recycling Goals
 - 33% achieved in 2007
 - 34% 2008 increasing to
 - 47% at end of 2011
 - What should our goals be after that?
- Potential alternatives to consider to meet help these future goals
 - Composting or other methods to manage food wastes and other organic waste fractions (such as sewage treatment plant sludge)
 - Single stream recyclables collection and processing
 - PAYT
 - Others?
 - Discussion to be continued.....