

# Waste Reduction Task Force

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Seventh Meeting –April 20th, 2008

## Meeting Summary

The seventh meeting of the Waste Reduction Task Force took place at the L & C Tower in downtown Nashville on April 20<sup>th</sup>, 2008.

After a call to order, review of meeting rules, objectives, and some housekeeping issues; the meeting began. Don McCain reviewed the day's agenda and shared that there were a couple presentations on zero waste and that after these presentations the Task Force would alternately meet and breakout to discuss priorities that were presented by the work groups.

After these announcements Neil Seldman with the Institute for Local Self-Reliance was introduced and presented on moving local governments towards zero wastes. One of the main concepts presented was that local governments set the goal and the target and business makes it happen. This type relationship has helped other municipal governments achieve as much as 70-90% recycling rates. One question that came up that was important to this was "How is recycling defined and calculated?" To this, that was the big variable. Many communities define it differently and will make many comparisons like apples and oranges.

After this presentation, Bruce Trout representing Goodyear Tire and Rubber Company in Union City presented on how their manufacturing facility reached their target of zero waste. His presentation will be placed on the website. One big problem they had in implementation was re-teaching their employees to source separate to make the goal possible. The goal was very costly with the second phase focusing on lowering cost.

After these presentations, the work groups met to discuss priority concepts and presented alternately the remainder of the meeting. The following is a summary of the priorities submitted for the Task Force consideration and the disposition of the concepts at the end of the meeting.

### WORK GROUP 1

#### **Priority 1-**

- ✍ Each year's waste reduction goal will be to reduce the tonnage per capita that the State of Tennessee delivers to Class I landfills from the previous year (plus class III/IV if scales are accurate and in place). In order to achieve this reduction; specific waste streams will be targeted,

They are:

- A. Yard Waste
- B. Construction & Demolition Material (revise)
- C. Food Waste
- D. Paper and OCC

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A certain percentage of each material would be required to be recycled, composted, or otherwise diverted from being landfilled. Responsibility for this requirement would initially be directed toward the major producers.

Annual reporting for each county would assist in calculating a diversion rate for each material. The amount of generation and recycling of each of the above waste streams will be used as benchmarks to determine the progress of each region, county, in making towards contributing to the State's Waste Reduction Goal.

Performance of regions, counties, and municipalities will also be measured based upon their programs and services that promote waste reduction. TDEC will provide a series of promoted programs that the regions can pick and choose from and receive the necessary resources to implement these programs. Programs already established would also qualify for assistance. --- [Referred back for more study](#)

## Priority 2-

- ✍ Class III/IV landfills will be required to report the origin of all waste received and accurate tonnages of waste. Waste taken to a Class III/IV landfill should be counted toward the diversion goal when it is recycled. --- **READY TO GO**

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## WORK GROUP 2

### Priority 1-

- 📄 Public sector (residential) recycling and waste reduction tonnage gathered from city and county programs will be reported to TDEC in the APR. (Municipality participation will fall under Working Group #2's recommendation on municipalities reporting requirements.) --- **Referred back for more study**
- 📄 Private sector (industrial, institutional, commercial) recycling and waste reduction tonnage data will be required by law to be reported to Regions & TDEC through Re-Trac, on a phased-in schedule. --- **Referred back for more study**

### Priority 2-

- 📄 Newly permitted facilities (Class I landfills, Class III/IV Construction and Demolition (C & D) landfills, transfer stations, and expansions of existing landfills) will be required to separate recyclable materials on the front-end of waste collection. This would be accomplished through curbside pickup, voluntary drop-off programs, and/or sorting and separating on-site.

This requirement of separating materials will be a part of the permit conditions. In order to receive a permit, there must be a plan for separation, sorting, and segregating materials written in the permit application. --- **READY TO GO**

### Priority 3-

- 📄 Specific waste streams would be redirected (on a phased in schedule) from all landfills for the private sector (industrial, institutional, commercial). Residential sector would then be phased in to participate in the landfill bans as well. --- **Referred back for more study**
  - 📄 Redirect yard waste from landfills
  - 📄 Redirect organic waste (food and yard waste) from landfills
  - 📄 Redirect e-waste from landfills
  - 📄 Redirect scrap metals (aluminum, steel, white goods, etc.) from landfills
  - 📄 Redirect OCC from landfills

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## WORK GROUP 3

### Priority 1-

- ✍ All public and private entities within Solid Waste Regions, including governments of individual municipalities of 3,000 and more population would be required to achieve a XX % waste reduction goal annually (**determined by the Task Force**). Said municipal governments would be responsible for the reduction of solid waste directly associated with government provided and/or contracted services. Solid Waste Regions would continue to submit Annual Progress Reports to TDEC and all counties and individual municipalities of 3,000 and higher populations would be required to submit Annual Municipal Progress Reports to their Regional Solid Waste Boards for inclusion in regional reporting. County government would be responsible for promoting, monitoring and reporting waste reduction in unincorporated areas of the county and municipalities with populations less than 3,000.

Regions and municipalities failing to achieve the XX % waste reduction goal and/or to fully complete the Annual Municipal Progress Reports would be subject to penalties established and enforced by TDEC, such as but not limited to, loss of grants, rebates and possible fines. --- **Referred back for more study**

### Priority 2 –

- ✍ For non-complying regions, a qualitative tier system, based on a list of best management practices should be implemented by TDEC Staff to guide those regions towards full compliance. --- **Referred back to work group by TDEC for more specific language**

### Priority 3 –

- ✍ Create a **technical (or technology) committee** within each Regional Solid Waste Board to provide helpful information and stimulate solid waste reduction dialogue and strategy. The committee would be consist of two existing board members, directly involved with solid waste management, who would invite guests, knowledgeable in various related solid waste matters, to make presentations and participate in roundtable discussions at board meetings. --- **READY TO GO**

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## WORK GROUP 4

### Priority 1-

- 📄 Funding- Class III/IV landfills should be considered disposal as Class I landfills and should be charged a surcharge of \$0.90/ton (Volume Conversion) to fund needed infrastructure improvement. Tie future increases to Class I landfill increases or decreases. Work towards having scales at all facilities. --- **READY TO GO**

### Priority 2-

- 📄 To implement a 4- Tier Infrastructure Goal that moves local governments to a fully integrated solid waste management system. ---**READY TO GO**

### Priority 3-

- 📄 Implement a mandatory Full Cost Accounting (Disclosure)/ Enterprise Fund Accounting for all Solid Waste and Recycling Programs in local governments. – **Referred back for more study**

### Priority 4-

- 📄 Pass legislative action to promote utility board cooperation on reporting to the solid waste departments if requested utility turn on and off of service of parcels to assist the solid waste departments in knowing who to bill for service or not. This would help with billing of solid waste management at the local government level. --- **READY TO GO**

### Priority 5 –

- 📄 Start and implement new 3-2-1 (75% 3 year – 50% 2 year – 25% 1 year) Pilot Program (Cost Share) Grant to fund the starting of pilot recycling or diversion programs. This could be used with Public/Private partnerships. Could include staff costs. Grant program funding could include staff funding, equipment funding, or other related funding to get a new program off the ground, running, and viable. --- **READY TO GO**

### Priority 6-

- 📄 Start grant program designed to offer each county a one time large grant on a reoccurring basis (every 5 to 10 years in a cycle) to promote and assist in the funding waste reduction and recycling infrastructure efforts. Suggest a matching grant based on economic ability. Can include non-profit organizations. The target of the grant would be help support the implementation of large infrastructure related needs. --- **READY TO GO**

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## Priority 7-

- ✍ Proper identification and use of material derived fuels (and for fuel production) is important to the State and for an integrated solid waste management system. Materials such as tires and wood wastes burn cleaner and with a better BTU value than fossil fuels and preserve and conserve valuable virgin natural resources. Incinerators used only as a waste reduction method are not prudent and should not be considered. However, the recovery of energy and the thermal value of waste should be a superior consideration over landfilling with volume reduction a positive by-product. --- **READY TO GO**

## Priority 8-

- ✍ Product Stewardship for E-Scrap-- Charge \$25.00 predisposal fee on all e-scrap that would start bringing the consumer/manufacturer/and local governments together to manage an emerging problem waste sector. More information needed on what defines e-scrap. --- **Referred back for more study.**

## Priority 9-

- ✍ Possible increase in number of Solid Waste Management staff responsible for the waste reduction goal management, review, and enforcement of components of the new waste reduction goal initiatives or programs recommended by this Task Force. --- **Referred back for more study**

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After hearing the various concepts and either moving the concepts forward or referring them back for more discussion with the work groups, Don McCain moved the meeting towards adjournment. He stressed that there were only two meetings left and that there was still a lot to be accomplished. He asked that everyone be on time and ready to work at those meetings because of the tight schedule.

The meeting adjourned at around 3:30 p.m.