

Waste Reduction Task Force

Public & Private Participation Work Group #2

January 23, 2008

Meeting Summary

Work Group Members Present: Charles Baines, Faye Dalton, Marty Turbeville

Facilitators: Matt Maynard and Paula Larson, TDEC

This meeting was held in Murfreesboro, over lunch, at the Waste Reduction Task Force Meeting. The topic covered in this meeting, Pros and Cons of public numbers versus public and private numbers, was determined to be an area needing further discussion during the October 18th work group meeting.

The group discussed Pros and Cons of continuing to use public and private numbers in the calculation of a waste reduction goal. It was agreed upon by all 3 group members present that the enforced waste reduction goal should be for local governments only and that private numbers would not be used to calculate the waste reduction percent for governments. It was also agreed upon by the 3 members present that private industry should be indexed on a periodic basis.

The advantage, of not including private numbers in waste reduction goals, determined by the group was that there would be accurate and verifiable numbers. One member brought up the point that numbers from private entities cannot necessarily be obtained, and even if they are, they can't be used as a representative sample of the entire private entity population. It was discussed that there would also be a cost benefit of not having to spend staff time collecting private numbers. The disadvantage agreed upon by the members present was the perceived issue of lowering the numeric 25% goal in order for local governments to meet a new lower percentage. This lowering of the numeric percentage goal could be perceived that the need for recycling is not as great because businesses aren't being tracked and the goal has been reduced.

The obstacle determined by the group members to only requiring public entities to meet a lowered waste reduction goal was tradition. Since the 25% mark has been in place, this would be a change in tradition. With change, proper education would be essential to have county commissions, mayors, etc. understand that a drop in the numeric goal does not mean a drop in responsibility for waste reduction. This was agreed upon by the three members present to be a crucial element to the success of lowering a waste reduction goal for counties. It was also recommended that the timeline to implement this would be two years.

The group requests the following information from TDEC:

- None

Areas to look further into include:

- None discussed during meeting.

Next meeting:

A target date for middle of February was set for the next meeting.