

SECTION 3 - IMPLEMENTING THE PLAN

This plan represents the dedication and significant amount of work of a large number of stakeholders that participated throughout the entire eight-month planning process. This plan would not have happened without their hard work and the support of DEC staff and an outside consultant tasked with facilitating the process.

The plan provides the framework, a starting point, for how Vermont can prevent waste from being generated in the first place, along with recommendations for how Vermont can expand reuse, recycling and composting to achieve Vermont's statewide 50 percent diversion goal. Some of the strategies outlined in the plan can be easily implemented - the low hanging fruit - while others require more outreach, collaboration, partnerships, and funding.

The next phase of the plan will involve prioritizing the list of strategies, developing detailed work plans for each priority, and most importantly, continuing the collaborative stakeholder process in order to successfully implement these strategies.

A. Educate Vermonters about the Plan

An Executive Committee (made up of the chairs from the Waste Prevention Subcommittees and ANR staff) will hold a series of meetings with various stakeholder groups to share the strategies outlined in the Plan. At meetings with solid waste district managers, businesses, government agencies, and others, the Committee will discuss ways that individuals and organizations can participate in advancing the strategies outlined in the plan. The Committee will publicize the Plan and ANR will post it on its Waste Prevention web page.

B. ANR's Role

ANR will need to insure that waste prevention is a priority of the Agency and continue the planning process to move into the next stage of research and implementation.

ANR

- Along with the Executive Committee, ANR will decide whether to host a public forum to highlight the strategies outlined in the plan and engage the broader stakeholder community in developing actions steps to implement it.
- ANR will need a full time person to implement this plan and additional ANR staff to assist with the various action steps. This work would include filling in the details for how each priority action step will be implemented.

Implementing the Plan

- The recommendations will need to be integrated into current and future ANR initiatives and work plans. These include:
 - ANR's Climate Change Transition Team
 - The Solid Waste Working Group charged by the Legislature with evaluating the January 2008 Solid Waste Report (prepared by ANR) and developing recommendations to implement and improve upon the report. This working group is to report to the legislature by January 2009.
 - ANR's reorganization, especially the soon to be established Center for Climate Change and Waste Reduction.
 - The State Solid Waste Plan - when revised

Through the leadership of the Governor's Office and the Executive Branch, action steps will need to be institutionalized throughout state government. All agencies will need to take a leadership role in implementing programs and policies to achieve the waste prevention goals of this report. For example, this could involve various state agencies (Economic Development, Agriculture, ANR) signing an MOU to plan, prioritize and implement the recommendations in this report.

- As appropriate, the strategies recommended in this report will be incorporated in the State of Vermont Solid Waste Management Plan when ANR develops and adopts an updated State Plan. Some action steps will need the involvement of other state agencies or other groups to implement.
- State statutes will need to be reviewed and new legislation enacted to put the waste prevention recommendations and goals of this report into law. New comprehensive legislation may be required and ANR will need to identify the best ways to revise statute.

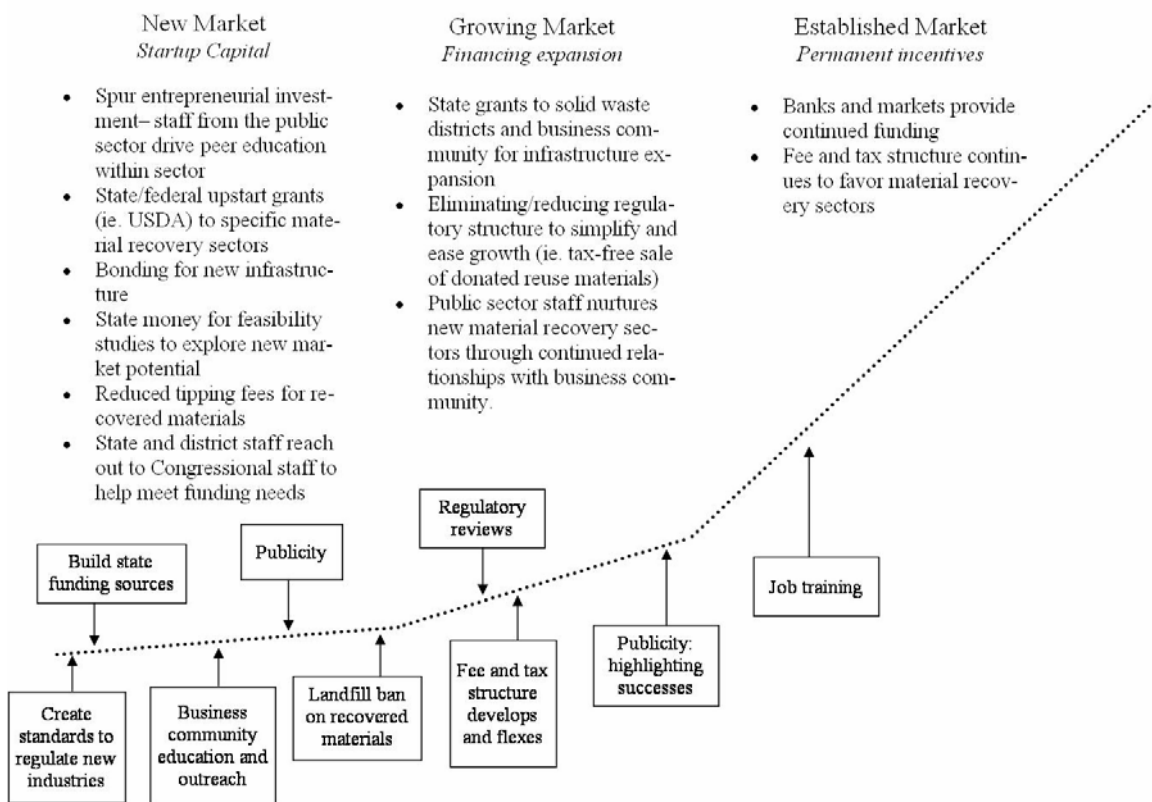
C. Stakeholder Involvement

The collaborative stakeholder process was essential for the development of the comprehensive set of strategies contained in this plan. The broad range of stakeholder involvement provides a solid foundation for the plan's implementation, particularly the long-term and more complex strategies. The next step will be to assess how to most effectively engage stakeholders in the plan's implementation - How can different stakeholders strengths be leveraged? What additional stakeholders should be involved? What resources are needed? Should the structure of the collaborative effort be changed, and if so, how?

D. Developing a Materials Resource Economy

Vermont has a tremendous economic opportunity to divert discarded materials into resources - from food waste and paper, to construction materials reuse. In doing so, Vermont can add value to discarded materials and create new jobs (for example, the diversion of used building materials to reuse rather than disposal can be worth up to \$100 per ton). Reuse, recycling, and composting businesses provide ten times the number of jobs created by landfills or incinerators.¹⁴ Vermont can start creating those jobs by promoting the growth of new material recovery sectors. Table 1 below illustrates the resources needed for market development through the stages of start-up, growth and full establishment.

Table 1: ¹⁵
Building New Material Recovery Markets



¹⁴ "Recycling Means Business". Institute for Local Self-Reliance. <http://www.ilsr.org/recycling/recyclingmeansbusiness.html> . April 16 2007.

¹⁵ Jessica Edgerly, Toxics Action Center, February 2008

E. Funding the Plan

In order to implement the strategies outlined in the plan, resources will be needed. State funding and staff resources will need to be coordinated among the Agencies involved, including the Agencies of Natural Resources, Agriculture, Economic Development, and Department of Buildings and General Services. Partnerships between policymakers and regulators, nonprofits, and reuse, recycling, and composting businesses need to be built to insure that the funding strategies developed effectively support waste prevention and waste diversion. Partners will need to evaluate and adjust the funding mechanisms as needed.

The selection of funding strategies should be based on the core principles of:

1. *creating incentives* which will drive Vermonters toward preventing waste, followed by reusing, recycling and composting waste.
2. *creating disincentives* to using wasteful products (extra packaging, disposable products, etc).

ANR will need to work with stakeholders to explore funding sources and approaches which insure that incentives and disincentives are relevant and appropriate for Vermont businesses, households and municipalities.

Funding approaches could include:

- Federal, state and private grants and loans, venture capital
- Bonds
- Increasing the amount of the Vermont state solid waste solid franchise tax (currently \$6.00 per ton) and directing the additional revenues to a capital fund that provides funding for new infrastructure and new market development. Evaluate current yearly disbursements from the Solid Waste Assistance Fund by ANR, as provided in 10 V.S.A. Section 6618, and determine whether additional funds can be made available to implement the plan.
- Increasing solid waste district surcharges to help fund additional waste reduction program costs.
- Dedicating a portion of revenues from Pay as You Throw (PAYT) programs for waste prevention.
- Applying product stewardship funding models (such as a packaging tax, escheat money [unredeemed bottle deposits], Advanced Recycling Fees [ARF], or percentage of market share paid by manufacturers for computers).
- Appropriating state funds including General Funds and Capital Funds (state and federal).

Implementing the Plan

- Setting up a Cap and Trade waste program to systematically reduce the amount of waste landfilled in the state each year (similar to the Chicago Climate Exchange¹⁶. Revenue from the Cap and Trade system would be allocated for strategies outlined in the plan.
- Institute a manufacturer tax on packaging to provide funding for product stewardship policy development and implementation.

Successful implementation will require a phased approach, starting with funding and staff resources focused on a limited number of initiatives - the "low hanging fruit" - to demonstrate the feasibility of this effort. This will be followed by a broader effort to implement the long-term priorities of the plan. The first few projects launched would consist of a carefully selected suite of activities involving education, workshops, technical assistance, and more. This would be the start to moving Vermonters toward a "*Life beyond Garbage.*"

¹⁶ <http://www.chicagoclimatex.com>