

SOLID WASTE WORKING GROUP SURVEY AND HOMEWORK

Please fill out as soon as possible and e-mail to Natalie@dsmenvironmental.com
or bring completed form to our October 2 meeting.

Name _____

- 1) **Please rank** the seven overarching themes developed under the waste prevention initiative as to what the Solid Waste Report to the Legislature should better address. (More information can be found in the full report – *Life Beyond Garbage*)

Rank successively from 1 to 7 (only use a number once). Use 1 for the theme that represents the highest priority (needs to be addressed right away) and 7 for the lowest.

Public Education and Outreach: Educate Vermonters about the value of waste prevention, why it is important, and how to prevent waste. (Rank = _____)

Product Stewardship: Ensure that responsibility for waste is shared by all those involved in a product's life cycle. (Rank = _____)

Government Leadership: State government must show leadership in preventing waste through its purchasing practices and other policies, such as its state building contracts. (Rank = _____)

Infrastructure: The state needs to develop collection and processing systems for reusable, recyclable, and compostable materials and provide incentives for the private sector to develop businesses that use and sell the materials. (Rank = _____)

Mandates and Bans: Mandates and bans can drive an economy to reuse and recycle discarded materials, and ensure that resources are not wasted. (Rank = _____)

Standards: Vermont needs standards to ensure best practices are used for waste prevention, such as designing and constructing buildings or manufacturing products. Standards can also insure that diversion efforts are conducted in an environmentally and socially responsible manner. (Rank = _____)

Partnerships: The State must actively collaborate and coordinate with regional, national, and international efforts to change the way we manage our resources. (Rank = _____)

- 2) **Proposed Sustainable Materials Vision** – ANR proposes a new *Sustainable Materials Vision* for solid waste management in Vermont whose goals are to:

“promote sustainable materials management,
prevent waste from being generated,
minimize reliance on waste disposal, and
minimize energy consumption, green house gas emissions and other adverse environmental impacts.”

Do you agree that this should be the focus for solid waste management in Vermont for the next 10 years? If not, what should the vision include? (Please list below.)

3) ANR's Report to the Legislature cited the items below as making up the framework to achieve the sustainable material management vision.

Do you agree that they are important for ANR to focus on?

If you agree, rank successively from 1 to 7 (only use a number once). Use 1 for the theme that represents the highest priority (needs to be addressed right away) and 7 for the lowest. Assume the State has limited resources and has to prioritize these.)

If you disagree, what is missing from this list? (Add below)

Evaluate Vermont's Solid Waste Planning Entities: (Rank = ___)

In addition to state planning, there are 43 solid waste planning entities in Vermont, making it difficult to implement necessary programs and infrastructure to carry out the Sustainable Materials Vision for Vermont. ANR will work with the planning entities and the Legislature to determine how to best develop and implement integrated state-wide strategies.

Increase Infrastructure and Evaluate New Technologies: (Rank = ___)

There is a wide variation in how materials and solid waste are managed in Vermont. Services need to be more consistent, convenient and equitable in price. Recycling services must handle a changing material list. ANR must collaborate with districts (alliances, and municipalities) and businesses to provide infrastructure and consistent programs. Emerging technologies should be evaluated when facilities are planned and constructed. Goals should be adopted including:

- Convenient, consistent, and cost-effective recycling for all Vermonters;
- On the go recycling (such as shopping, ball games, etc) available; and,
- Recycling available as part of residential and commercial curbside collection or within 10 miles of home.

Create Long-Term and Adaptable Outreach and Education Programs: (Rank = ___)

All Vermonters will need to understand the Sustainable Materials Vision and how they can participate, as significant changes in behavior regarding how waste is viewed and managed is necessary (e.g. waste must be viewed as a resource and managed as something of value). Behavior change is needed on the individual, community, business, and institutional level as well as long-term collaborative outreach and educational programs that can evolve as programs progress.

Target Certain Waste Streams and Establish Measurable Goals: (Rank = ___)

Large components of the waste stream (e.g. organics, recyclables, and construction & demolition waste) or toxic components (electronics and household hazardous waste) should be targeted for reduction and reduction goals set. The Waste Prevention Stakeholder Initiative action steps should be evaluated by ANR and the State Solid Waste Plan revised accordingly.

Participate in Regional and National Efforts, Initiatives, and Partnerships: (Rank = ___)

Sustainable materials and solid waste management issues cross state and regional boundaries. Product stewardship requires us to work beyond state boundaries including with manufacturers. Vermont will be more effective when joined by other states and regions. ANR will seek out, participate in, and/or initiate partnerships (outside of the state) that benefit and promote the Sustainable Materials Vision for Vermont.

Strengthen Current and Create New In-State Partnerships: (Rank = ___)

To implement the Sustainable Materials Vision for Vermont, a large and diverse group of stakeholders need to be involved. ANR will play a key role in strengthening and creating new partners in these efforts including:

- Solid Waste Managers: Districts, alliances and towns, businesses, and non-profit organizations;
- State educational groups: Association of Vermont Recyclers, Vermont Earth Institute and 10% Challenge, colleges and universities;
- Business and Economic Development: Vermont Sustainable Jobs Fund, Manufacturing Extension Centers, Small Business Development Centers, VBSR, State Economic Development Agencies for economic development
- Green and Waste Prevention Groups: Vermont Green Building Network, VPIRG, Building for Social Responsibility, reuse organizations (VT Food Bank, Salvation Army);
- Environmental Groups: VPIRG, VT Toxics Action Coalition, NOEMOA, NERC;
- Other Government entities: Agency of Transportation, Agency of Agriculture, Vermont League of Cities and Towns, municipalities, State Buildings and Purchasing, and EPA;
- Regional and National organizations promoting sustainable materials management and product stewardship

ANR Leadership: (Rank = ___)

As ANR takes on a leadership role in promoting and advancing the Sustainable Materials Vision for Vermont, it will need to take on new functions and increase its capabilities. ANR staff will become experts in the policies, programs, and technologies associated with the Sustainable Materials Vision for Vermont. The Agency's current reorganization efforts will foster the ability of ANR to be a leader in this area.

NOTE

Your ideas from the September 12 meeting were organized into the following groupings which may be helpful in doing the rankings:

Regulatory

- Overlap of regulations- jurisdiction unclear
- Policy/rules that support new technology
- Better incentives for having an approved SWIP
- Enforcement of regulations/rules that are on the book
- Regional cooperation/collaboration. Small Vermont impact. Examples- Walmart, product stewardship meeting next week.

Administrative and Infrastructure

- Number of planning entities in Vermont - too many
- Disparity of service level statewide, ease of collection
- Bigger regions managing waste - fewer districts more consistent services. All towns should be within a district.
- Statewide authority with statewide flow control
- New collaborative - private, public, & institutional cooperation
- No town on their own
- Larger infrastructure to manage increase waste diversion
- Increased ride in public transit strictly financial but need infrastructure to sustain
- Provide more public facilities for solid waste management
- A consistent plan through out Vermont

- Equitable services statewide so we can manage our materials as resources with the right economic structure

Implementation

- Increase diversion rate by any means possible
- Take action

Funding

- Change in funding mechanisms to discourage disposal. Incentify waste reduction
- Funding mechanism that pays for waste diversion and charges more for disposal. Incentives & disincentives
- Funding mechanisms. Enable good examples/practices to expand.
- Funded mandate to current institutions
- Environmentally preferable products are not more expensive
- **Change the financial structure to value waste reduction and not disposal**

Education

- Educate the public
- Behavior change & cultural identify away from being consumer more cultural connection, & more than money. Personal identity impact related to having new items
- Prevention is primary rather than management
- Shift the paradigm from waste management to waste prevention
- Change peoples view of waste to resource optimization
- More education to the population
- Waste needs to be looked at a resource (what is potential life cycle, once disposed once can be used)
- Waste should be viewed as a commodity

Analysis

- Evaluate new technology
- Develop Model: LCA Product, economics, carbon impacts, energy, & nutrients
- We need a mathematical model to determine highest and best use of any economics carbon nutrient balance
- Need data on what we need to manage first before learning how to manage

Below are the lists created by the three small groups to answer the question:

“What are the primary changes that must be made in how Vermont manages solid waste in the next 10 years? What are the top critical issues that need to be addressed? (e.g. top 2 – 4 changes or issues that need to be addressed)”

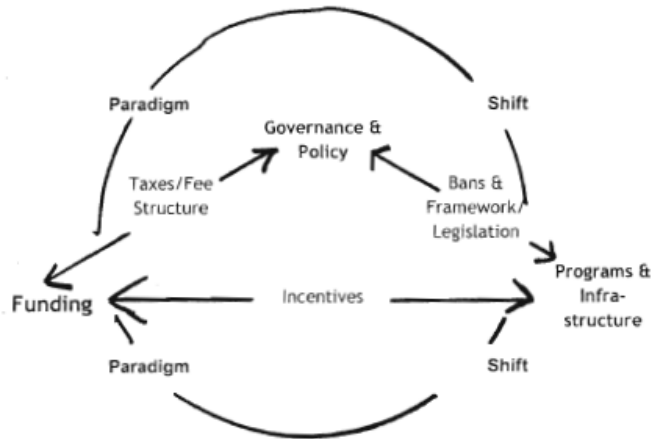
Group 1- Tom, Alyssa, Karen, Pete

- 1) Need to look at resources/waste as commodities
- 2) Need to create new infrastructure including new technologies to support new material inflows
- 3) Need to develop economic model that supports diversion and sustainable use
- 4) Need critical mass of commodities to create economies of scale.

Group 2- Erich, Fred, Tracy, Reg

Governance & Policy, Programs & infrastructure, and Funding all need to be addressed through a paradigm shift. We need mandates, infrastructure improvements, and grants and loans to support the change.

See graphic that illustrates the relationship between all these changes to make this shift:



Group 3 - Norm, Paul, Bob, Cathy

Changes are needed in the areas of:

- Legislation/regulation/funding/mandating
- Infrastructure/Technology/Investment-Economics
- Organization/Accountability/Standardization
- Education/Behavior change/Sustainability

Need to have appropriate Incentives and disincentives

Need to *have fewer districts* with no independent towns to create economy of scale and provide equitable service