

**Solid Waste Policy Advisory Committee
Meeting Summary
February 24, 2006**

Participants		
Cara Clore	Michigan Recycling Coalition and Clinton County	clorec@clinton-county.org
Clinton Boyd	Sustainable Research Group	cboyd@sustainableresearchgroup.com
Michael Csapo	Resource Recovery and Recycling Authority of Southwest Oakland County (RRRASOC)	RRRASOC@aol.com
Dan Batts	Michigan Waste Industry Association (MWIA)	djbatohlf@aol.com
Bill Allen	Kent County DPW	bill.allen@kentcounty.org
Don Pyle—via phone	Delta Solid Waste Management Authority/Upper Peninsula Recycling Coalition (UPRC)	dswma@dsnet.us
Mike Johnston	Michigan Manufacturers Association (MMA)	johnston@mma-net.org
Patty O'Donnell—via phone	Northwest MI Council of Governments	podonnel@nwm.cog.mi.us
Tom Hickson	Michigan Association of Counties (MAC)	hickson@micounties.org
Jim Frey	Resource Recovery Systems (RRS)	frey@recycle.com
Doug Roberts	Michigan Chamber	droberts@michamber.com
Tom Horton	MWIA/Waste Management	thorton@wm.com
Barry Cargill	Small Business Association of MI	bsc@sbam.org
Paul Zugger	Michigan United Conservation Clubs (MUCC)	pzugger@pscinc.com

DEQ Staff		
Marcia Horan	DEQ-ESSD	horanm@michigan.gov
Liane Shekter Smith	DEQ-WHMD	shekterl@michigan.gov
Frank Ruswick	DEQ-Executive Division	ruswickf@michigan.gov
Noelle Hartner	DEQ-WHMD	hartnern@michigan.gov
George Bruchmann	DEQ-WHMD	bruchmag@michigan.gov
Matt Flechter	DEQ-WHMD	flechtem@michigan.gov
Steve Sliver	DEQ-WHMD	slivers@michigan.gov

Observer		
Julie Gales	Legislative Services Bureau	jgales@legislature.mi.gov

Handouts

- Agenda
- 2/10/06 Meeting Summary

Introductions and prior meeting summary

- On page 3 of 2/10/06 meeting summary, diagram should be changed to put sustainability on top of pyramid to remain emphasized as originally intended.
- “Special wastes” in pyramid diagram should be changed to “Waste Types” as reflected in 2/10/06 meeting summary.
- After changes, 2/10/06 meeting summary approved by Committee for placement on website.

Review Previous Meeting Work- Grouping of Issues

- Objective of the pyramid diagram is to show overriding themes that everyone had an understanding as setting the framework for the policy.
- Review sustainability concept. 3 principles: social, capital, economic.
- Clinton Boyd, Sustainable Research Group, gave a brief explanation of sustainability.
- Business success is usually based on financial bottom line, but sustainability looks at the triple bottom line: financial capital, natural resources (natural capital), and people (social capital).
- May think of this concept as a 3-legged stool in which all 3 legs need to be equal and balanced. Consider impacts on social capital, natural capital, and financial capital.
- There are different effects on different parts of the state (i.e. urban vs. rural).
- Sustainability is not just about looking at environmental impact, but also social impact such as public health, creation of jobs, etc., and financial impact.
- Must be mindful of short-term thinking. For example, recycling not only allows continued use of natural resources but is an economic activity crucial to economy and business.
- Be sure to incorporate broader view of full-cost accounting and data collection for long-term thinking (ex. Toyota and Herman Miller-saving money by minimizing waste and improving bottom line).

- Community and relationship to customer is also an issue, not just business.
- Beginnings of definitions for sustainability:
Financial (economics) – Financial capital are the financial resources that...
Natural (resources) – Natural capital are the environmental resources that...
Social (people) – Social capital are the social resources that...
- Clinton will work on statement of sustainability for the group. These sentences will frame recommendations to come out of this group and will allow group to address sustainability up front before getting into policy detail.
- Both economics and education are common threads throughout most of the issues in the groupings and frame the entire policy. Should they be pulled out and addressed separately in the 3 principles of sustainability instead of groupings?
- Economics and education are inherent to policy statements but should still remain separate groupings to address specific issues.
- Group will begin by working through one grouping at a time.
- Keep in mind that this is a broader issue than just solid waste and it is important to follow-up on inter-governmental issues so that all levels of government are involved. This should not be overlooked just because some members are not present.
- Group concern that there are no goals or endpoints that we are advocating. There is no context for overarching themes.
- Will put a placeholder on template for education so the concept is not lost, for all policy statements the group creates.
- Education is a tool to be used for all issues.
- Document should start with sustainability guiding principles. Each section/statement will refer back to those principles.
- Education and economics merit broad policy statement but also individual comment and should be included in everything group considers.
- Management goals grouping are basically vision statements about the future. From a policy point of view, we should start with a vision.
- Define the goals. What is the problem statement?
- Should we start with management goals listed or is this not broad enough?

- Is there an overriding vision/problem statement? What are we trying to accomplish?
Mission statement?
 - Managing waste streams in context of sustainability. In order to accomplish that, we must...
- Issues will then follow as what group thinks Michigan's solid waste policy should address—need focused policy statements to address them.
- Challenges/opportunities need to be recognized throughout process.
- Sample vision statements:
 - Michigan should encourage management of raw materials in order to promote environmental protection, human quality of life, economic growth and development.
 - Management of raw materials, waste, and byproducts in a way that fosters sustainability.
 - Achieve a sustainable system for managing solid waste that balances economic, social, and environmental goals.
- Policy is about making wise choices and encouraging people to make wise choices. Need to recognize what wise choices are at a broad level. Education is the way to encourage wise choices.
- Once group has working vision statement, then follow with 5-7 policy statements to see if issues have been encompassed.
- Group should not spend time fine tuning vision statement now, as long as we all have the same general concept.
- Be mindful of how state's role is defined in the vision—control or to promote/encourage?
- 2 goals policy should address: 1) look at policy through sustainability-3 principles, 2) see solid waste in a new light- opportunity to add value.

Developing Policy Statements

- Brainstorming—see separate list of policy statement ideas generated by group.
- Can use other states' examples/tools.

Next Steps

- Group members will clarify statements they crafted and provide any additional statements to DEQ staff by close of business on Monday, February 27, 2006.

- DEQ will then combine into 6-7 statements for comment before the next meeting to move forward from brainstorming to next step.
- May also want to look at best practices studies (if available) for comparison between states' policies.
- Provide information to group (if available) on barriers and/or impediments that group may run into while crafting policy statements.
- Jim Frey offered to look into whether any guidance documents have been created by EPA, other states, or trade organizations to help us in the policy update process.
- RE-TRAC presentation by Rick Penner following meeting. RE-TRAC is a measuring device for solid waste data and for statewide use. Anyone interested in finding out more is invited to stay for the presentation following the meeting.

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Proposed Policy Statements

To protect Michigan's natural resources, promote economic development, and conserve energy, Michigan will maximize the recovery of recyclable materials.

Market based solutions to solid waste problems strengthen sustainability

Encourage mgmt of wastes according to solid waste hierarchy

Optimum investment in landfill, compost, recycling facilities to meet MI needs

Consistent regulatory requirements throughout various levels of government

Clear roles among all stakeholders

The solid waste policy should not hinder growth and should maximize our ability to grow

Institutionalization of data collection and reporting by all stakeholders in order to provide accurate and timely information for which to evaluate policy goals and recommendations

Recognize opportunities to add value to both organic and inorganic waste streams through strategies such as

composting, recycling, new product development and energy generation.

Define and provide ability for -- Roles of governmental and non-governmental stakeholders

Account for capacity - waste management needs

Regulatory system that is stable enough to provide predictability and provides flexibility for unforeseen circumstances

Regulatory system that responds to growing privacy concerns

Establish policies to encourage the beneficial reuse of industrial byproducts.

Provides ongoing review of impact of categories of sustainability

Recognize waste is an article of commerce and part of national and international network of trade.

Establish effective organizational, regulatory, and funding mechanisms to generate convenient recycling opportunities for Michigan citizens, businesses, and institutions

Any state requirements for Solid Waste planning should be met with commensurate funding.

To provide effective and broad-based education on the implications and impacts of the Solid Waste Policy on the private and public sector.

Fairly and equitably access the full costs of managing solid waste

All policy implementation measures, such as laws, rules, and programs, must be subject to a sustainability-based cost-benefit analysis during development and prior to implementation.

Integrate producer and distributors of goods into the systems required for the sustainable management of the end disposition of those goods.

Follow Administrative Procedures Act in evaluating regulatory recommendations

Look beyond political borders for sustainable solutions

Identify social economic and environmental impediments (barriers)

Facilitate confidential access to compliance information by stakeholders

New Additions (added after the 2/24 meeting)

Ensure the long-term economic sustainability of solid waste management companies – recognizing solid waste management is operated by private sector entrepreneurs deserving of protection of free market principals.

Ensure long-term disposal capacity.