

# Michigan's Solid Waste Policy

Presentation to the Solid Waste Funding Workgroup

September 9, 2011



# Overview

- Why the policy was updated
- How the policy was created
- Overview of the Policy
- Steps being taken to implement the policy

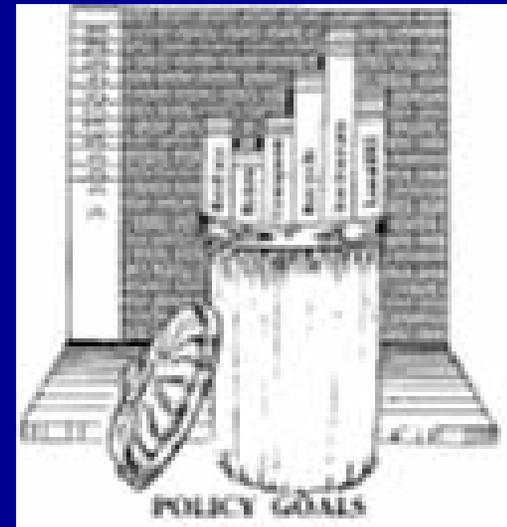
# Why was the Policy Updated?

- The policy was outdated and did not address today's solid waste management challenges.
- Two reports in 2005, on recycling and solid waste planning, identified the need to update the policy.
- An updated Policy will guide counties as they amend and update county Solid Waste Management Plans.

# Michigan's 1988 Solid Waste Policy



- Previous Solid Waste Policy was adopted by Michigan Natural Resources Commission on May 26, 1988
- Issued by Governor
- Stakeholder participation



# How the 2007 Policy was updated



The Solid Waste Policy Advisory Committee played a key role in updating the Solid Waste Policy by:

- Identifying issues that the Policy should address
- Drafting policy statements

# Policy Development Process

- Solid Waste Policy Advisory Committee (SWPAC) met throughout 2006 and early 2007.
- The first meetings consisted of brainstorming sessions to identify and group issues that should be addressed in the Updated Policy.
- The SWPAC brainstormed Policy Statements and charged the DEQ with developing Policies from their draft statements.
- The SWPAC requested that the DEQ draft detailed policy statements and return to the SWPAC for modification and approval.

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# Policy Development Process

- The DRAFT policy was presented to the Environmental Advisory council on May 18, 2006
- DRAFT policy was presented at Michigan Recycling Coalition Fall meeting on November 3, 2006
- The final issues were resolved in December 2006 and the SWPAC met in April to give final approval to the Policy.
- Updated Solid Waste Policy issued by the DEQ director on May 31, 2007

# Michigan Solid Waste Policy

May 24, 2007

**Michigan recognizes solid waste as a resource that should be managed to promote economic vitality, ecological integrity, and improved quality of life in a way that fosters sustainability.**

- A. Michigan's preference is first to avoid waste generation, then to utilize generated waste for beneficial purposes and, finally, to properly dispose of what remains. Michigan will facilitate the selection of waste management options according to this preference.
- B. Michigan will make solid waste management decisions recognizing the interrelationship among global, national, and regional systems of resource use and disposal.
- C. Michigan recognizes the distinct roles and responsibilities of public institutions (including various levels of government), the private sector, and individuals in encouraging and making choices related to solid waste management.
- D. Michigan recognizes that solid waste management choices have short- and long-term economic, environmental, and social costs and benefits.

## Policy Statements...

- Provide incentives...
- Remove barriers...
- Collaborate in...
- Provide information to...
- Strive to...
- Establish a goal...
- Identify and remedy...
- Ensure...
- Collaborate...
- Support...
- Facilitate...
- Use Partnerships...
- Encourage coordinated actions...
- Explore opportunities...
- Develop and encourage...

## Policy statements do not...

- Require
- Mandate
- Permit
- Command
- Direct
- Authorize
- Regulate

## **Decreasing waste generation and increasing waste utilization.**

**To reduce waste generation, Michigan should:**

- 1. Incentivize pollution prevention**
- 2. Encourage product design that produces less waste.**
- 3. Commercialize technologies and practices.**
- 4. Provide waste reduction information.**

## Decreasing waste generation and increasing waste utilization. (continued)

To encourage more waste utilization, Michigan should:

1. Utilize 50% of MSW by 2015.
2. Remedy regulatory barriers.
3. Ensure convenient access to residential recycling programs by 2012.
4. Facilitate waste utilization in manufacturing and distribution systems.
5. Support the development of markets for recycled materials.
6. Provide technical assistance.
7. Have a state government that leads by example.
8. Support the beneficial reuse of utility, commercial, and industrial by-products.
9. Expand opportunities for collection of special wastes (HHW, C&D, organics).

## Ensuring appropriate capacity to utilize and dispose of Michigan waste.

**To provide appropriate capacity to utilize solid waste, Michigan should:**

1. Use partnerships.
2. Remedy regulatory barriers.
3. Develop infrastructure and markets.
4. Use the solid waste planning process to establish utilization infrastructure.
5. Realize the economic opportunities from waste utilization.
6. Coordinate research, development, and sharing of technologies
7. Allow Solid Waste Plans to allow for utilization capacity in lieu of mandatory disposal capacity siting.

## Ensuring appropriate capacity to utilize and dispose of Michigan waste. (continued)

**To ensure appropriate disposal capacity, Michigan should:**

1. Use the planning process to ensure adequate disposal capacity without creating a system that attracts out-of-state waste.
2. Develop technology/practices that reduce waste generation, improve waste utilization practices, and reduce environmental impacts from waste.
3. Work within the context of national and international laws and agreements to manage the transboundary movement of solid waste.
4. Encourage jurisdictions to provide appropriate solid waste management options to meet their needs.

**Ensuring that the roles of individual units of government are clearly defined and adequately funded, and their actions are consistent with one another.**

**To ensure the roles of individual units of government are clearly defined Michigan should:**

1. Identify the tasks and duties.
2. Assign roles for the implementation of Solid Waste Plans.

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**To ensure that various units of government are equitably able to financially fulfill their responsibilities, Michigan should:**

1. Implement a sustainable and equitable funding mechanism
2. Develop effective local funding mechanisms.
3. Encourage development of incentives to promote collaboration.

## **Regulating solid waste activities.**

**To ensure solid waste policies and laws minimize unintended consequences and are predictable enough to encourage decisions consistent with the preferences yet flexible enough to provide for individual and changing circumstances, Michigan should:**

- 1. Implement a system that provides for input from all affected parties.**
- 2. Create the SWAC.**

# **Appropriately using regulatory requirements, education, and financial incentives to encourage choices consistent with the management preferences.**

**To encourage choices consistent with the management preferences, Michigan should:**

1. Facilitate access to accurate information.
2. Develop and promote incentive systems to increase participation in waste utilization programs.
3. Consider a disposal ban for a material that presents significant and avoidable harm if there are acceptable alternatives such that the ban would not result in an unacceptable increase in illegal disposal.
4. Consider a disposal ban for large volume, easily recycled material that has high resource potential provided there is a well developed market and collection infrastructure.

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5. Consider a deposit system for certain materials.
6. Facilitate waste utilization in public settings.
7. Prohibit the burning and burying of household refuse.
8. Consider product bans under certain circumstances.
9. Expand and improve information and education programs by:
  - a. Developing a statewide message on waste utilization.
  - b. Including information on the economic development potential of waste utilization.
  - c. Using a variety of tools and media.
  - d. Evaluating effectiveness.
  - e. Addressing key audiences.
  - f. Supporting coordinated and collaborative efforts at the local level.

# Developing and implementing an effective system to communicate, monitor, evaluate, and modify the Solid Waste Policy and its implementation.

To identify deficiencies in solid waste management as well as evaluate progress toward achieving solid waste management goals, Michigan should:

1. Create a data collection system that should:
  - Consist of data collected locally and aggregated statewide.
  - Analyze and evaluate data to benchmark achievement of sustainability standards.
  - Characterize waste streams at time of disposal.
  - Protect proprietary information.
  - Avoid double-counting.
  - Be consistent with national programs and standards.
2. Evaluate the implementation of this Solid Waste Policy every five years.

# Steps being taken to implement the policy

- Bi-monthly meetings of the Solid Waste Advisory Committee (SWAC)
- Utilization and Measurement SWAC sub-committee
  - Measurement RFP issued and system selected
- Solid Waste Planning Statutory amendments Drafted
- Compost and Inert rule amendments in process
- Open burning of household waste rule amendments in process

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