

# Michigan solid waste policy

The Department of Environmental Quality recently released a stakeholder-driven update to the Michigan Solid Waste Policy. The Policy provides a framework to guide Michigan citizens, businesses, government agencies, institutions, universities, and political leaders in making smart choices for managing Michigan’s solid wastes by viewing it as a resource in a global economy. The Policy uses the three principles of sustainability: economic vitality, ecological integrity, and improved quality of life to guide solid waste management decisions.

The Solid Waste Policy embodies the consensus agreement of stakeholders on the Solid Waste Policy Advisory Committee, a group made up of representatives from local governments, the environmental community, and the solid waste and recycling industries. The Solid Waste Policy encourages



Pictured is the Vienna Junction, where the updated solid waste policy framework will contribute to the better management and decisions involving similar sites under the guiding concept of environmental responsibility.

a deliberate and inclusive solid waste management decision-making process and recommends goals. Goals outlined in the Solid Waste Policy include finding uses for 50 percent of Michigan’s municipal solid waste by 2015 and ensuring that all Michigan citizens have convenient access to residential recycling programs by 2012. The policy also recommends future stakeholder meetings to help guide the implementation of the policy and to facilitate sustainable waste management practices.

The “Solid Waste Policy 2007” DEQ Web page has the following three links:

- 1) PDF of the Michigan Solid Waste Policy
- 2) Solid Waste Policy Advisory Committee 2006-2007
- 3) Solid Waste Policy press release issued on May 31, 2007

Take the time to learn more about Michigan’s solid waste policies and how we can do a better job of managing our waste stream by going to:

[http://www.michigan.gov/deq/0,1607,7-135-3312\\_4123---.00.html](http://www.michigan.gov/deq/0,1607,7-135-3312_4123---.00.html)

