

SWANA TECHNICAL POLICY

STRATEGIC PLANNING FOR INTEGRATED MUNICIPAL SOLID WASTE MANAGEMENT

I. INTEGRATED MUNICIPAL SOLID WASTE MANAGEMENT

SWANA supports a broad definition of municipal solid waste management, more clearly defined as integrated municipal solid waste management, or IMSWM. The overarching goal of IMSWM is to contribute to the health and safety of society, and protect the natural environment. Specifically, IMSWM involves a series of complementary actions to reduce and recover value from wastes, and to dispose in an environmentally sound manner those wastes that for technical or economic reasons cannot be eliminated or recovered. IMSWM encompasses source reduction, reuse, materials recycling, organic materials management, conversion technologies, pollution prevention, waste-to-energy, landfill gas recovery, landfill mining and landfilling. IMSWM also involves the promotion of product stewardship and the purchase of recycled content products, fuels and energy derived from solid waste.

II. INTEGRATED MUNICIPAL SOLID WASTE SYSTEM PLANNING

Comprehensive planning for integrated municipal solid waste systems must consider the relevant components of residential, commercial, institutional, recreational, construction, demolition and industrial waste management including outreach to those involved in generation, collection, storage and management of all materials. Planning should involve public and private service providers, and assess the significant factors including economic, political, legal, technological, social/cultural, environmental and competitive forces.

SWANA's IMSWM policy supports an approach that as a first priority encourages the practices of reducing quantity and recovering value from waste materials. Options that support these practices include source reduction, reuse, recycling, composting, and energy recovery activities conducted in an environmentally and economically sound manner. SWANA believes that there is significant opportunity to improve reduction and recovery levels and expand the market for diverted materials, and that a broad range of options is necessary to allow market forces to work effectively. The most desirable and logical approach to IMSWM would be to:

- ◆ Reduce the amount of solid waste generated;
- ◆ Promote reuse and repair rather than throwaway and replace;
- ◆ Provide for convenient short-term storage, collection and transfer that maximizes efficiency and diversion;
- ◆ Recover organics for beneficial use;
- ◆ Recover recyclable components and produce new products;

- ◆ Reduce the amount of low-volume, high-toxicity components in solid waste, and reduce the dispersal of pollutants (including air emissions) from solid waste management activities;
- ◆ Utilize as much of that which remains as fuel (waste-to-energy);
- ◆ Dispose in landfills that which can not be managed by the above steps (generating energy whenever possible);
- ◆ Generally minimize resources consumed when implementing the IMSWM system; and
- ◆ Promote the purchase of recycled content products; products whose manufacture utilizes and produce fewer toxic materials; fuels and energy derived from solid waste; and products with increased durability.

SWANA has several technical policies that address IMSWM system planning. These policies address key considerations for viable, long-term comprehensive planning, including but not limited to the following observations, which require IMSWM strategies to be flexible and well-planned:

- a. Components of the residential, commercial, institutional, recreational, construction, demolition and industrial waste streams will continue to change over time, altering management approaches and opportunities;
- b. Collection, storage, processing, and transfer technology will continue to become increasingly more innovative, changing the opportunities they provide to reduce the waste stream and increase participation and diversion;
- c. Solid waste facilities have finite capacity, requiring accurate long-term planning, development and budgeting to provide adequate capacity;
- d. Import and export will be supply and demand driven by disposal fees and available capacity elsewhere, requiring control by local government over municipal solid waste generated within its jurisdiction to maintain economic and competitive viability;
- e. Recycling and composting will be subject to the supply and demand process, regulatory changes and varying disposal tip fees across the country, requiring fiscal strategies that consider fluctuating costs and revenues;
- f. Consumers will generate an increasing demand for products that have been source-reduced and are used, refurbished and recycled, requiring local both private and public sector entities to establish green purchasing and product stewardship policies;
- g. Regionalization will continue as neighboring jurisdictions attempt to become more economically competitive when managing wastes that may be shipped in and out of multiple, but geographically close jurisdictions;
- h. Identification, disclosure, and planning for the true, full costs of each component of the IMSWM system will be critical to efficient operations, setting equitable unit-based rates and establishing taxpayer trust;
- i. While not all components of an IMSWM system generate revenues that balance their costs, local solid waste programs that operate in an enterprise fund environment generally will have less significant impacts from down swings in regional economies; and
- j. The products of reuse, re-fabrication, recycling, and composting activities should provide value to consumers without substantial subsidy or regulatory support in order to ensure their long-term viability.

III. LOCAL GOVERNMENT RESPONSIBILITY

Local governments are charged with protecting human health and the environment for their community. They also address aesthetic and service expectations for their citizens. Governments have the responsibility to assure the safe, efficient, and environmentally and economically sustainable management of municipal solid waste, including reduction and diversion:

- ◆ For solid waste and recovered materials generated, collected, processed and/or disposed within their jurisdiction;
- ◆ For solid waste and recovered materials imported into their jurisdiction; and
- ◆ For solid waste and recovered materials exported out of their jurisdiction.

SWANA believes that local government, while retaining ultimate responsibility, does not need to own or operate all components of its solid waste system and may facilitate the provision of any or all components by other public, non-profit and private sector entities. Regardless of service provision within the system, local governments at a minimum must:

- ◆ Develop a system-wide management plan that sets goals, accurately identifies and evaluates system options, establishes a basis for policy, provides a mechanism for measuring progress, and sets sustainable budgets for programs and infrastructure;
- ◆ Establish a process to determine how IMSWM system components will be owned and/or operated by the local governments or other entities;
- ◆ Establish a process for ensuring that services provided by other entities meet the needs of the tax-payers in terms of both breadth and integrity, and that the services are supported by proper education and awareness;
- ◆ Oversee and guide implementation and revision (as needed) of the management plan;
- ◆ Collect data necessary to evaluate progress and justify program improvements;
- ◆ Develop local regulations, policies or ordinances necessary to support the plan by both public and private sector entities; and
- ◆ Ensure that compliance with applicable local, state, provincial and federal regulations is achieved or exceeded.

IV. RESPONSIBILITIES OF OTHER PUBLIC AND PRIVATE ENTITIES

While the provision of an IMSWM system is the responsibility of local government, state/provincial and federal governments can and should set and direct policy to support local government's initiatives. Each level of government has unique roles, which can be used to facilitate effective IMSWM. In addition, residents, industry, businesses, institutions, and solid waste providers are also essential to a successful IMSWM system.

The federal government should support local governments with the following activities that include, but are not limited to:

- ◆ Establishing national goals for IMSWM;
- ◆ Providing guidance for conducting uniform planning and measuring program results and benefits in a consistent manner;
- ◆ Fostering the development of state/provincial plans and facilitating information transfer between entities;

- ◆ Developing sustainable markets for reused and diverted (including recyclable and organic) materials, and recovered energy;
- ◆ Identifying and addressing restrictive conditions which prevent the implementation of IMSWM systems;
- ◆ Facilitating product stewardship of mainstream materials as well as those requiring special handling;
- ◆ Broadening national perspectives on renewable energy and green power to include waste-to-energy, conversion technologies, and recovery and use of landfill gas;
- ◆ Fostering partnerships within and between public, private and non-profit sectors both nationally and internationally;
- ◆ Developing substantive green purchasing guidance and implementing at the national level to set a meaningful example for states and provinces;
- ◆ Encouraging source reduction;
- ◆ Facilitating research and development by both public and private sectors;
- ◆ Providing financial incentives to stimulate start-up investments in recycling, composting, use of recycled materials and generation of fuel and energy from solid waste;
- ◆ Providing training for IMSWM system planning, implementation and evaluation; and
- ◆ Establishing regulations to protect public health and set environmental protection standards.

States and provinces must support local governments with the following activities that include, but are not limited to:

- ◆ Establishing state/provincial goals for IMSWM;
- ◆ Ensuring the competency of practitioners of IMSWM through standards and certification;
- ◆ Facilitating local planning and generation of uniform data;
- ◆ Facilitating information transfer between entities;
- ◆ Supporting local markets for reused and diverted (including recyclable and organic) materials, and recovered energy;
- ◆ Fostering partnerships within and between public, private and non-profit sectors with the state or province;
- ◆ Implementing substantive green purchasing policies and setting a meaningful example for local governments;
- ◆ Identifying and providing opportunities to divert low-volume, high-toxicity components in solid waste recovery and/or disposal activities;
- ◆ Providing training for IMSWM system planning, implementation and evaluation; and
- ◆ Providing resources to support legislative and regulatory mandates.

Residents must also support local government initiatives with the following activities that include, but are not limited to:

- ◆ Adopting lifestyles that promote and implement source reduction, reuse, recycling and composting at home;

- ◆ Purchasing recycled content products based on availability and economics in order to create market demand;
- ◆ Supporting manufacturers and retailers that participate in practices that foster source reduction, waste diversion and pollution prevention;
- ◆ Understanding the benefits of, and paying fair rates for, IMSWM services received.

Industry, businesses and institutions must also support local government initiatives with the following activities that include, but are not limited to:

- ◆ Adopting business practices that promote and implement source reduction, reuse and recycling; and composting;
- ◆ Complying with regulations and laws pertaining to IMSWM;
- ◆ Adopting purchasing policies that create market demand for recycled and recovered products;
- ◆ Supporting and participating in improved product stewardship practices;
- ◆ Conducting research and product development activities for the purpose of reducing the volume and/or toxicity of waste generated; and
- ◆ Working with local governments to plan for and provide solid waste management services, including the intermediary processing and remanufacture of recycled and recovered materials.

Solid waste service providers may be public, private or non-profit entities. They must also work within the planning framework established by governments to provide a wide range of services including but not limited to:

- ◆ Public education programs to support IMSWM to the residential, commercial, institutional, recreational, construction, demolition and industrial sectors;
- ◆ Collection of solid waste and recovered materials from residences, businesses and industry, through contracts, franchises and/or open market conditions;
- ◆ Ownership and/or operation of transfer stations, drop-off centers, reuse centers, MRFs, composting facilities, landfills and waste-to-energy facilities;
- ◆ Marketing, brokering or otherwise promoting the products of reuse, recycling and composting programs;
- ◆ Services for the collection, recovery and disposal of special wastes; and
- ◆ Services associated with IMSWM system analysis, system improvements, research and development, and other ancillary activities as identified by local government.

Approved by the International Board on August 11, 2003.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "A. H. 2. 8". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the letters "A", "H", and "2" being more distinct than the "8".

International Secretary

Dated August 11, 2003