

1997 PLAN UPDATE COVER PAGE

The Natural Resources and Environmental Protection Act, 1994 PA 451, as amended (NREPA), Part 115, Solid Waste Management, and its Administrative Rules, requires that each County have a Solid Waste Management Plan Update ("Plan") approved by the Michigan Department of Environmental Quality (DEQ).

DATE SUBMITTED TO THE DEQ:

DESIGNATED

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EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

The following summarizes the solid waste management system selected to manage solid waste within the County. In case of conflicting information, the information provided in the main body of the Plan update will take precedence over the executive summary.

OVERALL VIEW OF THE COUNTY

Washtenaw County is 716.6 square miles in size with a variety of natural features including lakes, rivers, forests, agricultural land, and urban and rural areas. Municipalities throughout the county are marked by rapid growth as the Detroit metropolitan area continues to expand into Washtenaw County and create additional demand on housing and services.

Current population, households, and land area, categorized by municipality, are identified below:

Communities	Population 1997	Households 1997	Area Square Miles
<i>Cities</i>			
Ann Arbor	107,604	43,381	25.9
Milan (part)*	3,271	1,372	0.9
Saline	7,409	2,910	4.2
Ypsilanti	22,837	8,527	4.4
<i>Villages</i>			
Barton Hills	329	136	0.8
Chelsea	3,890	1,524	2.4
Dexter	1,914	917	1.5
Manchester	1,954	808	1.8
<i>Townships</i>			
Ann Arbor	3,903	1,720	18.4
Augusta	4,690	1,657	36.7
Bridgewater	1,491	548	36.6
Dexter	4,761	1,741	30.8
Freedom	1,516	583	35.5
Lima	2,412	860	36.2
Lodi	4,919	1,755	33.7
Lyndon	2,425	815	32.1
Manchester	1,996	708	38.0
Northfield	7,586	2,876	36.3
Pittsfield	24,995	10,340	28.1
Salem	4,203	1,447	34.3
Saline	1,305	447	34.9
Scio	11,510	4,388	34.2
Sharon	1,639	585	37.6
Superior	10,397	3,910	35.4
Sylvan	2,813	980	35.2
Webster	4,367	1,548	35.3
York	6,919	1,787	35.2
Ypsilanti	47,710	19,668	30.2
TOTAL	300,805	117,938	716.6

* Part of the city of Milan is located within Monroe County. The statistics for the City of Milan reflect only the number of residents living in Washtenaw County.

Washtenaw County's population has steadily increased over the past 50 years, growing over 3% each year between 1950-1996.

Increases in population and development are placing new demands on farmland, open space, and natural areas. Although most of the County is still rural, farm acreage declined by 15% between 1982 and 1992, a loss of almost 3,500 acres per year. Although it appears that the population of Washtenaw County is growing very rapidly, this appearance may be more the result of growing urban land use than of population. Between 1990-1995, the population in Washtenaw County increased approximately 7% according to preliminary SEMCOG figures. In that same five-year period, it is projected that the urbanized area in Washtenaw County increased by over 9%. Thus, the urbanized area in Washtenaw County is growing at a faster rate than that of the entire population growth. The acreage in major land use classes in 1990 is shown below:

Land Use Type	Acreage	% County Land
Surface Water	2,518	1%
Developed Land	70,774	15%
Agriculture	207,924	46%
Open Space	172,643	38%
Totals	453,859	100%

THE SOLID WASTE PLANNING PROCESS

The Washtenaw County Solid Waste Planning Committee (SWPC) completed a strategic planning process that outlined strengths, weaknesses, opportunities, and threats that are part of the current and future solid waste management system in the County. The analysis was used to create goals and objectives that in turn formulated the solid waste management strategy and the selected alternative described in the Plan as the Plan's Enforceable Program and Process.

In developing the Plan's Selected Alternative, the SWPC developed a set of solid waste management program components in the following ten areas:

1. Clean Community and Solid Waste Collection
2. Solid Waste Transfer and Disposal
3. Incentives to Reduce, Reuse and Recycle
4. Recycling Processing Capacity
5. Compost Processing Capacity
6. Commercial Source Reduction and Recycling
7. Residential Source Reduction and Recycling
8. Residential Yard Waste Management
9. Recycling Market Development
10. Household Hazardous Waste Management

These 10 components are the key elements of the solid waste management system. The SWPC also considered some alternative approaches to handling the County's solid waste stream, however these alternatives were subsequently discarded based on their technical and economic feasibility. Washtenaw County's Plan is designed to:

- build on the strengths of the existing local and regional programs,
- address deficiencies and weaknesses in the existing system,
- respond to and build intergovernmental support and cooperation,
- be enforceable, and
- set measurable goals that can be tracked to assess progress.

Appendix B of this Plan details the System Alternatives that were not selected as part of the Plan's Enforceable Program. The Plan's Selected Alternative is described briefly below and more fully in the balance of the Plan and the Appendices.

Establishing Goals

Washtenaw County's Solid Waste Plan calls the creation and implementation of an aggressive program to increase overall diversion rates from current levels to 38% in 2005 and 45% in 2010, measured by weight. The Solid Waste Planning Committee (SWPC) established these goals through a methodical process spanning the course of several months.

First, the committee evaluated current waste generation, diversion, and disposal data. Statistics were compiled for households, grouped by municipality, and for businesses, grouped by Standard Industrial Code (SIC). Annual reports from waste generators were evaluated, and utilized in conjunction with historical waste generation studies.

From these studies it was determined that approximately 37% of the County's waste stream originates from the residential sector (households) and 63% from the commercial/industrial sector (businesses). Further examination revealed the specific communities and business classifications that had the greatest opportunity for growth in terms of diversion.

In addition to identifying sources and quantities of waste, the SWPC compiled waste composition data as well. Results indicated that two product categories, paper and organics, represented a considerable portion of the waste stream from both residential and commercial sources.

Washtenaw County's Plan calls for the creation of two specialized task forces, the Intergovernmental Program Task Force (IPTF) and the Commercial/Industrial Program Task Force (CITF). In order for the County's aggressive recovery rates to be achieved, additional programs and infrastructure must be developed to address the specific sectors and materials identified above. The task forces will be charged with developing Implementation Action Plans to address the challenges faced by communities and businesses in meeting the Plan's goals.

The Plan's Selected Alternative

During years 1 through 10 of the Planning Period, the Plan's Enforceable Program provides for the implementation of the System Alternative #2 as described below, detailed further in the Plan and Appendices.

Washtenaw County's Selected Alternative: Expanded system of waste prevention, reduction, recycling, composting, and sanitary landfill.

The Plan's Selected Alternative is an integrated strategy that places waste prevention, reduction, recycling, and composting at the top of the solid waste management hierarchy. This alternative requires the development of new programs, including pollution prevention and market development, to strengthen existing diversion programs and recovery rates. Landfill space will only be utilized to dispose of solid waste remaining after the diversion technologies have been developed to their fullest long term environmental, technological and economic potential.

After conducting an analysis of options, this system was determined to be the most feasible. It builds upon the existing recovery programs and infrastructure throughout the County, allows for growth and improvement, and clearly aligns with the Goals and Objectives of the Plan.

Authorized Management Component

The Selected Alternative is established by this Plan as the Plan's Enforceable Program defining the Washtenaw County Solid Waste Management System, and will be implemented jointly by units of government within the County in cooperation with other public agencies and private firms. The Plan's Enforceable Program includes a Management Component that defines details of who will take responsibility for implementation and how that will be accomplished. The Authorized Management Component builds on the strengths of the current organizational and management structure and addresses the gaps identified in Section III.

The Plan Authorized Management Component supports the local units of government within the County in applying their home rule authority to their funding, organization, and implementation challenges.

Local communities are strongly encouraged to build on their strengths in managing solid waste and recycling programs and further enhance those strengths through intergovernmental cooperation. Where appropriate, the County is willing to serve in a fiduciary and/or programmatic role in supporting these efforts.

The system organization described in Section III is intended to provide a practical mechanism by which specific goals in the Plan can be addressed. The system calls for the establishment of two task forces; one focusing on intergovernmental cooperation and the other on commercial/industrial recycling and solid waste initiatives. The task forces will be appointed by the Washtenaw County Board of Commissioners and will report to the Board of Public Works. The County Division of Public Works will provide staffing for both.

Timetable – Implementing the Plan’s Enforceable Program

The Plan’s Enforceable Program includes an implementation timeline for the Plan’s Authorized Management Component and Selected Alternative. The following table summarizes key milestones for implementing the Plan’s Enforceable Program.

Management Components	Timeline
Designate Identified Task Forces	Within 2 months following Plan approval by 2/3 communities
Develop/Adopt Implementation Action Plans	May 2001
Preliminary Program Specifications for Planned Programs	2001
Initiate Education Programs	2001
Initiate all other Programs	2002
Initiate and Implement Proposed Strategies	Annual/Ongoing
Data Tracking to Assess Program Performance	Annual/Ongoing
Update Implementation Action Plans	Annual/Ongoing

INTRODUCTION

GOALS AND OBJECTIVES

To comply with Part 115 and its requirements, each Plan must be directed toward goals and objectives based on the purposes stated in Part 115, Sections 11538.(1)(a), 11541.(4) and the State Solid Waste Policy adopted pursuant to this Section, and Administrative Rules 711(b)(i) and (ii). At a minimum, the goals must reflect two major purposes of Solid Waste Management Plans:

- (1) To utilize to the maximum extent possible the resources available in Michigan's solid waste stream through source reduction, source separation, and other means of resource recovery; and
- (2) to prevent adverse effects on the public health and the environment resulting from improper solid waste collection, transportation, processing, or disposal, so as to protect the quality of the air, the land, and ground and surface waters.

The principal focus of the Washtenaw County Solid Waste Plan is to develop a solid waste management system that promotes and protects the health, safety, welfare, quality of life and environment of the citizens of Washtenaw County. The Plan shall be implemented in a cost-effective, environmentally sound, and publicly acceptable manner, and shall be consistent with the requirements of Part 115 of the Natural Resources and Environmental Protection Act, P.A. 451 of 1994.

Goal One:

Create, implement, manage, and monitor an aggressive program to reduce the overall amount of Municipal Solid Waste ("MSW") generated per capita in Washtenaw County by 5% in the year 2005 and 10% in the year 2010. These goals will be evaluated over time, and changes made as deemed necessary by the implementation agencies.

Objectives:

1. Develop and/or support comprehensive programs aimed at reducing waste generation, such as source reduction, pollution prevention, ISO 14000, environmentally conscious design for the environment and recycling design for the environment.
2. Investigate, and strongly encourage implementation of, economic and non-economic approaches to motivating citizens and businesses to reduce waste generation, such as pay-as-you-throw variable pricing systems and bans on disposal.
3. Establish realistic and measurable goals for annual evaluation and investigate and implement measurement systems as needed.
4. Educate citizens and businesses on source reduction needs and techniques, especially those targeted at the use of small quantity unregulated and household hazardous wastes.

Goal Two:

Create, implement, manage and monitor an aggressive program to increase MSW diversion rates from current levels to a county average of 38% recovery by weight by the year 2005 and 45% by weight by the year 2010.

Objectives:

1. Reuse, resale.
 - 1.1. Develop and/or support programs that promote the reuse, donation and resale of used products.
2. Recycling
 - 2.1. Develop and/or support local recycling programs and incentives that provide recycling opportunities for all citizens.
 - 2.2. Encourage increased recycling within the commercial/industrial sectors and multi-family housing units.
 - 2.3. Market development

- ◆ Work with government agencies and businesses to develop markets for recycled materials and organics.
 - ◆ Pursue market development for special materials, including durable goods and electronics.
 - ◆ Pursue cooperative programs for recycled-content purchasing.
 - ◆ Encourage development of recycling-based manufacturing through local government economic development programs.
3. Composting
 - 3.1. Enhance backyard grass cycling and home and agricultural composting initiatives.
 - 3.2. Investigate and encourage the composting of other organics.
 4. Special Material Handling
 - 4.1 Continue to pursue recycling and disposal alternatives for problematic materials such as household hazardous waste, conditionally exempt small quantity generator waste, and sharps.

Goal Three:

Develop and/or support comprehensive public education programs.

Objectives:

1. Educate citizens on appropriate solid waste handling and disposal techniques.
2. Promote public education and awareness about key issues including solid waste reduction, reuse, diversion, and disposal, and encourage the purchase of recycled content materials.

Goal Four:

Ensure the safe and efficient management of municipal solid waste.

Objectives:

1. Assure disposal capacity guaranteed to meet the County's needs through the use of the Arbor Hills Landfill in Salem Township and appropriate facilities existing outside the County.
2. Ensure the safe and environmentally sound collection, transportation, processing, on-site storage and disposal of solid waste.
3. Encourage proper handling of problematic materials such as household hazardous waste, unregulated business waste, and sharps.
4. Pursue programs aimed at decreasing illegal dumping.
5. Encourage the development of local ordinances and regulations that recognize the difficulties inherent in the collection and transportation of solid waste, and allow the collection of solid waste to take place in an efficient, safe, and timely manner.

Goal Five:

Operate an integrated intra-county and inter-county solid waste management strategy.

Objectives

1. Enlist the support of all local units of government and other agencies to implement the Plan.
2. Continue to foster strong working relationships between governmental agencies.
3. Continue to build strong partnerships between the public, private, and non-profit sectors.
4. Facilitate the development of regional, cooperative services and programs to be implemented through the Plan's selected alternative.
5. Monitor and contribute to state and federal legislative developments relating to municipal solid waste.
6. Preserve and expand the capabilities of the current countywide funding system for waste prevention and recycling program development.
7. Investigate alternative funding mechanisms for local recovery programs such as Public Acts 138 and 185, millages, grants, etc.