



COUNTY ADMINISTRATOR
220 NORTH MAIN STREET, P.O. BOX 8645
ANN ARBOR, MICHIGAN 48107-8645
(734)996-3055
FAX (734)994-2592

TO: Al Robinson, Chair
Ways & Means Committee

THROUGH: Robert E. Guenzel
County Administrator

FROM: Dan Myers, Director
Department of Public Works

DATE: May 3, 2000

SUBJECT: Approval of County Solid Waste Management Plan 1999 Update

Board Action Requested:

It is requested that the Washtenaw County Board of Commissioners approve the attached Resolution approving the Washtenaw County Solid Waste Management Plan 1999 Update and authorize distribution of the Plan Update to Washtenaw County communities for their consideration.

Background:

In June of 1997, Washtenaw County received notice from the Michigan Department of Environmental Quality (MDEQ) requesting each county in Michigan to update their Solid Waste Management Plans under Part 115 of the Natural Resources and Environmental Protection Act, 1994 PA 451, as amended. If the County determined not to update the Plan, the MDEQ would be able to provide a Solid Waste Management Plan Update for the County.

On August 6, 1997, the Washtenaw County Board of Commissioners passed Resolution #97-0150 to state the County's intent to update the Solid Waste Management Plan, and re-designate the County Board of Public Works as the Designated Planning Agency for solid waste. On October 22, 1997, the County Board of Commissioners passed Resolution #97-0215, which appointed a Solid Waste Planning Committee to assist the Board of Public Works with development of the Plan Update. The Planning Committee was comprised of representatives from the County, cities, townships, environmental groups, solid waste industry and the general public.

Subsequently, after two years of development, the Solid Waste Planning Committee approved the Plan Update on April 12, 2000. The Board of Public Works approved the

Plan on April 19, 2000. Pending approval of the Plan by the Board of Commissioners, the Plan will be submitted to all Washtenaw County communities for their consideration. Once approved by 2/3 of all communities, the Plan can be submitted to the MDEQ for final approval.

Discussion:

County participation in solid waste planning is essential to effective solid waste management. Washtenaw County has been a leader with regard to waste reduction, recycling, and solid waste management, recognized throughout the state of Michigan. Updating the Solid Waste Management Plan provides the opportunity to review the progress of our programs and initiatives, and establish goals and objectives for the future.

The Solid Waste Planning Committee completed a strategic planning process that identified 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 an aggressive program to increase overall diversion rates from current levels to 38% in 2005 and 45% in 2010.

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). Therefore, the Plan calls for increased emphasis on improving opportunities for commercial recycling and source reduction.

Washtenaw County's Plan calls for the creation of two specialized task forces, the Intergovernmental Program Task Force, and the Commercial/Industrial Program Task Force. In order for the County's aggressive recovery rates to be achieved, additional programs and infrastructure must be developed. 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 recommendations within these plans will be forwarded to the Board of Public Works.

The Plan calls for the appointment of Task Force members within two months of the Plan's approval by 2/3 of all communities. Preliminary program specifications for the Plan's programs will begin in 2001, and the programs are scheduled for implementation in 2001 and 2002.

The Plan Update also includes a siting process for solid waste disposal areas, such as transfer stations and processing facilities. Municipal solid waste incinerators and sanitary landfills may not be sited by the Plan.

Impact on Human Resources:

There will be no impact on human resources.

Impact on Budget:

All costs associated with implementation, including staff time, will be covered through revenues received through the County's agreement with Browning Ferris Industries. The 2000-2001 County budget includes a position for program education focused on commercial/industrial source reduction and resource recovery.

Impact on Indirect Costs:

There will be no impact on indirect costs.

Impact on Other County Departments or Outside Agencies:

Updating the County's Solid Waste Management Plan creates a positive impact on communities within Washtenaw County by providing the opportunity to review and update goals and objectives established within our Solid Waste Management Plan.

Conformity to County Policies:

This resolution conforms to County policies and furthers the County Guiding Principles.

Preparer: Chris Riggs, for Susan Todd

A RESOLUTION TO APPROVE THE WASHTENAW COUNTY SOLID WASTE
MANAGEMENT PLAN 1999 UPDATE.

WASHTENAW COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS

May 17, 2000

WHEREAS, Washtenaw County is required by the Michigan Department of Environmental Quality (MDEQ) to update its Solid Waste Management Plan, under Part 115 of the Natural Resources and Environmental Protection Act, 194 PA 451, as amended; and

WHEREAS, the MDEQ will provide a Solid Waste Management Plan Update for the County if the County does not comply with the MDEQ's request; and

WHEREAS, it is the desire of Washtenaw County to provide integrated solid waste management programs and policies that emphasize waste prevention, reduction, recycling, and composting, and assure the long term capacity for disposal of waste generated within Washtenaw County; and

WHEREAS, the Board of Commissioners designated the Board of Public Works (BPW) as the agency responsible for solid waste management and appointed a Solid Waste Planning Committee (SWPC) to advise the BPW in development of the Plan Update; and

WHEREAS, the Plan Update has been approved by the BPW and SWPC and reviewed by Corporation Counsel, Finance, Human Resources and the County Administrator's Office and the Ways and Means Committee;

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Washtenaw County Board of Commissioners approves the Plan Update, as on file with the County Clerk

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Board of Commissioners directs the division of Public Works to forward the Plan Update to Washtenaw County Communities for their consideration

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that upon approval of 2/3 of the communities within Washtenaw County, the Washtenaw County Board of Commissioners directs the Division of Public Works to forward the Plan Update to the MDEQ for their consideration.