
PLAN
INITIATIVES

CHAPTER VII - PLAN INITIATIVES

As a result of the projections and analyses performed in this entire document, initiatives will be offered for each of the components of solid waste managed by DSWA. In addition, general initiatives will follow regarding overall planning and management of DSWA. The course of actions ultimately chosen will focus on cost effectiveness and environmental protection, taking into account present and future user needs. Decisions will be made through exercise of the discretion of the Board of Directors in a manner to best serve the needs of the State. To the extent feasible and practicable, DSWA will consider projects for carrying out our mission so as to interface, accommodate and facilitate the solutions to environmental problems confronting public and private concerns.

A. COMPONENT MANAGEMENT RECOMMENDATIONS

1. *Residential Solid Waste*

It is evident from the goals and objectives and the analyses that the primary long term management strategy for RSW is an integrated approach which emphasizes Landfill Avoidance through Resource Recovery. The Resource Recovery strategy includes a combination of (1) recycling and reuse through source separated and curbside collection programs (when market conditions provide economic incentives), and then (2) through combustion for energy production. This strategy has the capability to increase current landfill life by fifteen years and it provides DSWA with a stabilizing long term solution with user fees rising at a rate less than predicted inflation/escalation factors. This integrated approach also provides DSWA with the flexibility to address additional strategies to manage specific components of RSW.

Using Waste-To-Energy, either through contract or DSWA facilities, to manage both short and long term Statewide capacities, alternative recycling efforts can be tested and implemented, based on technical feasibility and economics. One such effort is landfill reclamation. Current short term excess capacity at regional facilities could allow for existing landfills to be "mined" for material recycling and reuse. Such reuses include metals and energy recovery as well as soil for landfill cover.

The strategy which encompasses this initiative also provides for the flexibility of facilities design and capacity. This would allow for DSWA to meet its current long term contractual obligations, including the event of EGF startup.

2. *Industrial and Commercial Waste*

It is also evident from the goals and objectives and the analyses performed that the primary long term management integrated strategy for I&CW is also Landfill Avoidance through Resource Recovery. The same reasons specified in item 1. above also apply to I&CW. This integrated approach will allow DSWA to promote waste minimization strategies to the business and industry sector of waste generation.

3. *Sewage Sludge*

Because of the DNREC order to cease sludge/MSW composting at the DRP, the DSWA report clearly points towards revisiting on a long term basis if DSWA should continue to manage the City of Wilmington's Sewage Sludge. Although it is evident that a separate facility for the drying/incineration of sludge may be less expensive than the former DRP SSPM management program, several factors must be further explored prior to DSWA's decision.

DSWA should discuss with the City of Wilmington impediments to a change in sludge management and disposal. If those impediments are deemed insignificant, DSWA and the City of Wilmington must consider renegotiating or terminating the current long term contractual arrangement.

4. *Infectious Waste*

This management and disposal program was directed to DSWA through legislation. DSWA has done extensive research and analyses to determine types and quantities of the Infectious Waste to be managed. Although the original legislation directed that incineration be the mode of disposal, DSWA has, through a professionally negotiated process determined that incineration, based on projected quantities of waste, is the most expensive form of disposal. Other technologies are now available that are considerably less in cost. Existing in-state capacities allow for long term management and disposal of infectious waste by the medical community.

It is recommended that DSWA explore the need for revisions to existing legislation in order to then utilize existing capacities and other less expensive forms of disposal that would render the waste non-infectious.

5. ***Household Hazardous Waste***

The least costly option for disposal of Household Hazardous Waste is through landfilling. This option is also environmentally safe. Testing of leachate samples for ten years have shown no affect due to these materials. However, if DSWA makes the decision to proceed with a totally integrated Resource Recovery Strategy as the primary option for management and disposal, a program should be instituted to source separate and collect these materials. This program would help prevent the contamination of recyclables and to significantly reduce the potential for emissions into the atmosphere from MSW combustors.

6. ***Asbestos***

It is recommended that DSWA continue the current management and disposal program. In addition, DSWA should explore proven alternatives as they become available. DSWA will continue to work with DNREC to review and reform asbestos regulations.

7. ***Ash***

If DSWA makes the decision to proceed with Waste-to-Energy in the State as part of the Resource Recovery Strategy management and disposal, it is recommended that an ash management program be instituted to explore alternatives for ash use, in addition to disposal.

8. ***Waste Tires***

DSWA disposes of approximately eighteen percent (18%) of all waste tires generated annually. Current markets do not create enough demand to recycle or reuse all tires. Therefore, it is recommended that current recycling and disposal methods be continued and that DSWA work with the DNREC to expand alternative recycling methods and markets.

9. *Contaminated Soils*

It is recommended that DSWA continue with current disposal methods and work with the DNREC to promote alternative treatment and reuse methods.

10. *White Goods*

It is recommended that DSWA continue with current separation and recycling methods.

11. *Construction Debris*

It is recommended that DSWA continue with current disposal methods. In addition, DSWA should continue to promote alternative recycling and reuse programs for these materials with the construction industry.

12. *Special Wastes*

It is recommended that DSWA continue with current disposal methods and work with the DNREC to explore alternative disposal methods.

B. GENERAL INITIATIVES

1. *New Technologies*

The management and disposal of solid wastes is a dynamic and constantly changing institution. In order to meet the demands of management and disposal over the long term, DSWA must have the independence and flexibility to make decisions on how best to meet those demands. It is recommended that DSWA continue to maintain complete independence and flexibility to explore and utilize new technologies as they become available.

2. *Continuation of the Planning Process*

DSWA's Enabling Legislation requires that a Solid Waste Management Plan be in place to guide DSWA in its responsibilities as directed by the legislation. It is DSWA's policy to continue to address the planning role on a more "structured" basis.

This will allow DSWA to continue to investigate individual programs as well as exploring long term strategic issues. DSWA should, as a minimum, revise and update the then current Solid waste Management Plan in five year increments.

3. *Separate and Integrated Facilities*

DSWA is reserving the flexibility to choose the appropriate locations for implementation of projects and the ability to combine projects at a specific location when it is deemed feasible to do so. When DSWA makes a decision to select individual projects and project mixes, DSWA's overriding objective is to meet the statewide solid waste disposal needs, without the restraint of political boundaries.

4. *Public Awareness and Involvement*

DSWA's Enabling Legislation requires that a comprehensive program be developed which includes public education and promotion. DSWA shall continue to address the need for an integrated public education program to provide information that describes and promotes public acceptance and support of a Statewide Solid Waste Management System and encourages information exchange with all interested parties.

5. *Five Year Capital Improvement Plan*

DSWA's Enabling Legislation requires that DSWA provide solid waste management services to the State of Delaware through the planning, design, construction, financing, ownership, operation and maintenance of facilities to provide those services. In order to provide a cohesive program to identify capital needs as a result of the Statewide Solid Waste Management Plan initiatives, DSWA should, as a minimum, prepare annually a Five Year Capital Improvement Plan (CIP).

6. *Assessments of Risk to Health and the Environment*

DSWA's Enabling Legislation requires that DSWA provide a solid waste management system which protects the public health and resources. As part of this mandate, DSWA should conduct health and environmental assessments of risks associated with a major project or projects in accordance with DNREC and USEPA requirements. Any assessment shall be provided to the public as part of the facility siting process.