

New York State Association for Solid Waste Management

Proposed NYS Solid Waste Plan

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Our Group

300 Years of combined experience
All former NYSASWM Officials

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NYS Solid Waste Management Plan

The Plan Looks Forward
But every plan must also be based on experience

A Quick 50 Year Look Back

- I. Government Action
- II. NYS EPR Initiatives
- III. Lessons Learned
- IV. DEC Draft Plan
- V. Recommendations



Post WWII

- 1960's open dumping commonplace
- 1,800 unlined landfills in New York State

Love Canal

- Industrial hazardous waste disposal



MOBRO

- Every waste disposal facility is in someone's backyard
- Long haul to other states is unsustainable

Government Action

Where Will The Garbage Go? 2001



Dear Reader:

I am pleased to present the 2001 edition of *Where Will the Garbage Go?*, the first one published under my chairmanship of the Solid Waste Commission. This year's report possesses some key changes from previous years' reports. While the primary goal of presenting comprehensive information on the management of municipal solid waste in New York State remains unaltered, this year's report is in an abbreviated format. This was done in order to streamline the report without sacrificing the important information that it provides. I hope that you continue to find this report useful. Let me know your reaction.

As in 1999, overall municipal solid waste management activity in the year 2000 in New York State was strongly impacted by the continued phaseout of operations at New York City's Fresh Kills landfill. With the final closure of Fresh Kills in March 2001, 2000 represented the last full year of operation. As in the previous three years, increased amounts of municipal solid waste were exported, recycling continued its upward trend, and landfilling in the state decreased, primarily the result of the phased closure of Fresh Kills. The continued trend in export clearly is prompting further actions by officials of waste-importing states who are pressing for the passage of federal legislation allowing states to restrict incoming waste.

Meanwhile, New York City is facing a fiscal crisis, particularly after the tragic events of September 11th, which may have consequences for its solid waste program. Furthermore, the City's long-term plan is in disarray and export costs continue to rise. In response, the new Mayor recently announced his intent to suspend the recycling of some materials and to replace container deposits with a 5-cent user fee. Instead, however, the City's task in the next few months should be to explore new ways of expanding its recycling program at the same time using it to create jobs and reduce energy usage and pollution.

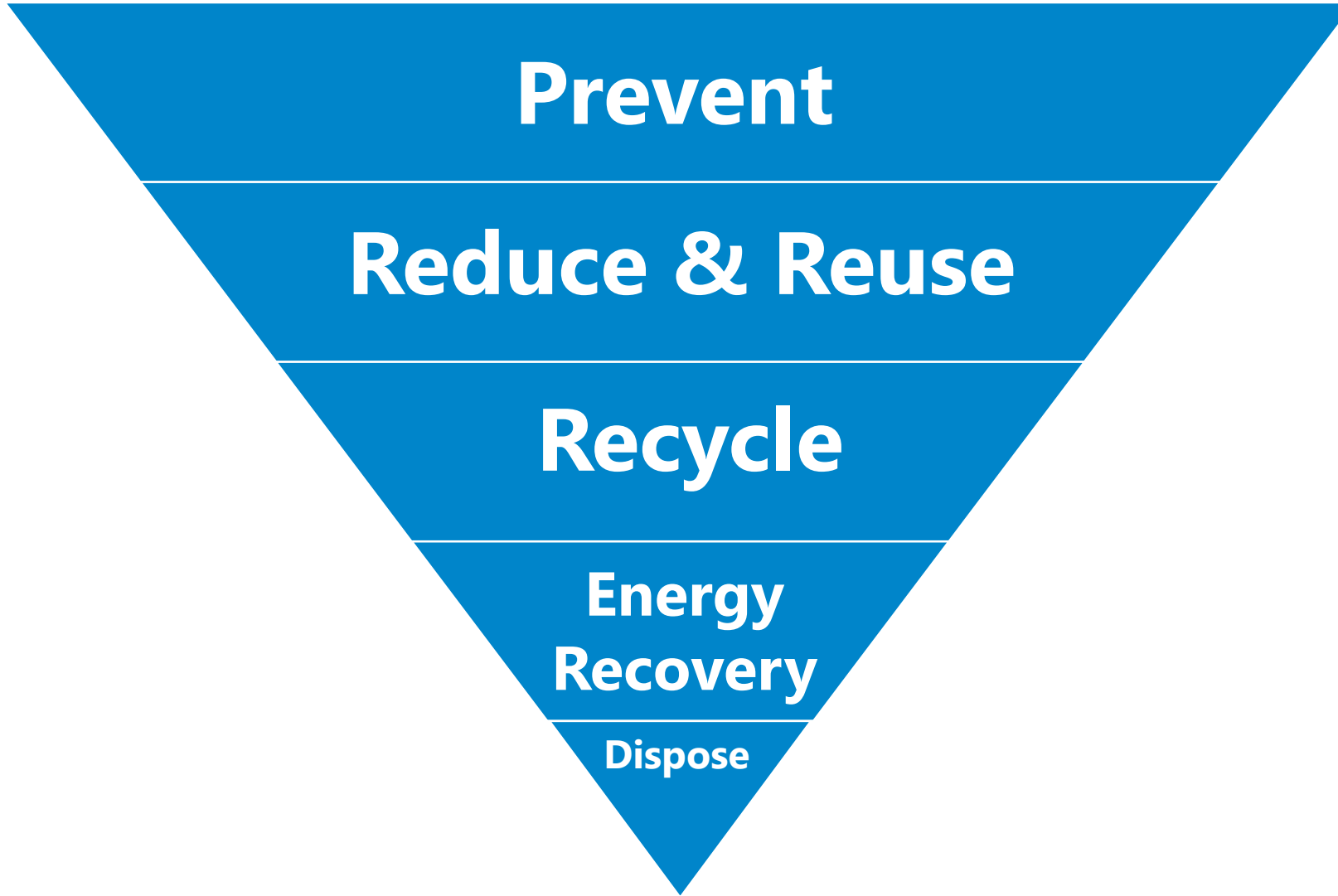
As a whole, New York State should continue to strive to manage waste in a more efficient and environmentally sound manner. While in-state disposal capacity can clearly provide some relief, we should retain our primary focus on the top of the solid waste hierarchy: reduction, reuse, and recycling. Many untapped or underutilized 3 R's technologies show significant promise for managing greater portions of the waste stream. For example, although far from maximized, wastes such as electronics and organics are being increasingly reclaimed, reducing toxics, and saving disposal capacity and other resources. At the same time, fostering promising waste reduction and

Federal Government Action

- I. All waste generators are responsible
- II. States must develop comprehensive plans

Resource Conservation
Recovery Act (RCRA) **1976**

Comprehensive Environmental
Response, Compensation, and
Liability Act (CERCLA) **1980**



NYS EPR Initiatives



Laws

- E-Waste
- Rechargeable Batteries
- Mercury Thermostats
- Drug Take Back
- Carpet Collection

Product Stewardship Programs

- Returnable Containers (“Bottle Bill”)
- Lead Acid Battery Recycling
- Waste Tire Management
- Wireless Telephone
- Paint
- Plastic Bag/Film

Local Government (and Private Partnerships) Reduction and Recycling Initiatives

- Material Recovery Facilities
- Organics (Food Waste) Collection & Processing Facilities
- Green Waste Compost Facilities
- HHW Collection Program & Facilities
- Product Exchange Program & Facilities



Lessons Learned

Best Efforts Over 5 Decades:

- EPA - Per Capita Waste Generation Doubled in 50 Years
- 2008: 4.10lbs/person/day
- 2018: 4.09lbs/person/day

We Make Waste – Waste Must Be Managed!

- 7 million tpy of MSW is sent out of state for disposal
- That produces 155,883 tons of CO₂ that would not be produced if waste was disposed locally



Extended Produce Responsibility

- 13-14 year trade record EPR shows success
- EPR can reduce the volume of certain difficult and potentially toxic materials being disposed
- It has not reduced the overall volume of material being landfilled

Recycling

- 31-year NYS mandatory recycling trade record
- Common sense
- Sustainable with subsidy
- Per DEC plateaued at 20%
- Declining slightly to 19%
- Government cannot create or sustain global markets

Currently:

- 10 operating WTE facilities
- 4 million tpy processed
- 202 megawatt hours/year produced
- 2.8 billion pounds steam/year produced
- NYS climate action scoping plan
- Existing WTE facilities meet the highest standard for protection of public health and the environment



Islip notes that whereas PFAS and PFOA are significant unresolved problems, but WTE facilities destroy these chemical compounds

Local public solid waste facilities have a secure legal and financial foundation:
2006 US Supreme Court decision *United Haulers v Oneida-Herkimer*

Landfills

- Unlined landfills pollute groundwater
- Part 360 compliant landfills are safe
- New landfills extremely difficult to site and permit
- Landfills provide essential service



We can work to reduce waste,
to minimize waste,
but we can't eliminate waste



We now export ½ of the waste generated in NYS to other states (7million tpy)



- Waste export is saying that solid waste is too noxious for my local environment, but not too noxious for your environment
- NIMBY
- NIMTOF

DEC Draft Plan

New laws:

- Mandates for residents, businesses, and industries
- Impose a new socio-economic structure
- No mention of needed infrastructure

This falls short – We offer recommendations to address the state’s solid waste challenge

Recommendations

- Continue advocacy for waste reduction & recycling
- The state must plan for safe management of all remaining waste
- State must adopt a policy for solid waste management self-sufficiency

- New infrastructure is essential
- Solid waste management facilities are part of environmental infrastructure
 - No different than a wastewater treatment plant or public water supply system
- Local communities – Planning units are best to match infrastructure to unique local conditions
- Waste-To-Energy is key. WTE is a perfect fit with the State Climate Action Plan. New facilities are needed.
- Partnership with NYS for a new Environmental Quality Bond Act



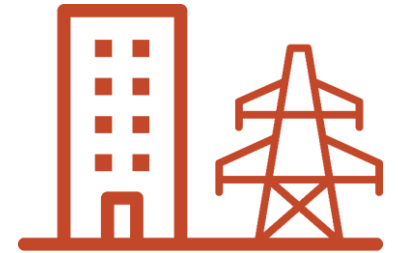
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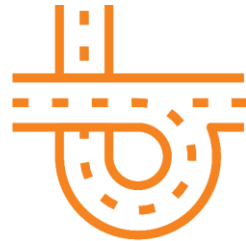
SOLID WASTE



FACILITIES



LAND SURVEYING



TRANSPORTATION



WATER RESOURCES



SUSTAINABLE PLANNING
& DESIGN