

Solid Waste Sector Discussion August 12, 2020.

Missing Feasible & Practical Strategies/Technologies	Pitfalls & Dangers of Identified Actions	Prioritizing Our Actions
<p>Dave Cullmer -</p> <p>Should the COG work with other municipal orgs (i.e., the Municipal League?) to develop guidelines and policies for cities/municipalities to use for sustainable procurement and closed loop systems? If we want to transform procurement, it may be beneficial to have a unified voice across the state.</p>		<p>Intersectional opportunities of solid waste and energy generation (food and ag waste) - is it enough feedstock to offset generation; since solid waste itself is only 6% crossing with transportation or energy sectors allows for greater emissions reduction potential</p> <p>Building on the discussion with sustainable procurement/consumerist emissions/etc., it seems like we as a COG should organize an unified, state-wide voice. Rather than individual municipalities/regions.</p>
<p>Tom Richard - not yet obvious what the best strategies are for managing food waste; currently collecting some food waste in the CR. Landfills are cheap anaerobic digesters - Centre County waste goes to a landfill that captures methane</p> <p>Low carbon concrete, steel - interface with building codes and construction</p>		

<p>recommendations (thinking beyond just what we throw away)</p> <p>renewable natural gas - not yet cost effective for small quantities (farm in Mifflintown taking waste from Wegman's in Centre County) - might be an opportunity to do some experimental work to evaluate feasibility of waste streams</p>		
<p>Steve Deasy - look at the transportation of goods as part of the entirety of the waste management sector. COG could help shape the procurement policies of the commercial sector. Help businesses understand the carbon footprint of their procurement practices. Many businesses don't have the time to dig into how to source responsible materials.</p>	<p>Connecting any of these initiatives to other super high priorities in the region (i.e. job creation, health, safety, welfare). It's important to be careful about how we frame these initiatives in light of those priorities.</p>	<p>Guidelines, education, and resources to shape purchasing practices.</p> <p>Build a GIS database to manage information for effective planning decisions.</p>
<p>Joann Shafer - Purchasing for recyclability; What's missing? Current compliance - what are commercial entities doing and not doing? Very challenging to get the data. We don't currently know who is and isn't in compliance.</p> <p>Waste materials exchange - one man's trash...</p> <p>Look at the technologies - municipalities are operating on different systems,</p>	<p>Nobody wants to be 'the bad guy'. Maybe the carrot hasn't worked and it's time to get the stick out.</p>	<p>Organics is the low hanging fruit (residential and commercial). Education will be key.</p>

creates inefficiency.		
<p>Alex Danovitch - voluntary measures are good, but not as resilient (COVID - reusable bags, cups, etc.). It's important to develop systems and infrastructure that promote and institutionalize reusable goods. Fees to use disposable items.</p>	<p>Net methane production re: renewable natural gas - requires the production of waste to be viable.</p>	<p>Looking at waste management from a materials perspective would capture more of the emissions truly attributed to solid waste.</p> <p>Non-profit partnerships on deconstruction.</p>
<p>Ryan Hockenberry -</p>	<p>Commercial-side and organics are the biggest hurdles to conquer. We don't accept student housing-based organics because it's hard to get a clean stream. Frustrating for some students who want to participate.</p> <p>Ex: State Theatre wants to use compostable materials. The cups don't work well in our current process.</p>	<p>Education (to prevent contamination of organics streams) very important.</p> <p>If food waste is a priority, that's fine, but we need an end market. Currently have a lot of material, so it might be hard to place all of it if we go region-wide.</p>
<p>Haley Stauffer -</p> <p>What are the tradeoffs of more takeout containers vs. less car travel in the COVID era?</p>		<p>Organics and food and ag component - looking at resiliency of food supply chain (focus on local food). Look to involve farmers in local food supply.</p>
<p>Shelley Mato - What about improving efficiencies (as a fourth category). Collection strategies (biweekly), reducing carbon footprint of increasing organics collection. Focuses on the transportation</p>	<p>Ordinances are really important but will be a struggle. Need partnerships. (Construction and demolition, for example)</p>	<p>Promote better business practices - zero waste events and venues, use zero waste as a promotional tool. Helps to shift people's thinking.</p>

<p>piece of moving materials around.</p> <p>Support locally produced products beyond food (helps get at that transportation piece).</p>		
<p>Lydia Vandenburg - maybe have the Green Tree landfill use their collected methane for their trucks.</p> <p>Repair and education around the idea of repairing things like appliances. How can we train people to repair?</p>	<p>Concern of oversupply of compost if we ramp up activities and collection.</p>	<p>Rate options according to impact, behavioral plasticity, and cost. If we leave out the probability of consumers adopting the behavior, that leads to program failures.</p>
<p>Mimi and Ed - prepare consumers for a cost increase that is justifiable.</p> <p>MOU with COG/municipalities for CCRRA to enforce recycling compliance</p>		

Peter Buck - Decided not to expand organics to the COG region for 3 reasons, one of which was that the transportation emissions from collecting the material exceeded the emissions avoided - again, transportation. Borough's model works well for them but did not translate well to a regional program with significant road miles.

Steve Deasy - developing a GIS database to track and manage waste generation, assets, containers, etc. Build an asset management system to link local manufacturers with neighbors. Leverage local supply chain to attack the transportation issue. California - how do we build local capacity for our materials?

Joanne Shafer - inventory what's already happening (ex. Zero waste events - FestZero, food waste reduction grants); participating in state-wide waste composition study in Centre County. Waste materials exchange - not very active right now.

Peter Buck - SCASD adopted a sustainability policy this week. The sixth point is to reduce waste disposal. Synergy opportunity to collaborate with the school district.

Franklin Egan - the volume of takeout food purchases has increased with COVID - can we encourage better takeout packaging? Maybe partnering or partially subsidizing purchasing of compostable packaging.

Tom Richard - systems need to be designed to handle materials (ex. Compostable cups that aren't really compatible with our system)