

**CITY OF ANN ARBOR  
COMMERCIAL RECYCLING IMPLEMENTATION COMMITTEE  
AUGUST 17, 2006**

*Committee Members Present: Nancy Rucker, Carol Collins, Linda Lombardini, Melissa VanDam, Wendi Felgner, Ida Hendrix, Doug McClure, Susan Pollay, Patricia Harroun, Margie Teall, David Stead, Scott Rosencrans, Tim Stark*

*Others Present: Jim Frey, Nicole Chardoul, Tom McMurtrie, Nancy Stone, Bryan Weinert*

**I. City Information Items**

City staff will be providing budget and community standards (ordinance enforcement) information as it becomes available.

**II. Go-around**

Changes to the membership roster, general web updates and the posting of the original "Commercial Recycling Plan" on-line were discussed.

**III. Commercial Recycling Program Profiles**

Jim Frey highlighted the "community profiles" provided to the committee from select communities in North America relating to general recycling, organics recovery and construction/demolition waste recovery. Almost every case study includes some city ordinance language to back-up the programs described.

Franchises as described can be material or geographic specific, and generally outline various solid waste services to be provided within a community. The role of government vs. the role of the free market was discussed, in the areas of direct service, bidding, enforcement and promotion/education. The size of the community can also impact the overall efficiency of various services and procurement strategies. The vast office space within Alexandria, Virginia was offered as one example.

Committee members offered their comments as part of three "go-arounds" on general commercial recycling, organics recovery and construction/demolition separation. Following are highlights:

- How might volunteers be used in these systems?
- How to efficiently recycle while protecting the security of documents?
- How to create incentives for businesses, haulers, etc. to *want* to do the right thing, to get beyond enforcement only?
- How do these successful programs use education/communication to effectively implement their programs?
- The City's residential program appears to be quite successful. But how to achieve "buy-in" from businesses and contractors that live outside the City?
- Important to protect the private recycling services already in place (ex: Briarwood) while encouraging other businesses to get involved in recycling.
- Has food waste been banned from landfills in other states/communities?
- Construction/demolition contractors would likely be opposed to new requirements without economic incentives and education.
- How much money is the City willing to pay to increase commercial recycling rates?
- If construction/demolition recovery is to be effective, it must be a comprehensive City program.

#### **IV. Creation of Subcommittees**

After substantial discussion, it was decided to create three subcommittees as follows:

- Organics/Hospitality
- Multi-Tenant/Mixed Use
- Construction/Demolition/Bulky Waste

Rather than creating a separate downtown subcommittee, it was decided that each subcommittee would consider downtown issues as part of their overall charge. Initial subcommittee meeting dates were then established. General guidelines for the subcommittees was provided to guide the deliberations and work products of the sub-groups.

## **V. Next Meeting**

The scheduled Thursday, September 21 meeting date of the full Committee will instead provide a convenient meeting time for each of the subcommittees to meet. The next full meeting of the Committee will thus take place on Thursday, October 5 at 7:30 a.m. in the 7<sup>th</sup> floor conference room of the City Center Building.

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