

**NH Solid Waste Working Group
Recycling & Composting Subcommittee
April 20, 2022 Meeting Minutes**

Duration: 9:10 AM to 10:30 AM

Attendees: Reagan Bissonette (NRRRA), Adam Clark (City of Concord), Rep. Karen Ebel, Brian Patnoe (Town of Lancaster), Ben Piche (Coca-Cola Northeast), Lynn Rubinstein (NERC, remote)

Overview: At the first meeting of the Recycling and Composting Subcommittee of the NH Solid Waste Working Group, members discussed a variety of topics as listed below. **Subcommittee members agreed to be prepared to discuss the following at their next meeting on May 27, 2022: (1) top priority materials for diversion (based on weight being disposed); and (2) short and long-term recommendations for improving recycling or composting of those materials.**

Pay As You Throw:

- Examples: City of Concord (reduced trash by 40% per Adam); Lancaster, NH
- VT requires for all towns
- Discussed difficulty of multi-family housing – VT requires it; VT also requires haulers to offer both trash and recycling; NH could have regulation that space for recycling services must be available to residents in new building

Infrastructure & Regionalization:

- How incentivize? Hard because not enough tonnage in NH; ex. no C&D recycling facility in North Country
- Regionalization to consolidate material – make easier for towns to regionalize
 - Ex. Bath has no transfer station, has curbside trash but not recycling; ex. Stratford can't get clothing recycling bins because too far north and currently throwing away textiles
 - Ex. Lancaster would need to change permit to accept material from other towns
 - Can regulations or permitting in NH be changed to make cooperation between towns easier?
 - Littleton went through permit modification to increase service area; had standard permit, so more work to change it
 - In VT solid waste districts can have taxation authority if vote on that
 - VT has two single stream MRFs (Chittenden – owned by district and managed by Casella; Rutland owned and managed by Casella)
 - Aggregation sites need storage space
 - North Country towns tend to recycle the basics very well; other items hard to get enough volume
 - Ex. plastic bags tough – Lancaster & Littleton recycle them but got about 2,000 lbs in one year between them

Food Waste & Composting:

- Infrastructure challenges – how incentivize?
- Trucks go from MA through NH to ME – opportunity there to move material?
- In CT, cannot landfill food waste if have proximity to facility and generate a certain amount of tonnage; this law helped generate investment in new infrastructure because investors knew there would be a market available
- Anaerobic digesters – CT, VT, and MA like using these to reduce waste; incentives include energy credits; EPA also supportive of anaerobic digesters – but this is under scope of Alternative Technologies subcommittee

Capacity for NH Waste and Less out of State:

- VT has Casella owned and operated landfill; solid waste implementation plan (SWIP) requirement for generators of waste reduces out of state waste coming in – VT also requires recycling, PAYT, and has disposal bans
- Revisit voluntary agreement between unlimited service area landfills and NHDES to reduce out of state tonnage accepted? NHDES did this when had prior planning division

Funding for NHDES:

- Disposal fee surcharge on solid waste – cannot be different on in-state versus out-of-state waste because violates commerce clause; but could have NH municipalities and businesses receive grants after everyone pays (in SB 379, surcharge was removed)

Priority of Materials Disposed of by Weight:

- Highest weight items being disposed include: Food waste, C&D, then glass, paper, textiles
- Need landfill ban for basic recyclables? Ex. paper, plastic, glass, aluminum cans
- Current NH landfill bans: leaf and yard waste, electronics, wet-cell batteries, C&D burning, mercury-added devices
- Discussed carpet disposal challenges, no great solutions
- By weight disposed of in NH, roughly 60% MSW, 40% includes C&D and other items (C&D maybe 15-20%)
- Tires can be a serious problem in landfills; tire disposal bans common in other states plus lead acid batteries; but most tires recycled in NH by towns
- Mattresses an issue
- Some states no longer use tonnage to set their goals; but NH has brand new goal set on tonnage, so recommendations should focus on materials based on tonnage priority

EPR & procurement policies:

- Surrounding states have paint and electronics EPR laws
- Bottle bill introduced dozens of times in NH and failed in past

Notes recorded by Reagan Bissonnette.