



Why Does My Transfer Station Manage Waste the Way It Does? – Part I

TOWN DECISION-MAKING

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Learning Points

- ▶ Reasons a municipality chooses certain waste management methods
- ▶ Roles & Responsibilities of all parties
- ▶ Case Studies



Town Responsibility & Authority

RSA 149-M:17

- ▶ Each town shall provide a solid Waste Facility or assure access to another facility for its residents
- ▶ A town may establish bylaws for:
 - Use of the facility and setting user fees
 - Separation and collection of waste within the municipality
 - Registration of haulers doing business within the municipality
 - Pay-as-you throw programs using special bags, stickers, etc.
- ▶ A town may contract with disposal facilities for disposal of solid waste

Beyond the
“just
because”...

Describe what
the reason is.

Detail how
changes are
made.

Lack of
understanding
can affect
decision
making.

Reasons a
municipality
chooses
certain waste
management
methods

Reasons



Town Budgets



Existing Budgets
vs. Rising Costs



Contracts



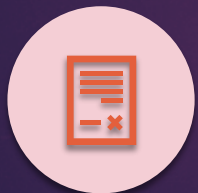
Committees &
Groups



Conflicting
Management



Regulations



Permit
Conditions



History of NH SW
Management



YOUR Towns SW
Management

What is a SME???

10 tips for working with a subject matter expert

1. Choose the right subject matter expert

2. Define expectations

3. Set realistic expectations and goals

4. Be prepared

5. Ask good questions

6. Use active listening

7. Respect your SME's time

8. Reuse content

9. Welcome your SME's feedback

10. Acknowledge their effort

 TechSmith





Budget put together annually. In the fall the budget is drafted. If there are items that need to be voted on by the town they are put in as warrant articles.



Warrant Articles: Must be written in a way that makes the towns people understand the need.



If the ideas are not approached in a transparent, truthful and CLEAR way many times the requests look poorly thought out. The residents are your biggest critics.

Town Budgets

Fluid Recycling Markets

- ▶ Unpredictable like the **stock market**
- ▶ **Supply and demand** for materials determines **cost vs. revenue**
 - ▶ Housing market => HDPE and PP plastics
 - ▶ Steel & Iron Ore => scrap metal
 - ▶ Natural gas => plastic bags

Stay up to date...

- ▶ [NERC Recycling Market Reports](#) (quarterly) – available to public
- ▶ [Trading Economics](#) – commodity values
- ▶ NRRA Monthly Member Market Updates

NERC MRF Commodity Values – Avg. \$ per Ton



Existing Budgets vs. Rising Costs for Waste Management

Town budgets are set months in advance of the actual year.

Budget changes are made annually. The RISE in costs often happens during the existing budget cycle, causing a deficit.

When decision makers do not understand how the prices are changing, vendors are changing AND contracts or lack there of make a huge difference in budgeting.

Rising Disposal Costs

WASTE BUSINESS JOURNAL INDEX

A **tipping fee** paid by anyone who disposes of waste in a landfill, based on weight (\$/ton). Fees are set by the landfill owner.

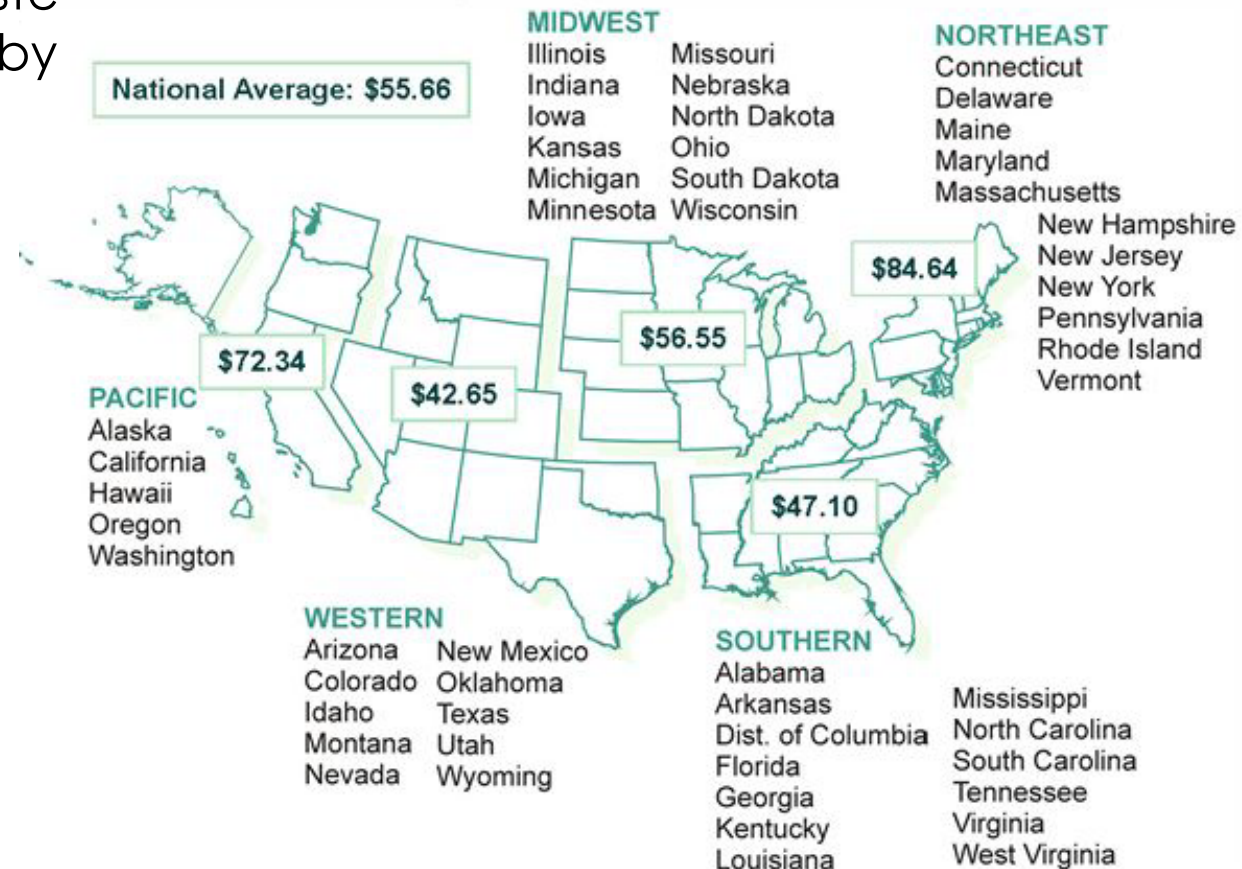
We have the **highest tipping fees in the U.S**

- ▶ Northeast Avg. 2020 – \$84.64/ton
- ▶ NH Avg. 2022 – \$80.75/ton (± \$6)

Why are disposal costs so high?

- ▶ Limited landfill capacity
- ▶ Limited space to build new landfills
- ▶ Transportation – flat rate (regardless of weight hauled) + fuel surcharge

Waste Pricing & Disposal Index - June 2020



Contracts

Long Term

Short Term

No Contract

MSW

Recyclables

HHW

Universal
Wastes

Batteries

Electronics

SWITCH
AROUND

&

SHOP
AROUND!!!!

Town Committees & Groups

Elected Officials

Planning & Zoning Board

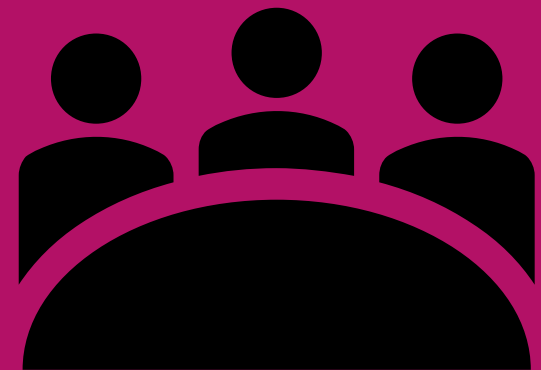
Finance Committee

Sustainability/Waste Reduction Committee

Third Party Organizations

... Certified Solid Waste Operators

Do you have more than one SME?



Determining how to manage differing opinions and challenges.....



Regulations



Laws



Rules



Permit



Operating
Plan



Local
Ordinances



Permit Conditions

- ▶ Accepted waste materials
- ▶ Who can you accept the waste from?
- ▶ Daily incoming tonnage limits
- ▶ “Active Management” of wastes
- ▶ Complying with all other rules and regulations

Actively Manage (Env-Sw 102.04)

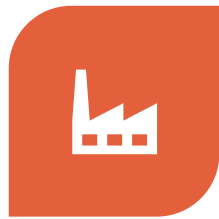
To handle a waste or material, including waste-derived products and recyclable materials, in a controlled manner without causing:

- A nuisance;
- An adverse effect to the environment, public health and safety;
- Accumulations which have no identifiable destination or value;
- and
- A loss of material value in the market place due to material damage, degradation and/or contamination.

History of SW Management in NH Towns



TOWN DUMPS
(UNLINED
LANDFILLS)



MUNICIPAL
INCINERATORS



OPEN BURN
DUMPS



RESIDENTIAL BURN
BARRELS

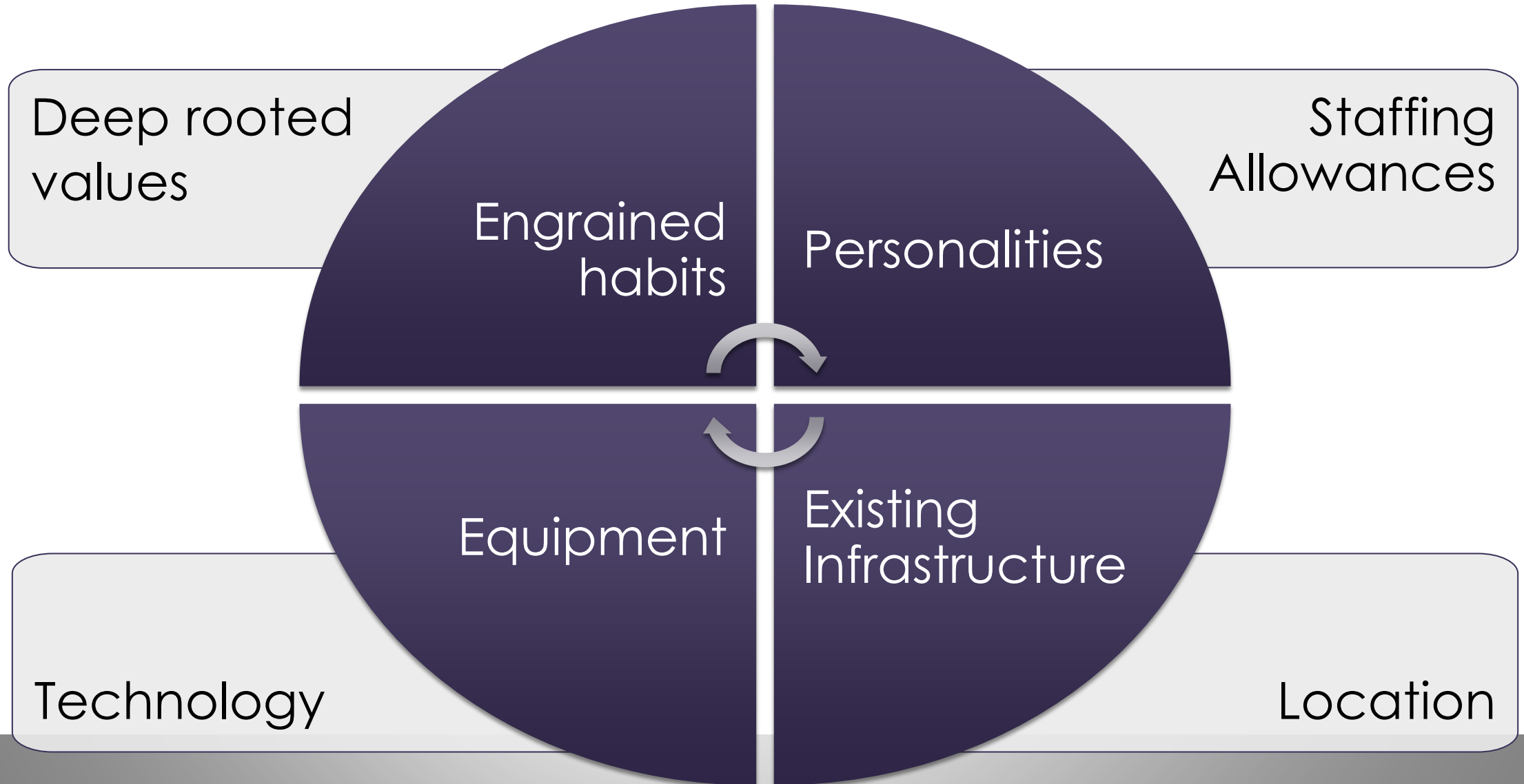


MODERN
REGULATED
FACILITIES



BY TOWN OR BY
DISTRICT

History of SW Management in YOUR Town



Reasons



Town Budgets



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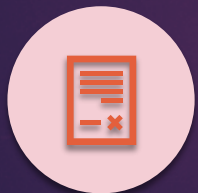
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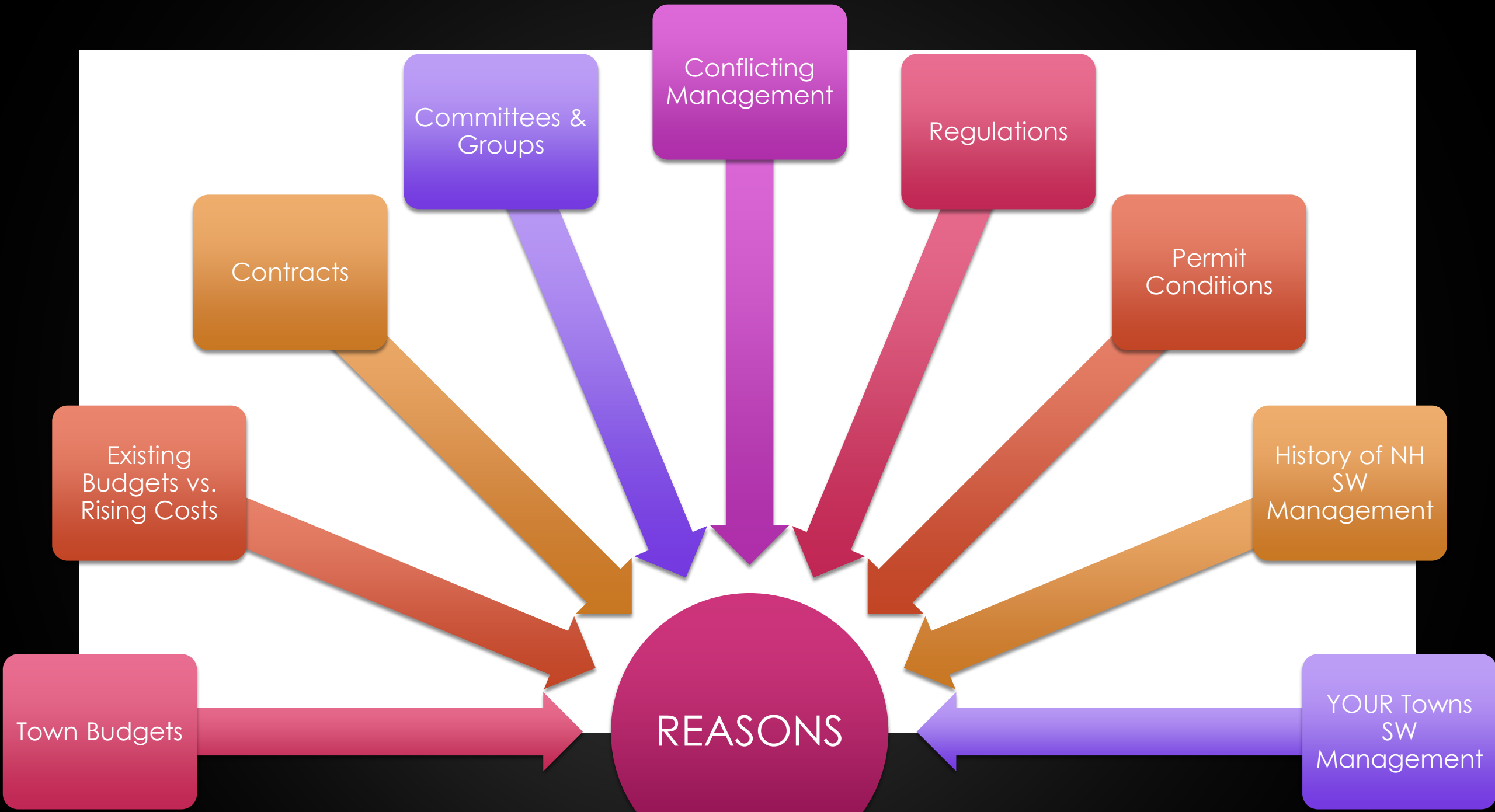
Permit
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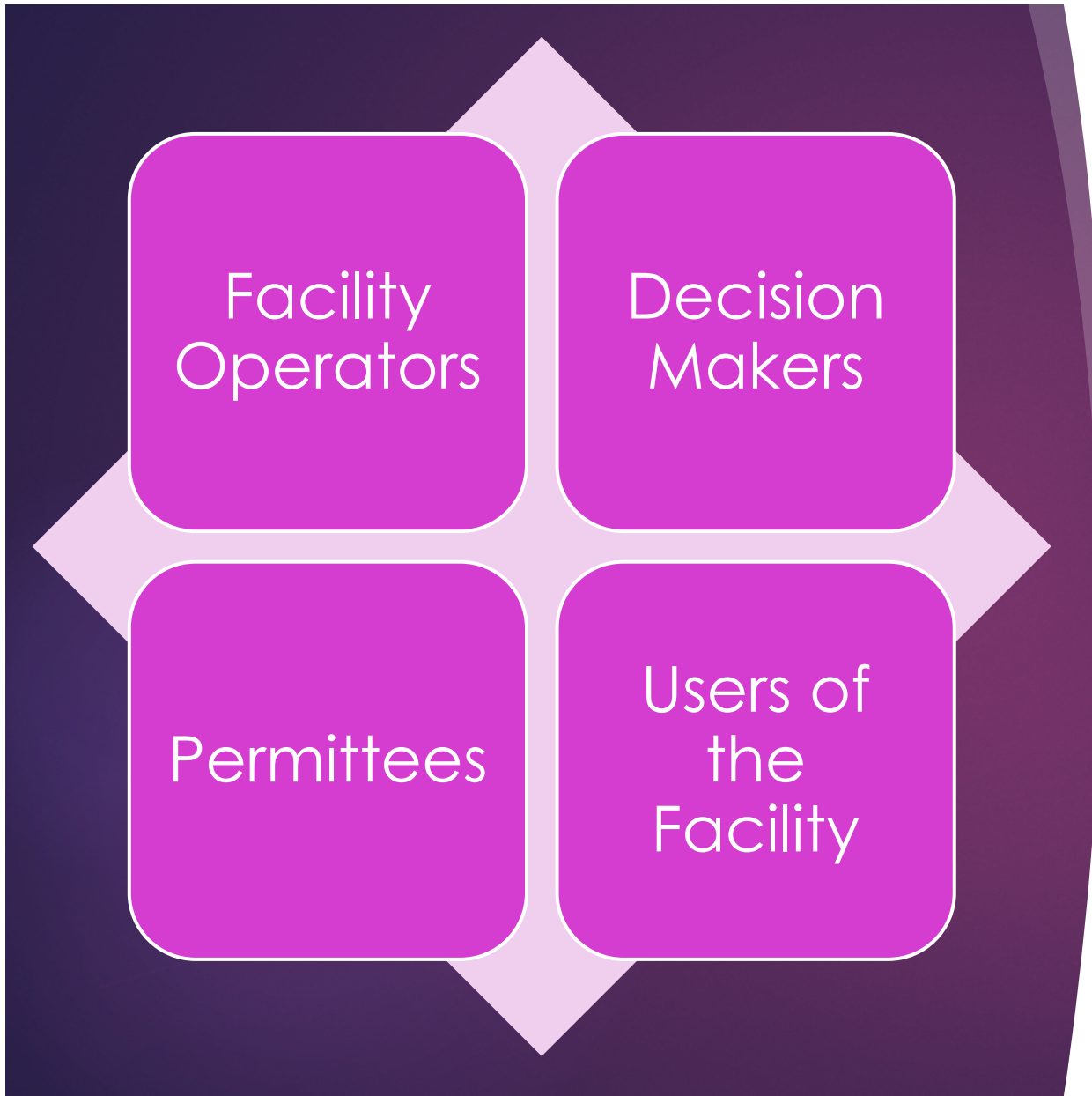


History of NH SW
Management



YOUR Towns SW
Management





ROLES & RESPONSIBILITIES

Responsibilities

Decision Makers & Permittees

Know & Follow YOUR Permit and Operating Plan.

Be Proactive!

Look beyond just the existing budget.

Involve those who are knowledgeable.

Facility Managers & Operators

Speak Up and Be the SME.

Set the Example.

Talk to your customers.

Educate your customers.

Communicate with the decision makers.

Facility Users & Volunteers

Do YOUR Part!!!

Learn & Follow the Rules.

Concerns should be brought up in a constructive manner.

Be proactive in managing the waste you create.

Beyond just the Day To Day

Looking Forward

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graph TD; A[Looking Forward] --> B[Are changes needed?]; B --> C[Implementation of new programs]; C --> D[Who needs to be involved?]
```

Are changes needed?

Implementation of new programs

Who needs to be involved?

What Happens When People are Missing from the Table?

- Lack of follow through
- Misunderstandings
- Feelings of being forgotten
- Built up resentment
- Segmented Solutions



Making Effective Changes

- ▶ Put people first.
- ▶ Work with change management model....Have outcomes & goals!
- ▶ Empower townspeople through communication.
- ▶ Activate and identify leadership.
- ▶ Make change compelling and exciting by providing facts.
- ▶ Pay attention to high and low points in momentum.
- ▶ Don't ignore resistance.

Waste Disposal Reduction Goal

2021 Update

Reduce the quantity by weight of SW disposed by 25% by 2030.

Then by 45% by 2050.

Baseline Data is from 2018.

Reduction may be achieved through source reduction as well as diversion including but not limited to reuse, recycling and composting.

RSA 149-M:2



CASE
STUDIES

Case Studies

Sanbornton

Permit changes vs. changes to the facility

Primex Report led to closing the Swap Shop and Metal Picking

New management – new ideas

Swanzey

Updated the facility

ARPA funding & Recycling Revenue

Frequent construction updates on town website

Manchester

Making changes to how wastes are managed after they are collected at the facility. Is there notification?

Why is waste managed the way it is? Goals?

Moultonborough

Population explosion and outdated facility including traffic patterns

Feasibility Study to make the best changes

Tamworth

Grants (local and federal)

Involving the community

- Recycling Project volunteers
- Elementary/Grade school
- Town warrant article

Smart Decisions

Collaboration attempts with surrounding towns

Long Process



Communication
Collaboration
Commitment

SME

LEADERSHIP

UNDERSTANDING OF THE GOAL

FULL COST ACCOUNTING

ADVERTISE & MARKETING

THIRD PARTY ORGANIZATIONS

THE PEOPLE AROUND YOU!

...AND MANY MORE!