

**Hamilton County Climate Initiative
Solid Waste Management/Food Production
November 21, 2008
Cincinnati State University**

Meeting Notes—Answers to:

• **Group #1:**

What are the barriers in your communities to implementing these ideas?

- Bin Size
- Cost of recycling vs. cost of land filling—not captured
- E-waste-what do you do with it?
- Educating rental property/multi-family
- Educate on office waste—opportunity?
- Market limits for recycled materials

Follow-up questions—How can local governments...?

- Government procurement process requirements
- Green product availability
- Aggregation of purchases
- Need for local outlets:
 - For recycling
 - For purchasing
- Inter-jurisdictional dialogue for new product lifecycle-CFLs

• **Group #2:**

What are the barriers in your communities to implementing these ideas?

- Behavior changes/habits (laziness/apathy)
- Add convenience for hazardous waste
- State of the economy
- Administrators need to champion issues and convince elected folks to implement
- Individual/households don't believe their actions make a difference
- Limited market for recycled materials
- Inconvenience—proximity to recycle locations
- Inconvenience—receptacles need better design, too hard to carry
- Options for shopping limited-excessive packaging-no chores

Solutions--

- Regional (i.e. conveniently located) drop-off facilities for long list of recyclables
- HCCI participants join with other groups to lobby for more extensive recycling (not just 1's, 2's)

- **Group #3:**

What are the barriers in your communities to implementing these ideas?

- Convenience
 - Where to take items
 - Share Information
 - Between/among governmental units
 - With individuals
 - Uses/markets
- Are we ready for the scale of collection?
- Local efforts / Regional efforts

Solutions--

- Education
- Pay as you throw is the 'only' way to go
- Food:
 - Education/schools (local supply to schools)
 - Obesity
 - Assist farmer-consumer coordination (\$)
 - Government:
 - a. Distribution
 - b. Taxes
 - c. Park systems' land
 - d. Don't mow—Grow
 - e. Meals on Wheels
 - f. Schools
 - g. Refrigeration
 - h. Prepared food (?)

- **Group #4:**

What are the barriers in your communities to implementing these ideas?

- Carts
- Convenient drop offs for batteries, CFLs – (grocery stores)
- Excessive packaging – who sets the policy?

Solutions--

- Work with big box stores to bring their green initiatives to Hamilton County first
- Better promote outlets & make locations easier to find in stores
- More recycling promotions
 - Relate to cost/benefits
- Work with TV news personalities to focus on recycling
- Work with local businesses to promote recycling information (i.e. Duke bills)
- Bottle bills—push State of Ohio to initiate

- Expand multi-family education “Obama style”
- Standardize community recycling programs
 - Mandated by the County
 - Set goals
- Paint the “bad news” over the next 10-15 years
- C & D recycling
 - Require a % of material to be recycled
 - Provide incentives
- LEED Ordinances

- **Group #5:**

- ***What are the barriers in your communities to implementing these ideas?***

- Educating residents about different or new solid waste programs
- Multiple/individual solid waste contracts complicates things—use leverage of all residents & maybe save \$
- Equipment costs—larger bins, multiple bins could cost jurisdictions \$
- Resident/customer indifference (“Holly’s brother-in-law”)-how do you change behavior?
- How will hauling/processing infrastructure have to change? How much will it cost?

- ***Solutions--***

- Post speaker presentations on WEB sites
- Some “canned” articles for use in newsletters would be helpful for outreach efforts.
 - Message to go out NOW, announcing HCCI
 - Re-tool invitation letter
- Education=better programs, free flow of information
- Getting the behavior you reinforce---fees will drive behavior
- Rumpke produces methane—“market” competition for organics
- Local government market for recycled products
- Green-buying
- State co-op purchasing guidelines/practices need to change (vehicles)
- Potential for new, collaborative for purchase of products using recycled materials—work with Municipal League, Township Association
- Waste Mgmt. District works with businesses to identify what they could recycle, how to save \$, how to purchase different materials

- **Group #6:**

- ***What are the barriers in your communities to implementing these ideas?***

- Educational—e.g. knowledge of all materials to be recycled
- Additional sources of information needed
- Need information on how to overcome barriers—case studies, etc.

- Institutional-
 - How to stop junk mail?
 - Authority differs for jurisdictions-possible opposition for collaboration
- What functions are done at what level?
- Student green codes lacks information on hazardous waste management

Solutions--

- Need to consolidate and present in one place (HCCI WEB page) what has worked and what hasn't for solid waste and recycling.
 - We need to develop a survey for the 49 jurisdictions on what they are doing now for recycling and solid waste management.
 - a. Develop case studies of successes and failures.
 - b. Each jurisdiction should definitely include any special programs they offer—e.g. Blue Ash has a special drop off location for hazardous waste and City of Montgomery Awards for Recycling.
- Residential Clean-Up Day-get a grant from Hamilton County Solid Waste
- Instead of multiple individual contracts with waste collectors, could the jurisdiction have a collective contract?
 - Could you mandate on one waste collector?
 - Force residents to organize for a better deal?
- A grant directory is provided for each jurisdiction
- Mobil units for collection (at the County level) for certain collectables