

**Oakland Zero Waste Strategic Plan**  
**Public Meeting #1**  
**June 28, 2006 - 7:00 to 9:00 pm**  
**City Hall, Hearing Room #4**

SUMMARY OF ISSUES RAISED BY PARTICIPANTS

**KEY ISSUES SUPPORTED DURING PRESENTATION**

- ◆ Extended Producer Responsibility
- ◆ Redesign of Products
- ◆ Source separate materials
- ◆ Recycling C&D
- ◆ More time for Deconstruction
- ◆ Ending subsidies for wasting

**POLICIES**

- ◆ **Space for Recyclables** - Require businesses and residential developers to set aside sufficient space for recyclables to facilitate source separation (as done in Japan). All new construction projects should be specifically required to provide (beyond general requirements of state law) space for specific recyclables designated, such as:
  - Ewaste dropoff sites
  - Areas for Pallets
- ◆ **Fee for Service** - Oakland allows service providers to charge a fee to collect source separated materials, outside of franchise. Need to review definition of “source separated” to determine if “commingled recyclables” as commonly collected could be collected outside of the franchise. There are different amounts of allowable contaminants under the definition (e.g., discarded food is considered source separated if it has less than 5% contamination by weight).
- ◆ **Regional Coordination** - Need communities throughout the SF Bay Area to adopt similar policies, so that problems with wastes are not just transferred from one community to another. An example was given of a company in one community where one business required suppliers to use standard size pallets to reduce wastes. When that was implemented, previously used abnormal size pallets were thrown away in another community.
- ◆ **Incentives and Mandates**
  - Need to figure out what is the appropriate mix of incentives and mandates for commercial programs. It does not appear that education by itself is enough. Some improved economic incentives are needed at a minimum and first.
  - Should we just change the law to require more participation in recycling programs and/or source separation? Portland, OR just mandated commercial recycling.
  - The marketplace in the Oakland commercial sector is flexible, open and very competitive.
  - **Supply Chain Management** - Mandates may be necessary, but you will get more mileage with business as allies. Ask business what do they ask their supplier to do?
  - Carson Cooper (sp.?) is doing study for developer of business incentives and recycling processors available and would like additional information anyone has on those.

- ◆ **Focus Upstream on Design** - The Zero Waste Plan needs to focus more on shipping products back to producers and getting producers to design their products and packaging more efficiently. Awards should be given to companies locally that don't build in planned obsolescence.
- ◆ **Measurement** - Need to look at what is landfilled as the key measure of performance. 400,000 tons of waste were disposed in the County in 1990, and about the same were disposed in 2005. We're just keeping wasting at the level it is. Oakland is a practical place - there's a great opportunity in Oakland to go beyond the policies and practices of the CIWMB, and measure our success in more tangible terms here.

## **PROGRAMS**

### ◆ **Franchise Agreement Issues**

- WMAC (Waste Management of Alameda County) contract requires cash payment to City for litter removal, graffiti cleanup, and other activities beyond basic solid waste and recycling services. As waste decreases, how will the City handle less revenue coming in and keep those ancillary programs going?
  - WMAC garbage bill includes 3.17% surcharge for litter removal
  - WMAC collects waste from all City facilities for free as part of the franchise
  - WMAC collects waste from garbage cans on the streets for free as part of the franchise
- WMAC pays a franchise fee to the City of 5% of gross receipts
- WMAC garbage bills are the highest rate WMAC charges in the East Bay, due to surcharges included.

### ◆ **Outreach and Education**

- Whole sections of town did not get food waste bins and large recycling carts yet. Need improved outreach for existing recycling programs.
- We need education program on "Resource Management" program of EPA's WasteWise program (see <http://www.epa.gov/epaoswer/non-hw/reduce/wstewise/wrr/rm.htm>) addressing contract incentives and partnerships between haulers and generators, with sharing of savings.
- Need to promote FreeCycle.org, Craig's List and eBay to encourage more reuse of products

### ◆ **New Services Needed**

- **Food Scraps** - Need to expand the infrastructure to collect and process food scraps from businesses and residents in Oakland. In SF, 28% of the waste still being landfilled is food scraps, and 60% is biodegradable and compostable.
- Lot of difficult to recycle materials are left on the street, particularly from students at the end of semesters (e.g., computers, paint). People also work long hours and it's hard to use facilities that are only open from 9-5 on weekdays.
  - Universal Waste Management (e-recycler) suggested that they would consider opening 1 night per week from 5 - 10 pm to address part of this need. Audience strongly supported that idea.
  - East Bay Recycling noted that they are open on Saturdays. They also asked if they were able to collect those difficult to recycle materials curbside in Oakland outside of the franchise (need to confirm).
  - An end of semester program is needed for computers. Recent successful collections of working computers - 600 from Port of Oakland donated to

nonprofit; Kaiser Permanente recently donated about 150 computers; and Oakland Tech. Takes working computers if in lots greater than 5 units.

- East Bay Depot for Creative Reuse asked whether another container or curbside service for reusables could be considered for products that are too good to throw away. This service is available in some Contra Costa County communities as part of the bulky pickup program.
- There are lots of local partnership opportunities and that we all need to bring in more companies to fill the gaps in services needed (esp. for Green Building projects).

## **FACILITIES**

- ◆ City needs to lead by example
  - After one Council meeting, 29 pounds of trash, mostly plastic water bottles were collected from the dais.
  - What does City ask its suppliers to do?
  - In many communities that adopted C&D ordinance, the requirements were adopted first for civic projects to prove it could be done, and to learn the details of how it would work, and what is practical.
- ◆ The City is pushing service providers and manufacturing businesses out of Oakland, including recyclers. Need to address this land use issues as a priority.
- ◆ Davis Street Transfer Station in San Leandro is the largest transfer station on the West Coast. There is too much stuff going in there too fast, with questionable policies on workers health and safety. Look at Seattle/King County, WA as a model, where they have 8-9 transfer stations serving a population of 100-150,000 each. Recommend finding 3-4 acres for at least one transfer station in Oakland.
  - East Bay Depot for Creative Reuse said that a transfer station in Oakland would be great if it was designed to accept local reusables, possibly as part of a Resource Recovery Park. They highlighted how they provide service to Contra Costa communities, as an outlet for products collected there, sorted in Benicia, and shipped to Alameda County. They would like to process materials within Oakland and Alameda County more in a similar way.

## **FUNDING**

- ◆ In San Leandro, they charge a \$3/ton surcharge for all wastes hauled to the Davis Street Transfer Station.