

Proposed Stakeholder Process to Achieve Greenhouse Gas Reduction, Energy Conservation and Environmental Protection through Integrated Solid Waste Management

The Minnesota Pollution Control Agency (MPCA) recently completed development of the Solid Waste Policy Report. Part 4 of the report committed the Agency to develop a Stakeholder Process to further explore ways that the current waste management system could be modified to increase positive environmental outcomes by reducing waste, increasing recycling of materials and reducing greenhouse gas contributions from management activities. In addition, the process will investigate ways to contribute to the Renewable Energy production goals for Minnesota.

The MPCA proposes to establish a Strategy Work Group comprised of no more than 15 members who will work to:

- Prepare a detailed framework of recommended changes to the current management of solid waste that will contribute to achieving the renewable energy production goals of the Minnesota Renewable Energy Standard, and the waste reduction, recycling, composting, and greenhouse gas (GHG) reduction goals of the Minnesota Climate Change Advisory Group while protecting public health and the environment.
- Develop strategies for the solid waste renewable energy production/GHG reduction framework if:
 - Scenario #1 - No additional state funding is available.
 - Scenario #2 - Additional state funding is available.
- The framework shall be submitted to the Commissioner of the Minnesota Pollution Control Agency (MPCA).

When developing the framework, the Strategy Work Group may rely on information contained in the 2007 Solid Waste Management Policy Report, Minn. Stat. 115A, the Waste Management Act, The Minnesota Climate Change Advisory Group (MCCAG) Report, and Minnesota Renewable Energy Standards. The Strategy work group will focus on the four geographic centroids that account for more than 70% of the mixed municipal solid waste and construction & demolition waste generated within the state of Minnesota.

The final work product will be a detailed report to the Commissioner of the MPCA with a framework as to how the four geographical centroids can obtain a 52.5 million metric ton GHG reduction goal by 2025, by optimizing the outcomes of the integrated solid waste management system within each centroid. Consistent with the parameters above, the final report shall include a framework which addresses:

- Waste reduction, recycling, and composting strategies for achieving MCCAG's goals of 0% increase in waste generation per capita by 2020 (3% reduction by 2025); a 50% recycling rate by 2011 (60% by 2025); a 10% composting rate by 2012 (15% by 2020), and recycling and composting achieve a total of 75% diversion of waste from land disposal or waste to energy by 2025.
- Energy conservation in the collection, transportation and management of solid waste.
- Opportunities for waste to energy production to help meet the state's renewable energy goals while protecting the environment and public health.
- Specific sources of GHG emissions related to solid waste management and transportation.
- Actions required that reduce GHG emissions related to waste management.
- The legal, financial and other resources needed to support specific targeted goals and actions.
- Detailed timelines and estimated costs for the specified targeted goals and actions.
- The public awareness campaigns required to gain the support and participation of the public.

To accomplish this work, the MPCA proposes to create the following three distinct groups.



The Steering Committee will be approximately 5 individuals who will establish process outcomes and plan agendas for other group meetings. The membership will come from the Strategy Work Group. This group will meet monthly. The Strategy Work Group will have at least eleven but no more than 15 members. State law requires that members serve without compensation. We regret that we cannot reimburse for any travel related expenses. We will strive to ensure that members of this group represent a broad diverse interest group and may include individuals representing the following interests:

- (a) Pollution Control Agency
- (b) Chamber of Commerce
- (c) League of Cities
- (d) Electric Utilities
- (e) National Solid Waste Management Association
- (f) Solid Waste Management Coordinating Board
- (g) Association of Minnesota Counties
- (h) Association of General Contractors
- (i) Minnesota Resource Recovery Association
- (j) Recycling Association of Minnesota
- (k) Minnesota Environmental Partnership
- (l) Recycling markets
- (m) Organic material end market
- (n) Citizen viewpoint
- (o) Independent non aligned chairperson

Whenever possible, a Strategy Work Group member should also represent one of the following four geographic centroids that account for more than 70% of the waste generated:

- (a) **Twin Cities Area:** Anoka, Carver, Dakota, Hennepin, Ramsey, Scott, Washington and Wright Counties
- (b) **St. Cloud Area:** Benton, Sherburne and Stearns Counties.
- (c) **Duluth Area:** Carlton, Cook, Lake and St. Louis Counties, and the Western Lake Superior Sanitary District.
- (d) **Rochester Area:** Dodge and Olmsted Counties.

Members must have the experience, commitment and time to fulfill the group's charge. Administrative, facilitation and report development will be provided by private consultant(s). Additional staffing support for the Strategy Work Group will be provided by the Pollution Control Agency.

The Stakeholder Input Group is anyone who has an interest in the process outcomes and recommendations. We propose to have at least 3 meetings where all interested stakeholders can provide input into the products that have been developed.

The MPCA will be hiring an independent contractor to help with the process. If you wish to be considered for membership on the Strategy Work Group please contact Tina Patton at 651-215-0214 before August 1, 2008.