

Beyond Waste: A Sustainable Materials Management Strategy for New York

Federation of NY Solid Waste
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Resa A. Dimino
Special Assistant
Commissioner's Policy Office



Summary

- State planning process
- Elements of the new plan
 - Findings
 - Recommendations
- Next Steps



State Planning Process

- Stakeholder Meetings – Spring 08
- Advisory Group
 - Representing various stakeholder groups and regions of the state
- Regional Meetings



Elements of the New Plan

- Beyond Waste: Vision & Goals
- Climate Change and Waste
- Planning, Roles & Responsibilities
- Waste Characterization
- Waste Prevention
- Reuse
- Recycling
- Organic Materials Diversion
- Municipal Waste Combustion
- Landfilling



DISCLAIMER

Information presented here is:

- preliminary draft
- not yet reviewed/approved by DEC upper management
- developed based on staff brainstorming, stakeholder input, advisory group input, and review of 1987 Plan



Beyond Waste: Vision

A Materials Management System That:

- Captures economic value of materials
- Minimizes greenhouse gas emissions
- Maximizes materials and energy efficiency
- Impacts the design of products and packaging
- Achieves ever-increasing levels of recovery



Beyond Waste: Goals

- Minimize Waste Generation
- Maximize Reuse
- Maximize Recycling
- Maximize Recovery of Organics
- Create Green Jobs
- Maximize the Energy Value of Materials Management
- Minimize the Climate Impacts of Solid Waste Management
- Foster Good Local Solid Waste Management Planning
- Strive for Participation, Fairness and Environmental Justice
- Prioritize Investment in Recovery over Disposal
- Maximize Efficiency in Infrastructure Development
- Foster Technological Innovation
- Continue to ensure SWMFs are designed and operated well



Climate Change & Waste

Findings

- Climate change is happening
- Waste contributes to climate change
 - Methane emissions from landfills
 - Production and distribution of products and packaging
- Waste reduction, reuse and recycling mitigate climate change



Climate Change & Waste

Recommendations

- Maximize Waste Reduction and Reuse
- Divert Organics from Disposal
- Maximize Recycling
- Collect and Convert Landfill Gas to Energy



SWM Planning, Roles & Responsibilities

Findings:

- Staff and resources must be dedicated to planning and implementation
- State must refocus on planning at state and local level
- Local planning requirements should be uniformly implemented
- Role of private sector in collection, processing, and disposal has grown



SWM Planning, Roles & Responsibilities

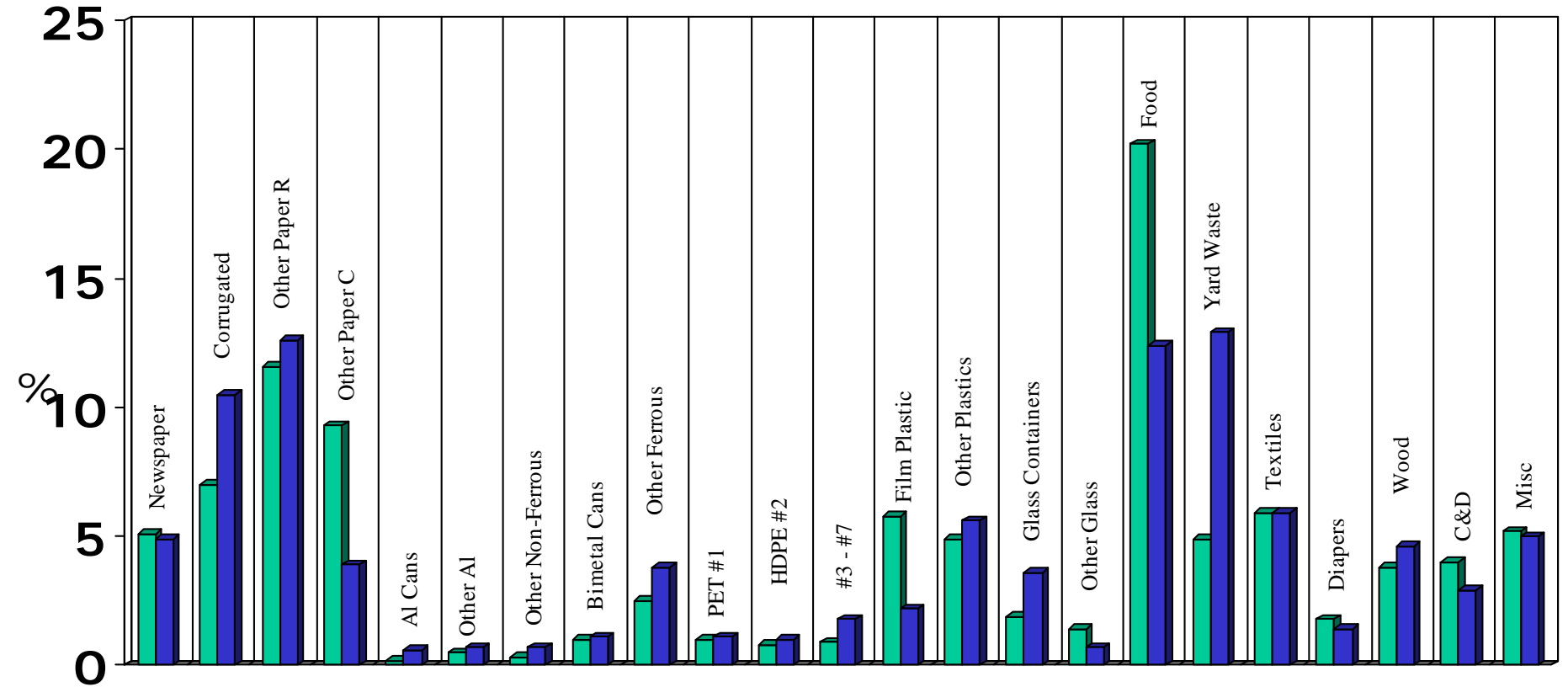
Recommendations

- Provide guidance and TA in development of LSWMPs
- Require LSWMPs evaluate key programs, including education, enforcement, incentives, recycling in all sectors, organics
- Develop a targeted funding program for planning
- Increase DEC's authority to enforce source separation and planning requirements

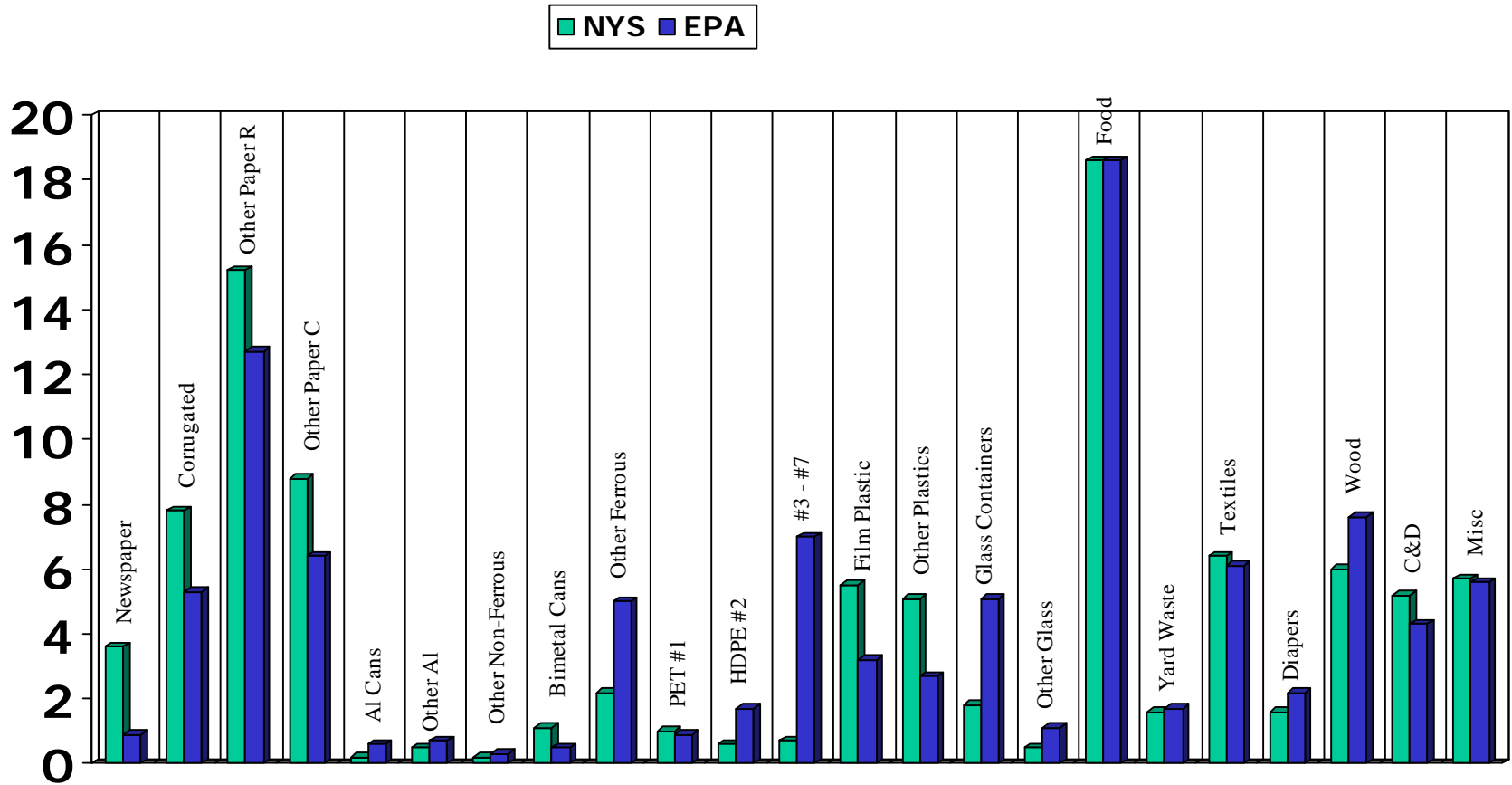


Waste Characterization - Generation

■ NYS ■ EPA



Waste Characterization - Discards



Waste Prevention

Findings

- Waste prevention has the highest potential for avoiding environmental and climate impacts
- Some waste prevention gains have been achieved, but driven by economics and not policy
- Negative trends include planned obsolescence, convenience products



Waste Prevention

Recommendations

- Implement state agency sustainability programs to achieve goals for waste and paper use reduction (EO4)
- Expand resources dedicated to education and outreach
- Implement Product & Packaging Stewardship legislation



Reuse

Findings

- Reuse provides multiple environmental, economic and social benefits
- Significant infrastructure exists, particularly through charities
- Potential to expand reuse in key sectors – building deconstruction, food redistribution



Reuse

Recommendations

- Support and promote materials exchanges, and food and clothing donations programs
- Encourage and incentivize deconstruction and building materials reuse
- Encourage planning units to develop reuse infrastructure



Recycling

Findings

- Huge gains between 1987 and 1997, no movement since
- Wide variation in program performance statewide – from 21 to 734 lbs/cap
- Program implementation inconsistent, esp. in schools, businesses, public spaces
- Recycling markets are variable; local or regional markets and long-term agreements provide stability
- Market development initiatives must focus on organics, plastics, c&d and glass



Recycling

Recommendations

- Develop broad-scale public education program to promote recycling
- Support markets by buying recycled (EO4)
- Ensure recycling in all sectors
- Encourage/require incentive, education and enforcement programs
- Fast-track funding for recycling coordinators and educational activities
- Create new recycling metrics and reporting systems
- Develop a new Solid Waste Management Act to move beyond 50%



Organic Material Diversion

Findings

- Organics are 30-40 percent of waste generated; ~30% of waste disposed
- Recycling organics has multiple benefits – combats climate change, creates valuable soil amendments, creates jobs, increases diversion
- Organic materials are diverse; variety of strategies and technologies need to be employed
- Costs vary widely depending on technology, feedstock, etc.



Organic Material Diversion

Recommendations

- Support and demonstrate organics recovery systems and activities within state agencies (EO4)
- Restrict disposal of leaf & yard waste; consider additional restrictions as infrastructure develops
- Work with existing compost facilities to expand into food waste recovery where feasible
- Obtain additional resources for organics recovery infrastructure
- Require planning units to evaluate organics recovery and implement where feasible



Municipal Waste Combustion

Findings

- MWC should retain its place in the SWM Hierarchy as preferable only to landfilling
- Original network of 37 MWCs statewide did not materialize; 10 exist today
- MWC can co-exist with strong recycling programs
- Most emerging technologies have not been commercially demonstrated



Landfilling

Findings

- Landfilling is the predominant means of waste disposal
- Public sector role in landfill operations is declining; 75% of landfill capacity is either privately owned or operated
- Avoiding the generation of landfill gas by minimizing dependence on landfilling is key to combatting climate change
- Capturing landfill gas can mitigate climate change
- Many variables in assessing future capacity; at current fill rates 20-25 years of capacity remains, 10-12 years once acceptance restrictions are considered



Still to Come

- Funding needs and recommendations
- Implementation Schedule
- Legislative recommendations
 - New Solid Waste Management Act
 - Product Stewardship Legislation
- Projections



Next Steps

- Finalize and format Draft Plan
- Proceed through DEC Executive Review
- Release Draft for comment
- Hold Regional Meetings
- Finalize Plan



Contact Us

Resa A. Dimino

radimino@gw.dec.state.ny.us

Comments, questions and suggestions
to:

– nysswmp@gw.dec.state.ny.us

– <http://www.dec.ny.gov/chemical/41831.html>

