

COUNTY OF HAWAII INTEGRATED SOLID WASTE MANAGEMENT PLAN UPDATE

SWAC Meeting Notes – July 21, 2008

Meeting started at 11:05am

Meeting ended 2:05pm

Present: Barbara Bell, Paul Buklarewicz, Jes Foster, Mike Kaha, Alex Leonard, Shon Pahio, Nimr Tamimi, Ted Vorfeld, Mike Gleason, DOH Rep: John Valera

Absent: Russell Ruderman, Christine Dochin, Steve Okoji

Staff Present: Nelson Ho, Ivan Torigoe, Mike Dworsky, Linda Peters, Angela Kang

Consultants: Dan Pitzler, Ron Terry

Agenda

In accordance with the agenda, this meeting included the following topics:

- Introductory remarks
- Approval of minutes from June 16, 2008 meeting
- New Business
 - Election of Officers
 - CH2M HILL presentation: Source Reduction, Public Education and Information
 - Next steps: meeting dates, times, locations
- Statements from the public on agenda items
- Announcements
- Adjournment

Election of Officers

Barbara Bell was elected as Committee chair and Mike Gleason was elected as vice chair. Jes Foster agreed to serve as co-vice chair in the event that both Barbara and Mike cannot be present at a particular meeting.

Discussion

- **Pay as you throw (PAYT)** resulted in considerable discussion. Some ideas and comments about this system follow.
 - Maybe first step could be to charge or prevent commercial customers at recycling and transfer stations
 - Lack of funding for new initiatives will be a reality: PAYT is key to address this.
 - PAYT should be phased in. One way to do it would be to provide a free credit for a certain number of bags per year (perhaps a tag system) i.e., a “trash ration”

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- See Recycle Hawai'i's PAYT study. Available on their website
 - The public is ready for PAYT - people will adapt
 - There will be some illegal dumping therefore enforcement needed - it could help pay for the program
 - Maui did PAYT some time ago, then eliminated it using dengue fever as an excuse
 - To implement, we'll need an outline for a program, and Council coordination
 - **PAYT with universal collection:**
 - Need to see costs.
 - Need to resolve questions about UPW vs. private sector collection via contract or franchise
 - Managed competition - there was a sense that there was nothing in place at state level to implement such a process
 - Maui has a mixed system of collection and transfer stations - we'd need to evaluate geography and population density in deciding how to implement
 - Curbside may be very expensive - consider short-term vs. long-term. If universal collection is a long-term process, then maybe transfer station upgrades are still OK.
 - **Reuse**
 - Program in Kauai needs study
 - More reuse centers are needed
 - More publicity is needed to highlight materials that are available at any one time at reuse centers. Consider full page ads and notices on reusables. Mike G. stated that the Arc of Hilo hopes to get a list of materials onto their website.
 - Need roof shelters and staffing for all reuse centers
 - It was suggested that the zero waste fund idea could be used indirectly to encourage reuse (e.g., \$10/TV)
 - **Education - general**
 - Need to publicize success stories
 - Consider a "green business" seal or "zero waste certification"
 - Look at EcoCycle in Colorado
 - Education is fine, but we need facilities for recycling
 - **Education in schools**
 - Do on-hands demo at schools. Paaui school - in curriculum - Earth Machine composters to schools
 - Big problem is state doesn't require recycling in collection contracts - said it's a cost issue. John asked how can state help?
 - Smooth out E-waste procurement procedures
 - **Zero Waste and EPR**
 - EPR works in Europe, there is resistance in U.S.
 - County is probably too small to dictate EPR to manufacturers

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- EPR is working for E-waste. Sony and WMI are partnering to take back Sony products
 - County should use a legislative liaison, work with other counties and lobby the state
 - EPR is like a "snowball" - California is leading.
 - Consider the cost of EPR to the consumer - e.g., what will it do to price of milk?
- **Other topics**
 - Consulting team and SWAC should work toward prioritizing options. It is unlikely that all options will be funded.
 - More data on cost of recycling is needed. Is burning cheaper or better? It IS expensive to recycle on the island, but consider the long-term effects on landfill and environment as well.
 - Shipping companies should subsidize back-shipment of recyclables for free. Recycle Hawai'i is charged \$2,300/container for E-waste
 - Landfill bans are worth considering, but need reasonable alternatives for recycling - no reason to throw cardboard and greenwaste in landfill
 - Set up a special area at landfill to sort out contaminants
 - Focus on making it easier for business to recycle
 - Contaminants in 2-stream recycling system are currently very low. Far West is very pleased with the materials
 - Better signage is needed for 2-stream system. Consider hiring students or others to help inform at recycling and transfer stations
 - C&D source reduction - a fee at time of permit would be good