

## **SOLID WASTE MANAGEMENT – 2011**

### **SOLID WASTE MANAGEMENT POSITION – as amended Nov. 19, 2011**

Solid waste management is an important environmental and public health issue for the City and Borough of Juneau (CBJ). Economic issues are also a factor in solid waste management. The CBJ needs a collaborative approach that seeks long-term solutions including the use of disposal as a last option after waste reduction, reuse, recycling, and remanufacture (when feasible). The CBJ should continue its efforts to pilot integrated solutions and continue its priority on hazardous wastes as it works to strengthen its recycling program for a variety of solid wastes.

#### **AMPLIFICATION:**

1. The CBJ's Responsibility for Solid Waste Management: Ideally, assuring effective waste management is primarily a municipal responsibility for which the municipality must control the "waste stream." If the local jurisdiction does not own solid waste management facilities and/or does not control the "waste stream," then it must exercise as much control as possible through contractual agreements. Additional appropriate roles include incentives, taxation, coordination, and public education.

2. The Need for a Long-Term Comprehensive Plan for Solid Waste Management: A CBJ comprehensive waste management plan should consider at least the following components: high priority on hazardous waste, waste reduction, recycling, remanufacturing, reuse, landfill usage, variable rate costs, collection, drop-off sites, state-of-the-art equipment and processes, and treatment modalities.

This Comprehensive Plan should examine all environmental impacts of solid waste management and mitigation strategies that might be needed. Every management option must be measured against a standard taking into account the full costs of that option, including the energy costs and environmental impact. New technology should be reviewed and evaluated on this basis.

The CBJ should allow tax incentives, through property and business inventory tax reductions or rebates, for businesses directly involved in recycling. Other businesses should benefit from similar incentives if, while not necessarily recycling, they can document waste reduction efforts. Residents should also be offered incentives for waste reduction and recycling; these incentives might include property tax reduction, an increased number of drop-off sites for recycling, and other factors that would increase public awareness.

The Comprehensive Plan should include continuing public education efforts to increase local recycling and waste reduction. Goals and benchmarks for waste reduction and recycling volume should be set and periodically reviewed as well as communicated to the public. Tracking public perceptions of solid waste management should be done by periodic public surveys to determine public understanding, attitudes, disposal habits and expectations for solid waste management infrastructures.

The Comprehensive Plan should consider treatment options for other components of the waste stream. For example, Juneau might benefit from a bio-fuel facility and a facility that could treat other specific parts of the waste stream such as oil and polluted soils. Composting of wood, fish, and garden waste could produce a product suitable for local gardens.

3. The Need for a Management Plan Consistent with the Comprehensive Plan: Multiple options for solid waste management should be developed and should include independent

contracts and collaborative agreements. CBJ should consider an appropriate indemnification agreement between the CBJ and other entities under contract for solid waste management. This agreement may include the disposal of industrial hazardous waste that is the responsibility of the entity generating such waste.

The full cost of solid waste management should be distributed equitably among public, private, consumer, business, and other entities that create waste. This cost should not be subsidized by public entities with the exception of household or common hazardous waste disposal and problematic items such as computers and tires. A full cost approach will create a natural incentive for waste reduction. The CBJ should require mandatory collection service consistent with the Comprehensive Plan.

The CBJ should establish and regularly contribute to a contingency reserve fund for current and future needs concerning solid waste management. The current mandatory environmental surcharge should be directed to the reserve contingency fund.

Policies and procedures for solid waste management should have involvement with the general public beyond periodic public surveys. This can be accomplished through a Public Advisory Board for solid waste management similar to other advisory boards within the CBJ. Should ownership of specific components of solid waste management come to the CBJ, consideration should be given to creation of an additional enterprise board for solid waste management.

4. Creation of Sufficient Energy to Manage Waste Streams: Creation and maintenance of the energy requirements for the disposal of the various solid waste streams requires a flexible energy infrastructure to manage short- and long-term operations and day-to-day management as well as contingency operation plans for emergencies.

5. Collaboration with Regional, State, and Federal Government Entities: The role of state and federal governments should be to regulate and mitigate environmental hazards and to provide appropriate guidelines and regulations to enable creative partnerships and infrastructure for solid waste management. Regional cooperation is appropriate when cost-effective.

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(2011 Study Committee: Jim Powell, carolyn Brown, Judy Andree)