

**HAMILTON COUNTY ENVIRONMENTAL SERVICES -
SOLID WASTE MANAGEMENT DISTRICT
MANAGER'S MEMORANDUM**

DATE: January 11, 2007
TO: District Policy Committee Members
FROM: Holly Christmann, Solid Waste Manager
Cory R. Chadwick, Director

I. Introduction/Opening Comments

NOTICE: This memo is for the meeting to be held on January 18, 2007. This meeting will be held at 9:30 a.m. at Hamilton County Environmental Services, 250 William Howard Taft Road, Cincinnati, Ohio 45219.

Policy Committee Information (Agendas, Manager's Memos, Minutes, etc.) now available on the District's Website at www.hamiltoncountyclecycles.org.

II. Clerk's Report/Additions to the Agenda

A. Approval of Minutes – Minutes from the November 16, 2006 Policy Committee meeting are included as Attachment A.

B. Additions to the Agenda

Please contact Susan Schumacher at 513-946-7734 or susan.schumacher@hamilton-co.org if you have items to add to the agenda.

III. District Revenue Updates/Analysis

Updates will be provided on current revenue receipts and comparisons with prior years, as included in Attachment B.

IV. Policy Items

A. Emerald Ash Borer

At the November 16th Policy Committee meeting, the Committee discussed a special grant request for a portable sawmill. During the discussion, the emerald ash borer was brought to the Committee's attention. At that time, the Committee voted to table the grant request in order to learn more about the emerald ash borer, the potential impacts on the waste stream, and to discuss the most effective ways the District can help communities.

The emerald ash borer (EAB) is a destructive beetle native to China and eastern Asia. Most likely, the EAB landed in North America in wood packing materials used to ship

consumer goods. EAB is responsible for the death or decline of more than 15 million ash trees in a 20-county area around Detroit.

EAB has been identified in at least twenty-two Ohio counties. When EAB has been identified, that area is quarantined meaning it is illegal to move ash trees, ash logs, ash branches, ash wood chips (larger than one inch), ash bark, and all hardwood firewood out of Ohio's quarantined areas. These materials can move freely within, but cannot leave, contiguous quarantined areas. At this time, EAB has not been found in Hamilton County.

Lucia Hunt from the Ohio Department of Agriculture will conduct a presentation on the Emerald Ash Borer and answer any questions.

B. District Priority Grant – Freestore Foodbank

The Policy Committee discussed and approved all of the District Priority Grants except the Freestore Foodbank's application at the November 16, 2006 meeting. The Freestore's application was tabled because several questions arose about their application. Through the District's Priority Grant, the Freestore Foodbank will purchase a 14-foot refrigerated truck to expand their pickup of frozen meat and other perishable foods from Kroger stores. The number of participating Kroger stores will increase from five to twenty by September, 2007. This program will divert approximately 74 tons of food waste in 2007. This one time purchase will allow the Freestore Foodbank to continue collecting food in the future years from Kroger, as well as, expanding the program to include other grocers such as Biggs and Meijer. The District is recommending grant funding in the amount of \$49,600.00.

During the discussion at the November 16th meeting, questions about this application included food safety, size and capacity of the refrigerated truck, and the potential to contract the collection service to the private sector. Attachment C includes responses to these questions and concerns.

***Staff Recommendation:** District staff recommends that the Policy Committee approve the grant award recommendation for the Freestore Foodbank for forwarding to the Board of County Commissioners.*

C. Strategic Planning

At the September 14, 2006 Policy Committee meeting, the Committee was in agreement to move forward with a strategic planning process. There are several benefits to this process:

- Identification of the objectives of the Committee
- Help the Committee to work more effectively and efficiently
- Provide the opportunity to discuss the benefits of expanding the role of the Committee (recognizing there are statutory limitations to the budget)

During the discussion at the September 14th meeting, several issues, such as, timelines, soliciting input from District stakeholders, and the need for a consultant were discussed. Mr. Welling offered to develop two proposals for the Committee to discuss: Solicit input not

only from former members but from stakeholders in general. A second option would involve input from committee members only. The proposals will be distributed and discussed at the meeting.

D. Exploring New Methods to Manage the Waste Stream

Many solid waste organizations throughout the United States are researching new methods of increasing recycling diversion and managing the waste streams that cannot be recycled. Examples of these methods include recycling collection opportunities for non-traditional recyclables, tapping into new sectors that are not currently recycling and expanding composting. An example of a new technology to manage the waste stream currently being examined in St. Lucie County, Florida is plasma arc technology. Attachment D provides a general overview of plasma arc technology including potential benefits and concerns.

Staff would like direction from the Policy Committee on developing a subcommittee to explore new programs and technologies to increase recycling and to research plasma arc technology.

V. Information/Discussion Items

A. Computer/TV Recycling Collection Event

The District is planning for its annual computer recycling event and is researching options for a television collection event. With the popularity of flat screen televisions, more residents are seeking recycling outlets for their old televisions. The District will evaluate the cost of adding televisions to its computer collection event.

B. Household Hazardous Waste Collection Program

The District's Household Hazardous Waste Collection Program will reopen on March 17, 2007. As an enhancement, the District will allow political jurisdictions to collect hazardous waste from their residents and drop off the material at the household hazardous waste collection site. Communities that are interested in participating will be required to attend a training class conducted by the District's contractor.

VI. Tentative Future Agenda Items

VII. Policy Committee Members' Comments

VIII. Public Comments

IX. Upcoming District Meetings

The next Policy Committee meeting is scheduled for March 15th at 9:30 a.m. The meeting will be held at Environmental Services, 250 William Howard Taft Road.

X. Adjournment (Target Time: 11:00 a. m.)