IMPROVING PERFORMANCE IN A NEW YORK COUNTY

Working Toward State Goals

New York State Solid Waste and Recycling Conference, May 2018

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INTRODUCTION

- Tompkins County has traditionally been a waste diversion leader in the State:
  - Divert about 60% from the landfill
  - Early adopter of PAYT
  - Innovations in programs and financing
    - Dual fee finance system
    - Incentives for residential & commercial
    - Recycling collection & processing
    - Food scrap incentive
  - Partnerships for progress
  - History of Pilots and evaluation
  - Measure performance from the beginning

- Want “environmentally sound, cost-effective, socially responsible, and safe”
ABOUT TOMPKINS COUNTY

- Trash
  - Muni & contracted & Private haulers
  - PAYT sticker program since 1992
  - No local landfill

- Recycling
  - Recycling & Solid Waste Center / core of diversion in County – residential & commercial access
  - Residential & small business collection / 10-year contract with Casella
  - Public space recycling stations and “Borrow a Bin” for events
ABOUT TOMPKINS COUNTY

☐ Organics
  - 12 drop spots for residential food scraps, drop off for yard waste, FOG and yard waste at the Recycling and Solid Waste Center.
  - Strong Backyard Composting (BYC) education outreach
  - Had pilot of BMP practices for food scraps; future partnerships with other municipal garbage haulers to do food / organics collection
  - Reduced fee for Food Scrap

☐ Education
  - Strong residential education; business education though ReBusiness Partner program
**NEXT STEPS?**

- **State goal:**
  - 2.4 lbs/capita/day now in Tompkins County. State goal 0.6. Can get to 1.2/day over a 10 year period.
  - Importance of statewide organics ban for progress.

- **Looking at workable strategies toward State goals:**

- **Hard part – taking it further to that last 40%:**

- **Do a lot on their own, but started working with consulting firm to look at last 40%, especially:**
  - Commercial
  - Organics
  - C&D
  - Programs and requirements
**NEXT STEPS?**

- Consultant Advisor Process – multi-part effort
  - Quick timeframe: Sent background info
  - Brainstorming meeting on-line (or in person)
    - Staff from multiple departments attending from the County.
    - Energizing short-cut
    - Immediate feedback and collaborative idea generation.
    - Issues / ideas / discussion and assigned “follow-ups”
  - Memos with strategies refinements, case-studies, recommendations for Comprehensive Plan
  - Cost-effective, real time turnaround
  - Geared to help meet State Goals
- Where we’re looking...
STRATEGIES UNDER CONSIDERATION / RESEARCH FOR TOMPKINS COUNTY

- Residential Collection
  - Refine PAYT Program
    - Review options for better enforcement / checking licensing requirements and possible improvements
  - Better measurement and reporting
    - Standards / definitions, reporting requirement options being examined
  - Options for improving recycling – adding materials to list
    - Methods that can be easily updated
  - Organics critical for achieving goal
    - Revisions to pilot design / frequency and charges questions
    - Exploring best options / Examples around the country
  - Some consideration of MF
STRATEGIES UNDER CONSIDERATION / RESEARCH FOR TOMPKINS COUNTY

- Construction and Demolition (C&D)- a challenge
  - C&D Deposit program
  - Questions about markets, smaller examples, facilities
    - Case studies
  - Other strategies – required bin, others
    - Examples
STRATEGIES UNDER CONSIDERATION / RESEARCH FOR TOMPKINS COUNTY

- Commercial Sector – a focus
  - Commercial recycling improvements
    - Licensing / enforcement / reporting
    - Examples:
  - ABC Laws
    - Questions: Examples in Bottle Bill States
    - Examples:
STRATEGIES UNDER CONSIDERATION / RESEARCH FOR TOMPKINS COUNTY

- Commercial Sector – a focus
  - Commercial PAYT / mandatory embedded recycling – with or without organics?
    - Question - How it works
    - No organics -
    - With organics -
    - Question - Contamination with commercial PAYT?
    - Examples of inspections,
  - Commercial Food Scraps
    - Requirements for largest generators?
    - Case studies
STRATEGIES UNDER CONSIDERATION / RESEARCH FOR TOMPKINS COUNTY

- Better reporting to state
  - Hauler reporting – license-based
    - Examples
  - **Better metrics** – TBL & metrics based on waste characterization – **Percent Recoverables**
    - Remaining - “PRR” (RR article) – 3 metrics in one; addresses “cons” of traditional metrics
      - PRR-Tons
      - PRR-Value
      - PRR-GHG

PRIORITIES ON 3 CRITERIA for NEXT STEPS

- Questions: getting authority / possibly requiring; authority at transfer station – TBD – checking in-state
STRATEGIES UNDER CONSIDERATION / RESEARCH FOR TOMPKINS COUNTY

- Public Space and Events
  - Parks & downtown paired
    - Results from recent KAB/SERA study
  - Require ZW through permits
    - Examples

- Schools
  - Zero waste lunch and other strategies
    - Examples

- Food Waste Prevention
  - Information to residents
    - Examples
  - Business initiatives
    - Researching; Incentives in Tompkins County
STRATEGIES UNDER CONSIDERATION / RESEARCH FOR TOMPKINS COUNTY

- Overall
  - Consider embedded recycling in commercial / PAYT
  - May need additional facility in future / one site only
  - URO; targeted food scraps
  - C&D strategies
  - MF strategies
  - Impactful and compelling education
  - Useful, transparent measurement & reporting

Tompkins County Waste Stream

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Category</th>
<th>Percentage</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>60% DIVERTED</td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td>40% C&amp;D, Organics, etc</td>
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Getting to Goal

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Year</th>
<th>Value</th>
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<tr>
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<tr>
<td>NYS Goal</td>
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NEXT STEPS

☐ SERA
   ■ Complete research
   ■ Memo with details on strategies
   ■ Info on ranges of impacts, costs
   ■ Assist with ordinances / license language, requirements
   ■ Monitor / assist / comments on plan

☐ Tompkins County
   ■ Review recommendations
   ■ Incorporate into Draft Solid Waste Plan submitted to State for public information
   ■ On-going design / implementation efforts
THANK YOU!!

Questions?

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