

MEETING SUMMARY

Western Region Solid Waste Capacity Study

November 16, 2020

Meeting Called By: Cassidy Campbell and Elena Berg

Attendees:

Michael Carleton, AZB
Rachel Hering, KTR
Tamara Cook, NCTCOG
Cassidy Campbell, NCTCOG
Elena Berg, NCTCOG
Edith Marvin, NCTCOG
Barbara Bradford, NCTCOG
Erin Gorman, TCEQ DFW
Ami Reeder, Denton
Brian Boerner, Denton
Howard Redfearn, Mansfield
Robert Smouse, Fort Worth
Rick Crownover- Granbury
David Disheroon, Johnson County
Joey Highfill, Wise County
Robert Berndt, Tarrant County
Dustin Deel, Weatherford
Whitney Rodriguez

Presentation

-The purpose of the meeting was to present the findings of the Western Region Local Government Survey. Michael Carleton, AZ & B, provided an overview of the purpose of the survey and an explanation on methodology. A total of 37 responses were secured from counties and cities in the Western Region.

-Survey results showed participants believe the biggest benefits to a regional approach to waste management include cost reduction, assuring long-term capacity, and the ability to implement programs that might not otherwise be feasible.

-Survey results showed participants believe the biggest concerns with a regional approach include regulations, higher costs, loss of decision-making control, and greater bureaucracy.

-Transportation is a key issue with waste management in the region.

-Survey results showed that cooperative programs that would be beneficial include public information, residential curbside collection, material marketing, and yard waste collection.

-The survey identified the term of municipal collection contracts. The collection contracts define the level of service, cost of service, and when the contract expires. Should the cities wish to establish a regional program or develop a regional facility, these contracts will have to be amended so that their terms coincide. Therefore, it may also be necessary in the future to amend the contracts to require waste or recyclables be taken to a dedicated facility.

-A regional composting program could be the most feasible way to provide composting services.

-Single-family waste generation represents 27% of the total waste stream in the Western Region.

- Flow control of the waste is critical for any regional approach.
- The survey identified cities that are considering potential solid waste facilities.
 - 31 cities are interested in cooperative recycling programs
 - 29 cities are interested in cooperative residential curbside collection
 - 27 cities are interested in cooperative material marketing
 - 26 cities are interested in cooperative yard waste collection
 - 22 cities are interested in cooperative drop-off centers
 - 21 cities are interested in cooperative food waste collection
- The survey identified cities considering changes to their existing programs.
 - 26 cities are considering changes to their collection program
 - 28 cities are considering enhancements to their recycling programs
- The survey also identified which cities are planning or considering drop-off centers, recycling centers, compost facilities, material recovery facilities, transfer stations and landfills.
- The survey information determined that the weighted average residential waste generation rate is 6.6 pounds per capita per day. The weighted average residential recycling rate is 1.2 pounds per capita per day. These values will be used in the Needs Assessment Report to calculate future waste generation in the region.

Input & Questions

- Brian Boerner, City of Denton, gave an update on the landfill expansion. The City's landfill permit is technically complete, but a required public hearing on the permit amendment will be held sometime in 2021.
- Robert Smouse, City of Fort Worth, asked if AZ & B would follow up with survey responders who provided outlier data regarding waste generation and recycling rates in order to have a better understanding of what they're doing, what tonnage they did/didn't report etc. Answer: Yes, and AZ & B also hopes to follow up overall on what public information, types of training etc. would be helpful.
- Howard Redfearn, City of Mansfield, asked if there would be a similar survey for the private sector/vendors for the area. Answer: Follow-up interviews with Republic, Waste Management, and Waste Connections will be held to understand what they're planning.

Needs Assessment

- The waste generation rates calculated from the survey responses will help provide data for the Needs Assessment report.
- Waste generation rates are lower in the Western Region than in the NCTCOG's 16-county region.
- At the February 2021 PAG meeting the draft Needs Assessment report will be discussed. PAG members will be provided a copy of the report to review prior to that meeting.
- Next meeting** is scheduled for **Thursday, February 11, 2021 from 10:00 a.m. to 11:30 a.m. via Microsoft Teams.**