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Recycling in Michigan – Six Case Histories

State of Michigan – Clean Michigan Community Program

by
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for
**Michigan Department of Natural Resources
Waste Management Division**

With Case History Update

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CLEAN MICHIGAN COMMUNITY PROGRAM SUMMARY

INTRODUCTION

In 1993, six Michigan communities brought on-line various components of comprehensive recycling, composting and resource recovery education programs. The efforts of these six communities comprise the Clean Michigan Community (CMC) Program, a partnership between the Michigan Department of Natural Resources (DNR) and six communities to establish model recycling and composting programs that would help communities across the State plan and implement solid waste management alternatives.

This report provides an overview of the CMC Program, including a summary of the efforts of the six communities. It is part of an overall package of technology transfer materials that provide information about the CMCs that can be of assistance to other Michigan communities. Individual case studies for each community, as well as fact sheets on technical and policy issues common to the six communities, are also available.

BACKGROUND

The CMC Program began in 1990, when DNR selected six communities to receive grant funding through the Solid Waste Alternatives Program (SWAP). The CMC grants and its "parent" program, the Solid Waste Alternatives Program were established to move the State forward in meeting the solid waste management goals outlined in the Michigan Solid Waste Policy. Adopted by the Natural Resources Commission in 1988, the Solid Waste Policy outlined Michigan's strategy for moving away from disposal, primarily landfills, as the most common method for solid waste management.

The Policy established a hierarchy of preferred methods for solid waste management and goals for each method. The hierarchy is shown in Table 1. As can be seen from this table, through reduction,

reuse, recycling and composting, the Policy goals are to recover 50% of the waste stream and divert it from disposal.

Table 1: State Policy Goals for Solid Waste Management by the Year 2005

Waste Management Hierarchy	Percent of Waste Stream
Reduction	10%
Reuse	5%
Recycling	25%
Composting	10%
Waste to Energy	40%
Landfill	10%

While the Policy was intended to promote these goals statewide, it fostered local implementation. The Policy goals are voluntary and the Policy acknowledged that, accomplishments would vary from community to community, depending on local conditions and choices. The approach called for the development of collection and processing infrastructure by local governments and the private sector, encouraged through State financial assistance.

The Solid Waste Alternatives Program is one of the primary tools created to help achieve the diversion goals of the Solid Waste Policy. SWAP is funded by the Protecting Michigan's Future Bond issue approved by voters in 1988. The \$150 million program provides grants and loans for private and public sector projects that assist in diverting solid waste from disposal—landfilling or incineration.

SWAP provides grants under various categories, for projects involving the collection and processing of recyclables, composting of yard waste, resource recovery education, development of end markets and other resource recovery activities. SWAP also provided funding for the Clean Michigan Community demonstration projects.