

Solid Waste Management System SWOT Analysis

Strengths:

- County Board committed to sustainability efforts
- Educated and engaged community
- Well established and comprehensive residential solid waste management system
- Regulated multi-family/commercial solid waste systems
- Financial Resources – wealthy community with a strong tax/revenue base
- Professional solid waste staff
- Environmental support groups (EcoAction, Sierra Club, etc)
- Low Household Solid Waste Rate (HSWR)
- Reasonable contract prices for collection and processing
- Small geographic area
- Transportation network (in and outside the County)
- Earth Products Recycling Yard (EPRY)

Weaknesses:

- Land area/space limits collection methods and areas
- Lack of direct control over multi-family/commercial sector
- Contracted services
 - Private ownership of all material processors
 - Contracting for private collection services
- Lack of education and outreach resources
- Lack of inspection resources
- No Center for hard-to-recycle materials (CHaRM facility)
- Population turnover
- Aging population (higher service demand, increases operations costs)
- Immigration
- Resident affluence increases spending and purchasing
- Lack transparency of C&D material generation/disposal

Opportunities:

- Zero tip fee in 2025 for residential trash
- Plastic bag tax revenues
- Producer responsibility legislation
- New contracts (collection and MRF)
- Organics collection in schools/MF/commercial sectors
- Electrification of collection vehicles
- Solar power
- Automation of collection vehicles (i.e. sidearm vehicles) should help improve worker safety & retention
- Circular economy (resource reuse)
- Increasing commodity markets for recyclable material (Both Feds and businesses themselves are raising bar on high recycled-content goods)
- Lack of recyclable or compostable products
- Education around collection vehicle operation and safety

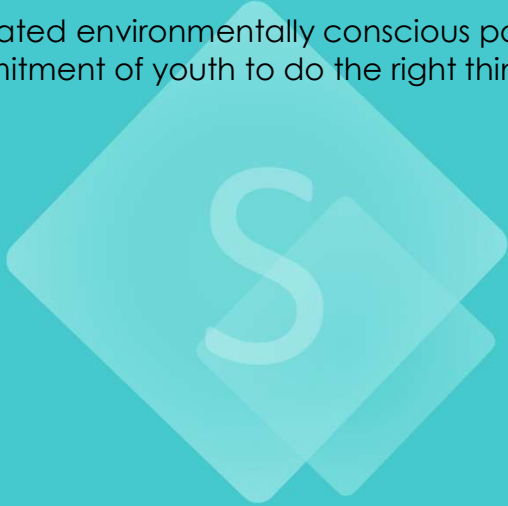
Threats:

- Alexandria's Eisenhower West End development – threatens WTE facility
- Inflation
- Higher cost contracts
- Shrinking landfill capacity
- Facility capacity (composting/MRF)
- Improper disposal of Lithium-ion batteries leading to fires
- Facility fires/closures
- Increased energy costs
- Increased vehicle purchase costs
- Driver/worker shortages
- Growing population
- Aging population (higher service demand, increases operations costs)
- Climate change

Solid Waste Management System SWOT Analysis cont.

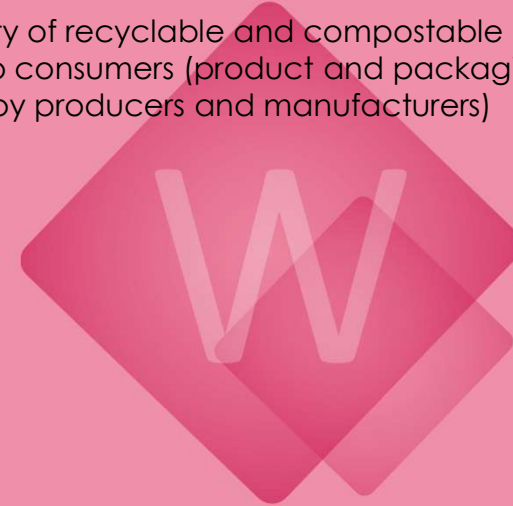
Strengths:

- Young educated environmentally conscious population
- Strong commitment of youth to do the right thing



Weaknesses:

- Low quantity of recyclable and compostable products available to consumers (product and packaging alternatives controlled by producers and manufacturers)



Opportunities:

- Nothing additional



Threats:

- Low prioritization of recycling (personal choices)
- PFAS regulations
 - PFAS are widely used, long lasting chemicals, components of which break down very slowly over time.
 - Scientific studies have shown that exposure to some PFAS in the environment may be linked to harmful health effects in humans and animals.
 - There are thousands of PFAS chemicals, and they are found in many different consumer, commercial, and industrial products. This makes it challenging to study and assess the potential human health and environmental risks.
- Misinformation about recycling

