

Solid Waste Committee Meeting

Virtual Meeting

September 15, 2022

MEETING MINUTES

A meeting of the Arlington County Solid Waste Committee (SWC) was held on Thursday, September 15, 2022 via Microsoft Teams. SWC members in attendance were Carrie Thompson, Dean Amel, Barry Harte, Brian Goggin, John Musso, Charles Meng, Gabriel Calvo, Carolyn White, and Larry Straub. Sam Watzman, Anne Germain, Lisa Worrell, Kimberly Fedinatz, Scott Pedowitz, Marlene RedDoor, Kerm Towler, Saul Reyes, and Julie Sproesser were not in attendance.

Erik Grabowsky, Adam Riedel, and Douglas Krietemeyer were in attendance from the SWB. Stacey Demers and Brent Dieleman were in attendance from SCS Engineers.

Welcome and Introductions

Erik G. and Carrie T. made brief remarks welcoming all the participants to the meeting and turned the meeting over to Stacey Demers and Brent Dieleman from SCS Engineers.

SWB Update

1. Brent and Stacey presented the analysis finding for 10 of the 20 possible goals, these goals present the highest percentage impact on the diversion rate. The goal and its diversion impact are listed below.

Initiative	Estimated Diversion (Tons)	
	Reduced	Diverted
Establish Disposal Ban for Organic Materials	NA	23,500 - 25,100
Support Organics Diversion in MF/COM Sectors	NA	7,340 - 9,780
Implement/Expand Organics Collection at Farmers Markets	NA	180 - 360
Expand Education and Outreach Initiatives	NA	22,550 - 24,800
Implement Waste Reduction Education Campaign	10,400 - 12,500	NA
Implement Hard to Recycle Materials Program	NA	2,830 - 3,540
Evaluate PAYT Collection Program	1,570 - 2,090	1,710 - 2,000
Implement Separate Onsite/Curbside Glass Collection	NA	1,990 - 2,240
Support "Bottle Bill" Legislation	NA	6,560 - 7,000
Support EPR Initiatives	2,120 - 2,820	NA

Note: Upon evaluation the indented lines highlighted yellow are seen as an incremental step or relate to the concept preceding the yellow lines in the list.

2. Questions and Comments

- a. Carrie T. asked what types of penalties do jurisdictions implement when residents don't abide by an organics ban. Stacey D. responded that she hasn't seen a lot of enforcement in this area but if there is the initial focus is on the commercial sector first. Erik G. mentioned that DC has expended staffing to focus on enforcement and education, they tag carts to indicate an issue and the penalty then is that they do not collect until the issue is resolved.
- b. Carolyn W. raised a question about lawn care services and the way they dispose of the grass and yard clippings in plastic versus compostable paper bags.
- c. Discussing glass collection, Erik G. mentioned that the County has purchased three additional containers and will be working to place them in higher density neighborhoods such as Crystal City or Rosslyn to make it more convenient to residents.
- d. Dean A. also made a comment about bottle bills and the concern with them by the environmental sector, saying that a bottle bill could be used to push pyrolysis by the plastics industry. Basically, equating to incineration, and these facilities are typically located in low income or communities of color which is a concern.
- e. John M. asked about CHARM facilities and where one might be placed. Erik explained that there maybe space at the Trades Center for such a facility in the future. Adam R mentioned that they are a facility that collects hard to recycle materials.
- f. Regarding the Pay-As-You-Throw (PAYT) analysis, Carolyn mentioned that Arlington had done a study on this about 15 years ago and that it did not get much traction. Erik also commented that Arlington is already performing where most of the high performing PAYT communities do already exist because of the sophisticated system Arlington has in place. He mentioned that the fee structure for additional black carts is an area for consideration to disincentivize people for a second or third back trash cart.

3. Erik closed out the session.

4. SWC 2022 Meeting Dates

- a. Next meeting will occur October 20, 2022.
- b. Meeting dates through the end of 2022 are:
 - i. November 17, 2022
 - ii. December 15, 2022

Adjourn.