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Background Information

Joanne is the Deputy Executive Director/Recycling Coordinator for the Centre County Recycling & Refuse Authority. She manages the countywide recycling program, including curbside collection from 25,000 households, a system of over 100 drop-off sites; commercial recycling from 600 establishments and a source separated Materials Recovery Facility with a yearly capacity of 15,000 tons. With the Centre County Recycling & Refuse Authority since 1990, she is also responsible for recycling public education throughout Centre County and the marketing of all recyclable commodities from the Centre County MRF. The latest project will be the expansion of food waste recycling to many Centre County businesses. Joanne serves on the Board of PROP and is a past President of the organization. Joanne is one of Pennsylvania's first twelve Senior Certified Recycling Professionals and chairs the Professional Certification Committee. She is also past Chair of the Board of Directors of the Pennsylvania Recycling Markets Center and currently serves on its Board. She serves on the National SMM Standards Board and is a past Chair of the ROC. She is also an advisory member of NERC.

National SMM Plan Recommendations

As the direct-report for over 60 employees from curbside collection to recyclable processing and waste transfer, I understand the importance of training and bringing the precepts of SMM to a new generation of industry professionals. As the leader of one of the first counties in Pennsylvania with a Zero Waste goal, I understand the importance of expanding the recycling mission to Sustainable Materials Management. This needs to happen not only with industry professionals, but with all sectors, including everyone from preschoolers to elected officials. Since we are a global economy (how many automobiles are manufactured in Snow Shoe, for instance?), we need to begin the dialog on at least a national level to support the eventual reuse, recycling or reduction of waste from the manufacturer to the end-of-life of a product. Organics recycling must be expanded nation-wide if we are to aim for a totally sustainable culture. I believe that we must also consider a soil strategy that replenishes agricultural lands as part of our overall SMM Plan. Too often, we overlook these resources in favor of the more easily identifiable and quantifiable traditional recyclables. I would make a recommendation that work on a plan for consistency among the states for measurement of SMM goals. Finally, I would recommend that we consider human resources as part of any national plan. Call it green jobs, jobs through recycling, whatever we wish but any SMM plan needs to consider jobs and economic development if it is to succeed.