Local Policy Tools for Sustainable Materials Management

Betsy Dorn, Reclay StewardEdge, on behalf of the Carton Council

Who is the Carton Council?

Carton manufacturers united to deliver long term collaborative solutions to divert valuable cartons from disposal
Carton Council Approach To Policy

- Carton Council has achieved 55% recycling access however more work is needed.
- Funded research to explore use of policy to drive greater recovery.
- Recycling policies determined to be effective for building both access AND recovery.
- Supports use of local and state policy tools when the right conditions prevail and when implemented using a best practices approach.
- Committed to collaboration with others to further drive these policy objectives.
State Disposal Bans & Recycling Policies
(For Packaging and Printed Paper)

Source: Carton Council Policy Research 2014
Types of Local Recycling Policies

1. Waste Diversion/Recycling Goal and Planning Requirement
   - Local elected body passes directive to achieve specified target or goal. Plans required to show how goal will be met
     - e.g. 50% recycling rate or diversion rate by X year

2. Recycling Participation/Source Separation Requirement
   - Requires source separation of recyclables by all or certain types of generators
     - e.g. single-family, multi-family, commercial
Types of Local Recycling Policies

4. Building Permit Requirement
   - Requirement that construction companies have plans for C&D recycling as a condition of receiving building permit
   - Requirement that multi-family buildings be built with recycling collection and storage space provisions

3. Recycling Service Provision Requirement
   - Waste collection service providers are expected to provide specified recycling services
   - Office building and/or multi-family complex managers must provide recycling opportunities for tenants
Disposal Bans

- Virtually all jurisdictions ban disposal of special waste, e.g. oil and oil filters, whole tires, batteries, and increasingly electronics – often in response to state bans
- Many also ban selected recyclable materials
- Local bans (enforced at disposal site) now less common due to increasing reliance on regional private landfills
- Banning placement of recyclables in waste collection receptacles is much more prevalent at local level
Variable Rate User Fee – Pay as You Throw (PAYT)

- Applies to single family residential generators
- Implemented in over 7000 communities nationwide
- Single most effective tool for increasing waste reduction and recycling when implemented using a best practices approach
Environmentally Preferable Purchasing

- From Alameda County, CA Model Policy:
  - Institute practices that reduce waste by increasing product efficiency and effectiveness
  - Purchase products that minimize environmental impacts, toxics, pollution, and hazards to worker and community safety
  - Purchase products that reduce greenhouse gas emissions in their production, shipping, use and discard
  - Purchase products that include recycled content, are durable and long-lasting, conserve energy and water, use agricultural fibers and residues, use unbleached or chlorine free manufacturing processes, are lead-free and mercury-free, and use wood from sustainably harvested forests
Vision for Sustainable Materials Management

- Universal recycling access
  - Recycle everywhere: home, work, schools, public spaces

- Recyclables not permitted in waste receptacles

- PAYT fee system

- Environmentally preferable purchasing

- At state level:
  - Disposal bans for readily recyclable materials
  - EPR for special wastes
  - Selective product bans (e.g., toxics, marine debris contributors such as microbeads)
Future Policy Decision Making

Local Circumstances Dictate Best Policy Approach

- **Existing Policy:** EPR, deposit, mandates, bans, PAYT
- **Political Climate:** Legislative initiatives, stakeholder positions
- **Available Funding Mechanisms & Programs**
- **Recovery Infrastructure & Access**
Conclusions

- All high-performing programs employ policies to drive greater waste reduction and participation and tonnage diversion through the recycling.
- Substantial opportunity exists to increase waste reduction and recycling by increasing the use of policy paired with complimentary infrastructure and programs.
For More Information

- CartonOpportunities.org

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