
9.0 Plan Development

The County Plan was developed with input from the Olmsted County Environmental Commission, and various stakeholder groups. Olmsted County staff participated in the Rochester Centroid Integrated Solid Waste Management System Stakeholder group process in 2009. Feedback from that process was requested, and considered in the development of this Plan. Meetings were held with various groups beginning in July 2009 through July 2011 to review current waste management practices, activities, issues and plans for the future and request input. Presentations including the following were presented:

- Overview of integrated solid waste management system as it exists today
- Review of waste trends
- Discussion of Olmsted County Board Policy Goals of Fiscal Responsibility and Fairness and limiting liability
- Planned components to protect the investment in the integrated system, the environment, and the people of Olmsted County.
- An outline of the plan
- Other public input opportunities
- Timeline of events
- Opportunity for questions and comments

Comments were received and minor revisions were made as appropriate to assure the Plan was responsive to the needs of the customer. Documentation regarding public participation in the development of this Plan is available at the Environmental Resources Department at 2122 Campus Drive SE in Rochester, Minnesota.

9.1 LICENSED HAULERS

A meeting was held with the waste haulers operating in Olmsted County. Because the haulers, rather than the County have the majority of direct contact with the public, they are a major factor in making the waste reduction program work.

A meeting was held on March 15, 2011 at 9:30 a.m. The following businesses were represented:

- Alli Roll-off Inc.
- Global Resolve

- Green Planet Disposal, Inc.
- Veit Disposal Systems
- Waste Management
- Watson RollOff LLC
- Wm Hanson Waste Removal
- Kellner Services
- Veolia Environmental Services

9.2 ROCHESTER CENTROID STAKEHOLDER MEETINGS

Olmsted County participated in the Rochester Centroid Integrated Solid Waste Management System Stakeholder group process. The stakeholder process stemmed from the 2007 Minnesota Pollution Control Agency Solid Waste Policy Report to the Minnesota Legislature that adopted a recommendation to convene a stakeholder group to develop strategies that can help reach the Minnesota Climate Change Advisory Group (MCCAG) greenhouse gas reduction targets for the solid waste sector. The Integrated Solid Waste Management Stakeholder Process focuses on the four major population centroids that encompass 17 counties and one sanitary district where approximately 70% of the solid waste in the state is generated. The group evaluated the impact of the existing system and various disposal scenarios and their impact on greenhouse gas production.

The Rochester Centroid (consisting of Dodge and Olmsted Counties) developed options and utilized the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) Waste Reduction Model (WARM) to determine the impact of each on greenhouse gas production. A public stakeholder meeting was conducted to receive public input and the options were placed on the website for additional public input.

Over 80 invitations for the Stakeholder meetings were sent to individuals and groups. The meetings were held in conjunction with the regularly scheduled Environmental Commission meeting. Attendance was limited to the Environmental Commission members, and 1 other stakeholder at the meeting held on July 15, 2010 and the Environmental Commission members plus two other stakeholders at the meeting on August 19, 2010. Ten people responded to the survey that was on the website about the existing system and options for future programs.

9.3 TOWNSHIP OFFICER MEETING

On January 27, 2011, 7:00 p.m. County staff presented information on the Solid Waste Management Plan update to the Township Officers Association at their regular meeting.

Comments from the group focused on the following subjects:

- Concern was expressed about changes in on-site disposal rules and a request that if any changes are made in that area that the Township Officers Association be notified.
- Why rural collection boxes were not available like they were in Mower County - Staff responded that cost and contamination issues were the reasons that they had been discontinued in Olmsted County.

9.4 PUBLIC MEETING/OPEN HOUSE

An Open House was also hosted at the Olmsted Waste-to-Energy Facility on Saturday, July 9, 2011 from 1:00 to 3:30 p.m. This open house allowed the general public to tour the Olmsted Waste-to-Energy Facility, learn about the Solid Waste Management programs and plans for the future, and to participate in the process and provide comment. Nine people attended the open house.

9.5 CONTINUED PUBLIC INVOLVEMENT

Olmsted County has an Environmental Commission appointed by the Olmsted County Board of Commissioners. The commission is responsible for formulating and recommending environmental policies and monitoring program implementation to assure coordination and integration of County functions that impact the environment.

Functions of the Environmental Commission include developing and recommending environmental policies and priorities to the County Board. Reviewing, updating, and recommending for final approval environmental plans.

The Commission has representatives from the County Board, City Council, students, and other community members. They review ordinances, monitor the implementation of plans, policies, programs and grants, conduct public hearings/meetings as needed to solicit citizen input on environmental issues, programs, and projects. This Board meets the third Wednesday of every month at 7:15 PM.