

# Waste Reduction Task Force

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## *Public & Private Participation Work Group #2*

**First Meeting – October 18, 2007**

### **Meeting Summary**

Work Group Members Present: Charles Baines, Sami Barile, Sharon Smith, Marty Turbeville (by Phone)

Facilitator: Matt Maynard, TDEC

This meeting was held in conference call format due to the wide range of home locations of the participants. Sami Barile volunteered to present a short recap of the work group's conversations to the Task Force.

After organizing the work group, the topics raised by the Task Force in the Issues and New Direction brainstorming session were reviewed and familiarized. The first to be discussed concerned how to extend accountability beyond the county to industry. Some participants indicated that they had trouble getting data annually from private entities that recycle. The question was then raised whether there was a current law that required private entities to report their numbers to the state. The group was informed that the only recourse currently available is that the Solid Waste Management Act allows the Solid Waste Planning Region to compel the private entity to submit this information. Historically this has proven ineffective.

Another issue raised by the Task Force was how to find the "what's in it for me?" in relation to local governments, state agencies, schools, haulers, landfill operators, etc. Participants discussed local schools; some universities did no recycling while primary schools did good jobs. Others had trouble getting schools to recycle because administrators didn't like containers. Problems getting some municipal governments to participate in recycling were discussed. One member knew of some State government agencies, other than TDEC, not recycling. And the question was raised, how much clout does TDEC have with these other agencies? Issues with getting numbers from private haulers for the Annual Progress Report and the problems that can cause were talked about. It was also mentioned that the group should also consider scrap metal dealers, auto salvage, and construction companies as stakeholders.

The final issued discussed in the meeting was that enforcement of the goal should be balanced and integrated with incentives and disincentives. One incentive talked about was the use of regional or local awards as a way to encourage private companies to recycle. Also, focusing education about recycling toward the monetary savings that a company can benefit from instead of the environmental benefits. The group felt that as a disincentive, no grant money should be given to governments who make no attempt to recycle. And finally, don't threaten fining failing regions because people realize this is a bluff.

**The group requests the following information from TDEC:**

- Disposal numbers, recycling numbers, recycling rates and goal status of each county going back to 2001.
- Information relating to whether there has been a drop off in recycling due to a perceived notion that there is more landfill space available than there used to be.

**Areas to look further into include:**

- Compile a list of all public & private recycling stake holders.
- Compile a pros & cons list of using private numbers while figuring a region's compliance with the goal.

**Next meeting:**

A target of the middle of November was set for the next meeting.