

## Summary of the Final Report of the Economics Sub-Committee of the Solid Waste Management Plan Working Group

### *Incentives to reduce landfilling of municipal waste*

Reduce Municipal Waste Caps by 5%/yr up to 35% in 2008  
Subsidize start-up costs of PAYT until 2008  
Make PAYT or alternative program such as automated collection mandatory in 2008.

### *Incentives to reduce landfilling of commercial waste*

Ban commercial recyclables from the landfill.  
Offer Resource Management technical assistance.  
Increase commercial tipping fee to the rate in adjoining states (\$65/T).  
(The anticipated result of this increase is that ca. 80% of commercial waste would be shipped by rail to low-cost landfills in Ohio or Georgia).

### *Value of landfill space*

Based on projected costs of landfill construction and on costs of disposal in nearby states, the current value of landfill capacity is estimated at approximately \$40/T.

### *Single-stream recycling*

Single-stream recycling (collecting all recyclables together) is much less expensive than dual-stream, but reduces paper value because of glass contamination. Glass currently has virtually no market value and is now used as landfill cover. Processing glass significantly increases maintenance costs at the MRF. If recycling of municipal glass is no longer required, single-stream recycling appears to be feasible, and would dramatically reduce the cost of collecting and hauling recyclables, which currently is from 50 to 100% higher than collecting and hauling garbage.

### *Anticipated results*

The combination of these recommendations, if implemented as recommended, is expected to more than double the life of the existing landfill, and would significantly lower the cost of waste management for municipalities. Note however that RIRRC gross revenues – which come almost entirely from landfill tip fees – would be sharply reduced.

*The full report on which this summary is based can be seen at:*

<http://www.state.ri.us/dem/programs/ombuds/outreach/integsw/econ/pdf/finalrep.pdf>

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