

Yard Waste Collection from the Curb

Separate vs. Comingle

Winter 2015-16

City Meetings

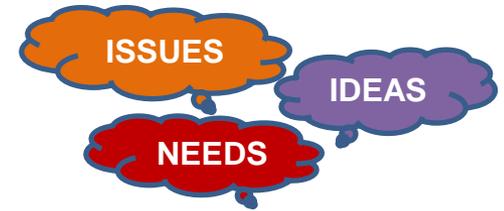
Background



IMPROVING what
we do every day

- 2003: The initial legislation for comingled yard waste was purposed and passed, but vetoed by Gov. Vilsack.
 - Fugitive emissions were a major concern.
- 2008: Regulatory paradigm for landfill management shifted from diversion to a holistic approach of environmental protection, a.k.a. Environmental Management System (EMS)
- Landfills required to continuously improve in areas of recycling, hazardous waste, water quality, **greenhouse gas reduction**, **yard waste management** and environmental education.
- Major improvement: Focus on operations, materials and systems causing most environmental harm; e.g., household hazardous waste: very low tonnage but extremely high toxicity.

Re-examining Our Approach



- EMS changes how we approach landfill management. How we operated under diversion might not be best for the environment.
 - EMS means we challenge assumptions.
- Efficiencies and technology of gas collection systems have improved.
 - Capture rates have increased, emissions have reduced.
- We ask again: *What is the best way to manage yard waste from the curb? Separate collection OR comingling yard waste and garbage.*

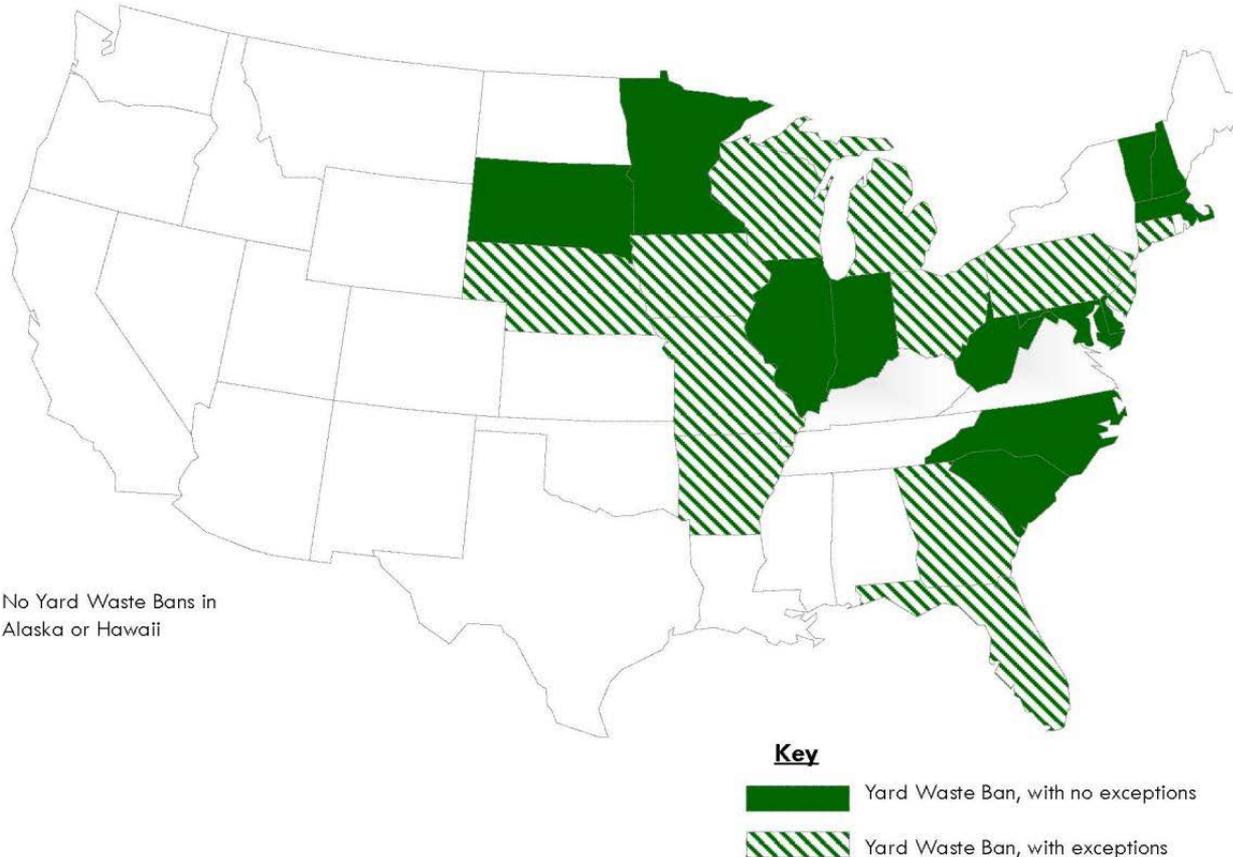


Information Learned

- Legislation passed allowing landfills with gas collection systems generating renewable energy to accept yard waste; Law effective July 1, 2015.
- Gathered information from: environmental studies, public opinion research and cost analysis. We continue to learn more.
- Haulers are willing to amend their solid waste contracts to provide comingled collection.
- Board set policy: no change in collection in 2016.
- If a transition occurs, all communities making it together will ensure the greatest success.

Yard Waste Management in Other States

Only 22 states have full or partial landfill bans



- Before IA, GA & FL passed similar legislation allowing exceptions to yard waste ban.
- Just like Iowa, only landfills with gas-to-energy systems are eligible.

In process of contacting GA, FL, OK, and NE learn where switches occurred and what was learned through the process.

Environmental Impact Comparison

Two studies conclude there is an environmental benefit to comingling yard waste at the curb:

- City of Des Moines contracted Sebesta Blomberg & Associates, Inc – 2008
- Metro Waste Authority contracted SCS Engineers – 2015

Separate Collection	Comingled Collection
Creates a natural soil amendment	Creates electricity
Requires a third, separate fleet of collection trucks	Reduction in trucks reduces greenhouse gas emissions by 11 percent annually
Doesn't consume additional landfill space	Anticipated decrease life of landfill by 15 months (2066 vs. 2067)



+



=

11% annual reduction
in green house
emissions

Environmental Impact

Regardless of how yard waste is collected from the curb, MWA will:

- Continue to compost green waste at Metro Park East Landfill
 - Green waste comes from businesses, landscapers, and residents who self-haul.
 - Compost is used for cover and landscaping at the landfill.
 - Compost will remain for sale in bulk quantities.

- Continue promotion of backyard composting and mulching grass clippings.
 - Composting without transportation is the most environmentally beneficial method to manage green waste.

Are residents landfilling yard waste today? Yes

- 19,800 tons of yard waste per year

(2011 Iowa Statewide Waste Characterization Study)

How Would Comingle Collection Work?

- Solid waste collection is already set up to include yard waste – and to do it year round.
- Treat yard waste the same as garbage. Follow these steps:

STEP 1:

First, fill your garbage cart with garbage and yard waste.



STEP 2:

Garbage cart full? Have extra garbage or yard waste? Bag it, box it or bind it and attach a **\$1 Extra Trash Pick Up sticker**.



OPTIONAL:

Garbage cart routinely full? Consider a second garbage cart.



Public Opinion

Two studies conclude a majority of residents are in favor of comingling yard waste with garbage at the curb:

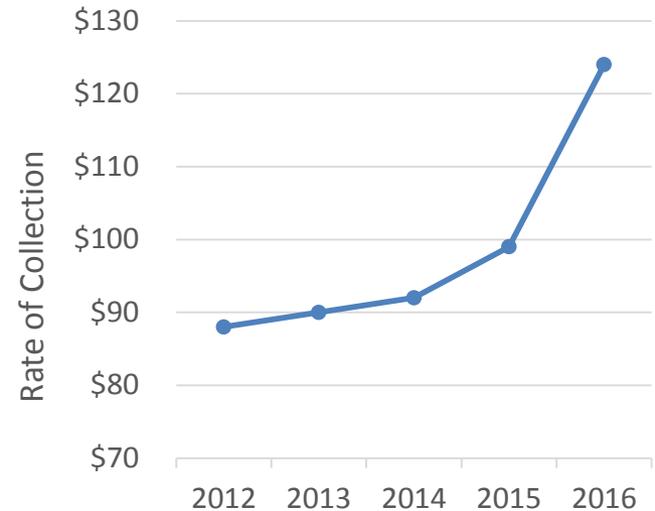
- Metro Waste Authority contracted Flynn Wright – 2015
 - 84% of survey responders prefer the comingled collection option.
 - 44% of survey responders put yard waste in the garbage or burn it currently.
- City of Des Moines conducted a survey – 2015
 - 72% of survey responders prefer the comingled collection option.
 - 35% of survey responders do not use the Compost It! program.

Separate Collection	Comingled Collection
Preference for composting	Convenient
Perception its better for environment	Year-round collection
	Input for renewable energy
	Perception its better for environment

Financial Comparison

Compost It! program costs are rising:

- Increasing rates to collect yard waste.
- Substantial financial investments required to maintain a facility to keep yard waste separate.
- Current model doesn't cover collection and processing costs.
- About 33% of residents surveyed admitted to using their garbage cart to dispose of yard waste.



	Separate Collection	Comingled collection
	“Pay as you throw” system Pay for what is collected outside cart.	Partial “Pay as you throw” Flat fee + what is outside cart (like garbage).
Norwalk Rates		
Yard Waste Bags	Avg. resident uses 10 bags/yr - \$12.50 for stickers	\$9.36/yr + extra trash
Yard Waste Cart	\$105/yr + \$60 cart cost	\$84/yr (\$7.00/mo)

Next Steps

- Collect feedback from City Councils
- Board will determine path forward

