

Advancing Waste Diversion Through Planning & Policy

SWANA FL 2022 Summer Conference

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What Role Does Planning and Policy Development Have in Your Community?



Why Are Formal Plans and Policies So Critical?

- Plans and associated policies and goals help to capture intentions, establish a roadmap towards progress, and ensure accountability
- Plans can help align community goals with state, national, and international goals
- Adopted plans are useful in framing discussions with the public and elected officials
- Adopted plans can help support new programs and initiatives
- Formal plans can help strengthen grant applications
- Plans provide continuity as elected officials and staff change over time

Updating Solid Waste Element of the Comp Plan

- Last updated in 2008
- Primarily focused on disposal
- Capacity challenges and increased population growth
- A need to re-examine the long-term approach to waste management
- Comprehensive Plan update provides a framework for sustainable solid waste policy



Hillsborough's Solid Waste Update Background



- Language developed collaboratively with Solid Waste Department, Planning Commission, and Innovation and Resiliency Section
- Sets long range policy for sustainable solid waste management:
 - Provides framework for reducing waste generation and maximizing waste diversion from County operations
 - Explores new opportunities for beneficial use of waste
 - Policy direction to guide programmatic enhancements and capital projects

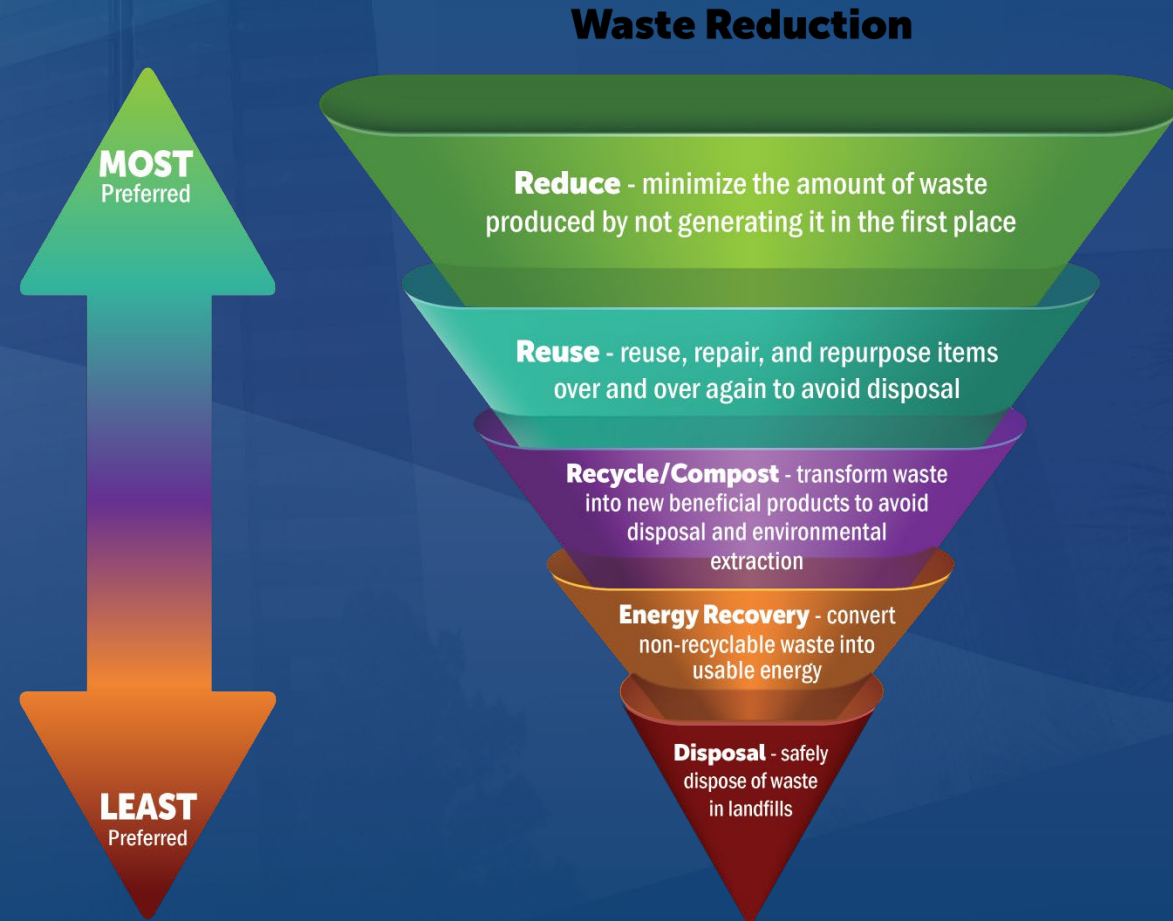
Stakeholder and Public Engagement

- Formal announcements, newsletter articles, project webpage, reference documents and virtual public outreach conducted April-June 2021
- Also targeted solid waste industry stakeholders, neighborhood and community associations, environmental organizations, agriculture, and the building/development community
- Received input from Planning Commission and Board of County Commissioners



New Solid Waste Chapter Summary

- Shift from a disposal focused plan to one centered on the integrated hierarchy of waste management
- County as a leader both in practices and by example
- Expanded policy language on waste reduction, reuse, and recycling
- Emphasis on leveraging waste as a resource and energy recovery
- Increased focus on coordination, partnerships and collaboration



Comp Plan Key Policy - Highlights

- 1.1.2 Support state and federal efforts to establish producer responsibility systems (e.g. product redesigns) in reducing waste generation at the source and end of life management of materials; explore methods to enhance local producer responsibility.
- 1.1.3 Expand partnerships with the public, private and nonprofit sector to enhance community reuse opportunities and increase organics recovery and composting infrastructure.
- 1.1.4 Pursuant to state statutes, require new commercial and multi-family developments to provide adequate space and receptacles for recycling infrastructure.
- 1.1.5 Explore a phased approach to universal recycling to expand recycling to all commercial and multi-family properties.
- 1.1.6 Explore and support approaches to increase waste diversion from construction-related activities.
- 1.2.2 Implement policies and programs to recover organics from the waste stream for beneficial use.
- 1.3.1 Continue education and outreach to support citizen awareness regarding waste reduction strategies such as composting, reducing contamination in recycling and utilizing reusable materials.
- 1.3.7 Continue collaboration with regional partners on solid waste projects and programs.

Policy Win!- Requiring Recycling Infrastructure with New Commercial Development

- THE LANGUAGE YOU USE MATTERS!
 - Comp Plan Policy 1.1.5- Explore a phased approach to universal recycling to expand recycling to all commercial and multi-family properties.
- Sec. 6.03.15 of Site Development Plan Design Standards for Dumpster and Recycling Collection Space
 - *“All new construction of commercial or industrial uses, and multifamily residential developments that do not receive curbside service, shall provide sufficient, on-site space for the placement and servicing of solid waste containers required for trash disposal and at least one container for recyclable materials collection.”*

Developing a Sustainability Action Plan

- Off shoot of the County's pursuit of LEED for Cities & Communities certification process
- Process led by another department but provided an opportunity
- Generally aligns with United Nations Sustainable Development Goals
- Nearly all departments actively participated, some more than others
- Accelerated collaboration with internal and external stakeholders



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WASTE REDUCTION

OBJECTIVE 7 *Increase Waste Diversion from Landfills*

- g7.1** Adopt an integrated hierarchy of waste management
- g7.2** Implement waste reduction policies for County-sponsored and permitted events
- c7.1** Increase organics waste diversion
- c7.2** Increase construction & demolition debris recycling
- c7.3** Revise minimum trash collection for qualifying businesses
- c7.4** Increase reuse of materials brought to County Community Collection Centers

OBJECTIVE 8 *Materials Management & Purchasing*

- g8.1** Develop Countywide environmentally preferred purchasing and disposal standards
- g8.2** Continue transition to paperless systems
- g8.3** Evaluate banning the use and sale of certain items on County properties
- g8.4** Develop standard operating procedure for surplus warehouse property transfers

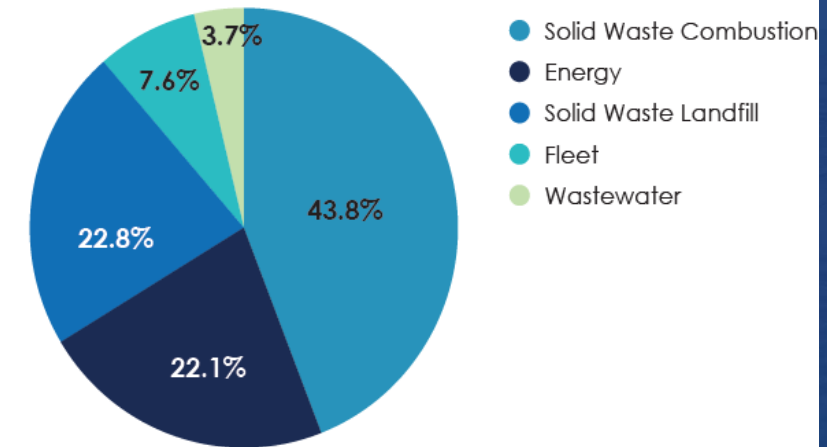
OBJECTIVE 9 *Expand Access to Recycling*

- g9.1** Require recycling for all County facilities
- g9.2** Evaluate adding materials to accepted program recyclables
- c9.1** Implement a universal recycling ordinance
- c9.2** Curbside recycling education and enforcement (to reduce contamination in recycling)

OBJECTIVE 10 *Emerging Waste Management Technologies & Practices*

- g10.1** Evaluate emerging technologies to increase waste diversion from the landfill
- g10.2** Increase beneficial utilization of Waste-to-Energy (WTE) Ash
- g10.3** Expand RRF self-serving energy campus

GOVERNMENT OPERATIONS GHG EMISSIONS BY CATEGORY



County's Solid Waste Master Plan

Master Plan Goals

Maintain predictable solid waste rates that cover the cost of service

Minimize landfill disposal

Maximize efficiency, productivity, and useful life of the RRF

Decrease contamination in curbside recycling by 5% by 2020

Collaborate with other jurisdictions within the County to increase recycling and diversion

Increase recycling within the commercial and multi-family sectors in the service area.

- Developed in FY14-15 with a 20 year horizon
- More narrowly focused on Solid Waste Department goals and needs
 - Analyzed trends, tonnage projections, facilities, financial considerations
- Used to help guide internal departmental decisions
- Was not formally adopted by Board of County Commissioners
- County intends to start the update process soon.



Closing Tips on Leveraging Planning Efforts

- The planning process itself can be valuable in identifying stakeholders and partners within and outside of your organization that can help advance your policy goals.
- Be sure to utilize other planning efforts within your community to advance your goals even if you aren't driving the process.
- Having plans formally adopted by your elected officials adds value, longevity, and strength.
- Use adopted plans as a touch stone to review new programs, initiatives, grant applications, proposals, etc.

Questions?

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“Failing to plan is planning to fail.”

-attributed to Benjamin Franklin