

BURNT Legislative Outreach—week of 20 February 2009

Please see the attached file with our flyers to the Metro Council (17 February) and General Assembly (18 February). These written commentaries, delivered in person, are one of our primary methods of influencing decision makers. Being present and accounted for allows us to get feed back from elected officials as well as other participants including workers and non-elected officials.

One of the true shortcomings of our state is how little we spend on the making of laws. Apparently, only New Hampshire spends less per capita on its legislature than Tennessee. This is quite apparent. The Tennessee General Assembly has few professional staff on specific topics such as solid waste, water, children's health, or agriculture. NOTE: we complement the Senate and House leadership for vastly upgraded format on electronic communication concerning the General Assembly. To go to the General Assembly web site, link to <http://www.legislature.state.tn.us/>

Our primary goal now is solid waste reform. We have multiple issues we are pushing from need to research how to compost food and yard waste (25% of waste stream) which includes collection, processing, and financing the processing of organic waste.

On 3 February the State Solid Waste Disposal Board deferred further consideration of solid waste regulations until June 2009. We are working now to research and develop alternatives for food and yard waste; construction and demolition waste;; and electronic waste, which is likely to flood the system.

BURNT has opportunities for people to do electronic outreach for our group such as "My Space", research into composting, or development activities.

Please call 615-327-8515 or write burnt.tn@gmail.com