

# **BURNT**

Metropolitan Council 17 February 2009

METRO CAN TAKE A LEADERSHIP ROLE

## **STATE SOLID WASTE REFORM IS GOING WELL**

PROPOSED SOLID WASTE REGULATIONS TWICE REJECTED BY STATE BOARD

What do these Regulations propose?—MORE reports, UNFUNDED Local mandates, MORE inaccurate numbers, MORE Landfills **What Is Wrong With These Proposed Solid Waste Regulations?** “If you understand waste composition, solutions fall like rain from the sky” [Peter Anderson, national solid waste expert] [go to [www.burnt-tn.org](http://www.burnt-tn.org) to see the proposed regulations and our campaign against the regulations] **What is in solid waste?** *Food waste* (12%), *yard waste* (13%), *paper/cardboard* (36%), *construction and demolition* (20%), and *metals* (9%), *miscellaneous* (10%). **So what should state regulations do based on content**

>>composting food and yard waste—25%—keep it separate when pick up.

>>largest 18 counties generate 50% of the waste.

>>construction and demolition waste is a top priority

>>how can large food stores, universities, public schools, business parks, and restaurants compost food/yard waste and process other waste

--Once we identify HOW to compost food waste from large food stores such as Kroger's (1,000 pounds weekly), schools and colleges, hospitals, restaurants, and businesses we should start immediately. **NOTE:** Keeping food and yard waste O-U-T of landfills, eliminates methane gas from landfills—the equivalent, in terms of green house gasses, of shutting down 21% of coal power plants.

### **ALL Metro Solid Waste Problems Come From the State**

This is very clear. If the enabling act and State enforcement are confused, how could we expect local practices to be better? **BURNT** has filed complaints about the ‘solid waste statistics’ used in a ‘Metro Solid Waste Plan’ by two engineers. We believe this “Plan” should be rewritten to analyze solutions and diversion to provide a model for the state. BURNT hopes Metro will support *new* State regulations which mandate composting food and yard waste—25% of the waste stream. **Composting food and yard waste—and keeping it separate when collecting waste**—is the fundamental key to reform in Tennessee.

Metro Nashville government as the State capitol and 2<sup>nd</sup> largest city, can play a key role in State Solid Waste reform by pushing for regulations which require that food and yard waste be kept separate from other waste streams and composted NOT landfilled.

### **One Other Thing For Metro To Do**

Metro government and local businesses spend \$25 million annually to landfill solid waste. We can create jobs by using solid waste as a raw material in business and compost—not as landfill material. Federal funding to create jobs and recovery is searching for quick turn around projects. **Solid waste provides the raw material and low capitol needs to create jobs n business and compost.** Metro should support any efforts by Tennessee State University and Middle Tennessee State to develop these economic recovery programs.

615.327.8515

P.O. BOX 128555

NASHVILLE, TENNESSEE 37212

[burnt.tn@gmail.com](mailto:burnt.tn@gmail.com)

***A Member Of Community Shares***

**BURNT**

Metropolitan Council

3 March 2009

*A Member Of Community Shares*

P. O. BOX 128555 NASHVILLE [37212]

PH. 615.327.8515

WWW.BURNT-TN.ORG burnt.tn@ gmail.com

## **Metro Solid Waste Numbers—No So Funny**

BURNT has pursued its claim that numbers used in the 'Regional Solid Waste Plan' were inaccurate. Unfortunately, we had to go to a State Licensing Board for consideration. The numbers are very open to criticism—Metro claimed approximately 327,000 tons of solid waste diversion based on unverified one page faxes from eleven (11) companies. There was no further inquiries or verification. **If Metro had contacted another 20 companies then we could have had the world's first "Zero Waste" City.** Also, we object to the entire report which is mostly backwards looking and extolling a high rate of recycling. We repeatedly asked for a report on how to separate out food waste (12% of waste stream) and yard waste (13%) to divert this waste from landfills where it creates dangerous methane gas and groundwater pollution. We asked for a 'carbon footprint' as the Mayor required of other Departments. We think this report and reliance on these numbers is dangerous. Would a Metro Public Works engineer build a bridge with unverified numbers? We ask for a new solid waste plan, or appendix, which solves future problems not creates false records of the old problems. >>>**A real problem is with the Purchasing Department which adamantly refused to address a well documented complaint from a citizen.** This is myopic. This is no way to run a nearly \$2 billion government. >>>**ADD Finance Department**—for years BURNT has repeatedly requested that web site for every Department contain a pie chart demonstrating what slice of the Metro budget goes to that Department and also what are the approximate expenses within the Department.

### **Metro Council Support Good State Solid Waste Planning and TSU**

**We ask the Metropolitan Council to support by Resolution and possible funding solid waste planning at Tennessee State University and Middle Tennessee State University.** A bill has been filed in the General Assembly *SB 2180/HB 2216* enabling the Tennessee Department of Environment and Conservation (TDEC) to work for funding from business, foundation, and federal sources to fund this work. *New Regional EPA Administrators are proving to be opposed to landfills and incinerators previously favored.* TSU is meeting weekly to develop a program for jobs stimulus under the Federal recovery package. This work is entirely appropriate for TSU with their strong Civil Engineering Department. **Further, with Tennessee's record of environmental disasters at landfills, TDEC needs another consultant.** Consider the Coal Ash Class II Landfill disaster. Or, Dickson County—a 75 acre landfill is now 15 square miles of groundwater pollution. Tennessee is the ONLY state to credit landfilled construction waste toward the diversion goal for compost and recycling

**Metro SHOULD Support Our Hometown Universities to Improve State Solid Waste Policy**

### **Mayor's Green Ribbon Committee**

BURNT attended quite a few meetings of the Mayor's Green Ribbon Committee which, at times, was difficult to do considering it was hard to know when or if they met. BURNT will submit a list of recommendations we will submit to the Mayor. We were very impressed with the citizens on the Committee. **Our primary concern is who is going to create this change?** Who will stay the course? First, we have to acknowledge Tennessee and Nashville are poor, backwards, and extremely un-green. Infant mortality is worse in Tennessee than Cuba or Hungary. In a state with very low education standards, Davidson County is one of two counties under State control due to poor performance. **ONE RECOMMENDATION**—several cities in Tennessee are under going "Green Ribbon" processes. Join together