

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 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 2nd 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.

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