

Mayor's Green Ribbon Committee

BURNT supports the Mayor's Green Ribbon Committee. We have been very impressed with the quality of the Committee members. There is depth to management with professional consultants backing Metro staff. Apparently, the Committee is preparing initial recommendations for release soon. No one has more support for such change than BURNT. *Our real concern is that from committee members to staff, who has played this game before?* It is simply not clear who has a burning desire for change. There is not much recognition that is very unlikely that Nashville ranks in the Top 100 of American cities in ANY Green Index from parks to schools to air quality to water to quality of government....and, furthermore, there are definite reasons for this. It is very difficult to fix a problem—Nashville's environment—without understanding the scope and root of the problem. We applaud the Mayor's Green Ribbon Committee. It is a special and important effort. We note that several other cities in Tennessee are going through this process. We want to be a positive part of this.

Metro Solid Waste Plan

A Not So Green Effort to Pass Counterfeit Numbers

The Metropolitan Regional Solid Waste Board (Davidson County) has been an open Agency which has conscientiously worked within the limits of State law to decide permit applications and solid waste plans. However, the Regional Board inexplicably departed from their pattern to pass a "Solid Waste Plan" which relies on grossly inaccurate numbers. The problem is that this "Plan" will guide expenditures of hundreds of millions of dollars by Metropolitan Government and Nashville businesses. **NOTE** BURNT has filed complaints with Metro Purchasing, the State Department of Environment and Conservation, and Public Works.

What Are the Distortions in the Metropolitan Nashville Solid Waste Plan?

A. "Davidson County 2007 Solid Waste and Disposal Data" **TABLE 3-1** [pg. 14] lists recycling totals for the private sector and public sector down to 20 pounds--a hundredth of a ton--which is complete fiction. It is absolutely impossible to know the composition of the waste stream down to 20 pounds. For example, **Table 3-1** claims the private sector generates 46,328.58 tons of "Corrugated cardboard" in 2007 and 128,001.17 tons of "Ferrous Metals" which is impossible to know.

B. **Table 3-1** claims "Total Public and Private Sector Recycling" is 421,405.46 tons or 33% of the waste stream--again, a completely fabricated number. There is absolutely no way Metro Nashville recycles 33% of the waste stream. Table 3-1 is the key to the entire study. These false, made up numbers have no basis in fact yet will determine years of public tax dollar expenditures.

C. **Table 5-2** [pg. 39] claims that from year 2008 to year 2017 ALL [100%] industrial recyclables will be recycled. This is an incredible claim which has no basis in fact or reality. This false claim is a strategy to justify and camouflage high landfilling.

D. The engineers did not consider the full cost of landfilling to Metro government and business (approximately \$25 million annually), yet the "Solid Waste Plan" did not analyze costs of composting and diverting portions of the waste stream. This "Solid Waste Plan" is a serious injury to public discourse and decision making.

cc Office of the Mayor, Public Works, Metro Purchasing, Regional Solid Waste Board