

# Lee County Five Year Solid Waste Plan Update (Addendum #1)

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## Introduction

The Solid Waste Planning and Recycling Act requires that Lee County's Solid Waste Management Plan, adopted in 1993, "shall be updated and reviewed every 5 years...". This updating process is not only required by state law, it makes practical sense to review the Lee County Solid Waste Management Plan on a periodic basis to keep up to date with changes in waste management practices, market conditions, and local priorities and needs.

This 1998 Plan Update represents an addendum (Addendum No. 1) to the 1993 Lee County Solid Waste Management Plan (the "1993 Plan"). The 1998 Plan Update was approved by the Lee County Board on October 20, 1998. The 1998 Plan Update does contain new recommendations that were either not included in the 1993 Plan or revise a recommendation in the 1993 Plan. In those instances, the 1998 Plan Update is the controlling policy document. In all other instances, the recommendations in the 1993 Plan remain the solid waste policy of Lee County.

The 1998 Plan Update has been divided into the following remaining sections:

- Status of Efforts to Implement the 1993 Plan
- Recycling Program Status
- 1998 Plan Update Recommendations and Implementation Schedule

### Status of Efforts to Implement the 1993 Plan.

The 1993 Plan was a very comprehensive planning document which contained specific recommendations developed by the Lee County Citizens Advisory Committee (CAC) and ultimately approved by the Lee County Board. The 1993 Plan contained recommendations for the following waste management programs and/or facilities, which were fully explored in chapters contained in Volume I of the 1993 Plan:

- Source reduction
- Management of household hazardous waste

- Recycling, reuse and landscape waste management
- Alternative technologies
- Incineration for energy recovery and volume reduction
- Landfilling
- Transfer stations

Altogether, the 1993 Plan contained 40 recommendations, approved by the CAC, which addressed the waste management programs and/or facilities listed above. These recommendations were then utilized to develop a fully integrated solid waste management system for Lee County as described in Volume II, Chapters 4 and 5 of the 1993 Plan.

Table 1 contains a listing of the 23 primary recommendations contained in the 1993 Plan. the table also indicates whether the recommendation has been implemented, partially implemented or not implemented, as of October 20, 1998.

<b><u>1993 PLAN RECOMMENDATION</u></b>	<b><u>STATUS</u></b>
1. Create and fund a Solid Waste Coordinator position.	Implemented
2. Assemble an information clearinghouse on source reduction, recycling, composting, and household hazardous waste (HHW).	Implemented
3. In conjunction with the Regional Superintendent, conduct a survey of current school curriculum and develop and implement revisions and additions to the curriculum.	Partially implemented
4. Create a regular newspaper column and/or newsletter	Implemented
5. Create a public achievement award program to publicize and recognize outstanding source reduction and/or recycling programs in the County	Not implemented
6. Evaluate and implement volume-based disposal rates in the unincorporated areas of the County and strongly encourage municipalities to implement volume based disposal rates.	Partially implemented
7. Conduct waste audits of each County facility and implement appropriate source reduction, recycling and procurement programs.	Partially implemented
8. Provide waste audit assistance to interested local businesses and units of local government.	Partially implemented
9. Enact an ordinance requiring haulers to obtain a license from the County and to offer recycling services to their residential customers.	Not Implemented

10. Enact an ordinance requiring haulers to obtain license from the County and to offer recycling services to their commercial, institutional, and industrial customers.	Not implemented
11. Design and implement a drop-off recycling program	Implemented
12. Evaluate and revise County procurement guidelines to increase the purchase of products that will decrease the amount of waste generated by the County and/or that contain recycled matters.	Not Implemented
13. Assist other unites of local government and school districts and revise their procurement guidelines.	Not implemented
14. Develop, implement and administer an on-going recyclables and final disposal recordkeeping system.	Implemented
15. Enact and enforce an anti-dumping ordinance in the unincorporated part of the County.	Not Implemented
16. Develop and implement a household and CESQG hazardous waste education program to encourage the reduction and proper handling of hazardous materials.	Not implemented
17. Encourage the collection of used oil and the collection/exchange of paint.	Partially implemented
18. Evaluate options for managing household hazardous waste.	Partially implemented
19. Evaluate options for managing white goods.	Not implemented
20. Evaluate options for managing construction/demolition debris	Not implemented
21. Review and update the County's siting ordinance for pollution control facilities, in particular, landfills and transfer stations.	Implemented
22. Strongly encourage municipalities to enact a similar siting ordinance.	Not implemented
23. Enter into a host agreement to obtain long term (20 years) disposal capacity for waste generated in the county, host fees and additional environmental protections.	Implemented.

As Table 1 indicates, the County has made tremendous progress implementing its 1993 Plan. Currently, over 50% of the County's residents have access to curbside recycling, three drop-off recycling centers have been opened, over 100 local businesses and institutions have recycling programs, and the County has a guarantee of 20 years of disposal capacity at the Lee County landfill, which is a state of the art landfill scheduled to open in October of 1998. Only five years ago, approximately 5% of the County's households had curbside service and the Dixon Landfill was scheduled for closure.

Lee County did amend its 1993 Plan once during the past five years. The amendment was necessitate by the signing of a Solid Waste Management Agreement (i.e., Host County Agreement) with Allied Waste Industries of Illinois, Inc. The three change to the 1993 Plan, approved by County Board resolution (see Attachment A) on February 21, 1995 are as follows:

1. Disposal Program #2 (i.e., in-county landfill) was recognized as the recommended disposal program in Lee County (a second option or Disposal Program #1 was presented in the 1993 Plan, which called for the County to export all its waste based on the assumption that the Dixon landfill would close and no new landfill capacity would be developed in the County).
2. The filing fee for landfills would be \$75,000 (the 1993 Plan recommended a filing fee of \$150,000 for landfills) and in the event the costs exceeded \$75,000 the applicant and siting authority would evenly split the next \$50,000 in costs and any costs in excess of \$125,000 would be borne solely by the siting authority.
3. The second paragraph on page 3-15 and 4-15 and the first bullet listed on page 5-5 of Volume II of the 1993 were deleted in their entirety.

The next section contains more information on the status of the County's recycling program.

#### Recycling Program Status:

In 1993 Lee County's recycling rate was approximately 11%, with the majority of recycling occurring in the commercial sector, not the residential sector. Over the past five years the recycling rate has increased to approximately 25% in calendar year 1997, with a majority of the increase due to new programs targeted at the residential sector. Approximately 50% of the County's residents have access to curb side recycling with the City of Dixon leading the way with its curbside program. Dixon's curbside program was enhanced in May of 1998 to include the collection of all plastic containers, cardboard, and mixed paper (in addition to glass, metals and newspaper). Successful curbside recycling programs are also operating in Amboy, Ashton, Lee and Sublette. There is also a drop-off recycling center located in Paw Paw.

At its August 18, 1998 meeting, the County Board approved a contract with Moring Disposal, Inc. to establish and operate three new drop-off recycling centers. The three recycling centers were opened on October 15, 1998. The centers provide additional recycling opportunities for the remainder of the County's residents and businesses not currently provided with convenient and economical recycling opportunities. The sites are located in Ashton, Dixon and Franklin Grove. Each site accepts the following materials: aluminum cans and foil, tin and bi-metal cans, glass food and beverage containers, (green, brown and clear), plastic containers with the numbers 1-7 on the bottom newspaper, cardboard, office paper, magazines, catalogs, phone books, junk mail and chipboard.

### 1998 plan Update recommendations and Implementation Schedule:

In order to gain broad based consensus on the types of programs and policies Lee County should focus on during the next five years a 30 member Citizens Advisory Committee (see Attachment B for a list of members ) was formed and held two meetings. The meetings were held on February 26, 1998 and March 26, 1998. The purpose of the meetings was to discuss the County's current status implementing its 1993 Plan and to determine whether certain 1993 Plan recommendations needed to be deleted, modified or added to. The following is a list of the recommendations approved by the CAC and the Lee County Board.

1. The Office of Solid Waste Management will be maintained to continue implementation of the County's Plan.
2. The informational clearinghouse will continue to be upgraded and the Office of Solid Waste Management will develop a question/answer fact sheet to address commonly asked questions regarding recycling, managing hazardous waste and waste disposal.
3. The Solid Waste Coordinator will meet with the schools and determine where they need county assistance. The cooperation between the County and local schools on recycling and waste management issues will be enhance.
4. The addition to the regular newspaper column, the Solid Waste Coordinator will conduct more speaking engagements for local groups, conduct periodic radio interviews, and assess the need for and feasibility of creating a regular newsletter and a solid waste hotline.
5. The County will develop a public achievement award program.
6. The County will not evaluate and implement volume-based disposal rates in the unincorporated areas of the County as recommended in the 1993 Plan. The County will assist municipalities with volume-based programs when asked for assistance.
7. The County will conduct waste audits of County facilities and implement waste reduction programs.
8. The County will provide waste audit assistance to interested businesses and units of local government.
9. The County will not license the haulers and will not mandate recycling by the generator as recommended in the 1993 Plan. If requested, the County will assist municipalities develop a regional bidding process for residential hauling services.
10. The County will implement a drop-off recycling program in Lee County.
11. The County will evaluate and expand its current procurement of recycled content paper products. This evaluation and expansion will include: 1) estimating the current percentage of paper products that contain recycled content, and 2) establishing a goal to increase the base line procurement percentage by 25 percentage points. Quality is a key issue and a price cap of 5% will be allowed for recycled content paper products.

12. The County will continue to conduct an annual survey to estimate the amount of material recycled and disposed of by Lee County.

13. The County will conduct a feasibility study to determine the most efficient and economical way to collect and properly manage household hazardous waste, used oil, paint, used tires, and major appliances. The feasibility study will evaluate the relative need for collection programs for each of the listed materials, potential programs for collecting these materials, the cost for the programs, and whether the program should be funded and operated by the public sector, rely on the private sector to provide the service, or a combination of public-private sector involvement.

14. The County will evaluate the need for and type of programs available and feasible, both technically and economically, for recycling or reducing the amount of construction/demolition debris.

15. In light of several key Illinois Pollution Control Board and Appellate Court decisions involving the siting of landfills over the last five years, the County will evaluate its Siting Ordinance and make any appropriate changes. The County will send a copy of its revised ordinance to each municipality and strongly encourage each municipality to enact a similar siting ordinance.

16. The County will rely on the Lee County Landfill for its long-term disposal capacity pursuant to its Solid Waste Management Agreement with Allied Waste Industries of Illinois, Inc. For the next five years, from the date this plan addendum is approved by the Lee County Board, there shall not be any new landfills sited or expanded in Lee County.

The 16 recommendations listed above represent the solid waste management policy and direction of Lee County during the next five years. Table 2 provides an estimated implementation schedule for the 16 recommendations.

**PLAN UPDATE RECOMMENDATION**

**IMPLEMENTATION DATE**

1. Continue to maintain the Lee County Office of Solid Waste Management	Ongoing for the next five years.
2. Continue to upgrade the informational clearinghouse and develop a question/answer fact sheet	Ongoing for upgrading the clearinghouse and fact sheet by spring of 1999
3. meet with schools and enhance cooperation	Ongoing for next five years
4. Continue regular newspaper column and conduct additional public information meetings and interviews.	Ongoing for next five years
5. Develop a public achievement award program to publicize and recognize outstanding source reduction and/or recycling programs in the County	Fall of 1999
Assist municipalities with volume based disposal programs when asked	Ongoing for next five years

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| 6. Assist municipalities with volume based disposal programs when asked  | Ongoing for next five years |
| 7. Conduct waste audits of County facilities and implement appropriate source reduction and recycling programs   | Summer of 1999              |
| 8. Provide waste audit assistance to interested local businesses and units of local government   | Ongoing for next five years |
| 9. Assist municipalities develop a regional bidding process for residential hauling services when asked  | Ongoing for next five years |
| 10. Implement a drop-off recycling program   | Fall of 1998                |
| 11. Evaluate and revise County procurement guidelines to increase the purchase of products that will decrease the amount of waste generated by the County and/or that contain recycled materials | Fall of 1999                |
| 12. Continue to conduct an annual survey to estimate the amount of material recycle and disposed of by Lee County  | Ongoing for next five years |
| 13. Conduct a feasibility study to determine the most efficient and economical way to collect and properly manage household hazardous waste, used oil, paint, used tires, and major appliances   | Spring of 2000              |
| 14. Evaluate options for managing construction/demolition debris.  | Spring of 2001              |
| 15. Review and update the County's siting ordinance for pollution control facilities   | Fall of 1999                |
| 16. Continue to rely on the Lee County Landfill for disposal capacity for at least the next five years   | Ongoing for next five years |