

Executive Summary

Lee County began its solid waste planning process in October of 1990 upon receiving a Phase I planning grant from the Illinois Environmental Protection Agency (IEPA). The Phase I Needs Assessment Report was finalized in October, 1991. The County then obtained a Phase II planning grant from the IEPA and began its Phase II planning process in November, 1991. During Phase II, the County officials, the Lee County Citizens Advisory Committee (CAC) and general public focused on building a consensus on how to manage the County's waste for at least the next 20 years. The Lee County Board adopted the Solid Waste Management Plan on August 18, 1993. The results of the Phase II planning process are contained in a two volume report: Volume I - Solid Waste Management Alternatives and Volume II - Solid Waste Management Plan.

The Lee County CAC played an instrumental role in the analysis of alternatives and recommending a long-term waste management system for the County. The Lee County Board was responsible for final review of the draft Phase II reports and gave authorization to place the draft Phase II reports on file for the 90 day public comment period (May 19, 1993 - August 17, 1993).

The CAC began meeting on a monthly basis in November, 1991. From November, 1991 to November, 1992, the CAC reviewed outlines, handouts and technical reports (i.e. chapters) on source reduction; household hazardous waste management; recycling, reuse and landscape waste management; alternative technologies; landfilling; and transfer stations. Preliminary recommendations were developed for each technical report and combined these reports represent Volume I.

The remaining monthly meetings (January, 1992 through March, 1993) focused on developing consensus on the final waste management system; identifying which entities would be responsible for implementing the Plan; analysis of the economic and environmental advantages and disadvantages of the proposed Plan; estimated life cycle costs; specific implementation tasks; and, a time schedule for implementing the Plan.

Lee County's Current Waste Management System

Total non-hazardous waste generation in Lee County in 1993 is estimated to be approximately 38,500 tons. The waste generation is broken down by sector as follows: 40 percent is commercial; 38 percent is residential; 21 percent is industrial; and, less than one percent is sewage sludge. Municipal waste (MW) which is a subset of total waste is estimated to be approximately 31,500 tons in 1993. This is equivalent to 5.0 pounds per capita per day. By the year 2013, it is estimated that Lee County will generate approximately 38,600 tons of total waste and 31,300 tons of MW.

The majority of MW generated in Lee County is landfilled. Based on information updated from the Phase I Needs Assessment study, approximately 83 percent of the MW generated in the County will be landfilled in 1993. The remainder of the MW will be recycled (12 percent), incinerated (three percent), or composted (two percent). As a result, based on 1993 waste management practices, Lee County is achieving a 14 percent (12 percent recycled plus two percent composted) MW recycling rate.

There is one operating landfill in Lee County - the Dixon Landfill. Currently 92 percent of the County's total waste is landfilled at the Dixon Landfill with the remainder of the waste being exported to the Whiteside County Landfill in Whiteside County, the Rochelle Municipal Landfill in Ogle County, and DeKalb County Landfill in Dekalb County.

In September of 1992 the Dixon Landfill temporarily closed while awaiting a permit (which was issued in October, 1992) to initiate closure of the landfill with a final closure date of September 1, 1993. After this date, Lee County will no longer have an operating landfill within its borders unless an agreement is reached to keep the landfill open.

In June, 1992 Finger Disposal filed a siting application with the County Board for a regional transfer station/recycling center to be located near the Dixon Landfill. Hearings were held in September and the County Board granted siting approval for the facility in November, 1992. The facility still must obtain an IEPA permit before commencing operation as a transfer station.

PROPOSED WASTE MANAGEMENT SYSTEM FOR LEE COUNTY

After conducting a comprehensive review of the numerous programs and facilities available for managing its wastestream (see Volume I of the Phase II plan), Lee County is proposing an integrated approach to managing its waste. The integrated approach will include source reduction, household hazardous waste management, recycling, reuse, landscape waste management, transfer station(s) and landfilling.

The following bulleted items describe the primary components of Lee County's Solid Waste Management Plan.

- **Source Reduction-** The source reduction program will include: 1) an extensive education program, (including a survey, in conjunction with the Regional Superintendent, of current school curriculum on waste reduction), 2) local government waste audits, 3) evaluation and implementation of volume-based disposal in the unincorporated areas of the County and strong encouragement of the municipalities to implement volume-based rates, and 4) support for environmentally and economically responsible source reduction legislation and regulations. The County is committed to source reduction and believes that

efforts to reduce the amount of refuse before it is generated are the best solution to waste management.

- Household Hazardous Waste Management- Education will be the primary component of the County's household hazardous waste (HHW) management program. The education program will focus on explaining the potential health and environmental impacts of HHW; how to minimize the impact through proper disposal; and the substitutes available for products containing hazardous materials. The education program will also target conditionally exempt small quantity generators of (CESQG) hazardous waste. The County will also encourage the automotive businesses in the County to accept used motor oil and determine the feasibility of providing paint exchange services. The City of Dixon was the location of a HHW collection project on April 24, 1993. The County will evaluate the HHW collection project and decide whether to host additional HHW collection projects and whether to pursue the establishment of a permanent collection site, with the assistance of State funding from the IEPA.
- Recycling and Reuse - The County will implement mandatory residential, commercial (including institutional), and industrial recycling programs throughout the County. All haulers operating in Lee County will be required to obtain a license, and as a condition of obtaining a license, offer recycling programs to their residential, commercial and industrial clients. In addition, haulers will not knowingly pick-up waste in Lee County which contains recyclable for final disposal. The County will continue to rely on the private sector to collect, process and market the recyclables. The residential recycling program will utilize either blue bin or blue bag containers in those areas where curbside collection is deemed feasible. Any remaining residents not provided curb side collection will be served by drop-off centers. The following materials will initially be collected: newspapers, aluminum cans, bi-metal cans, tin-olated steel food cans, glass, all types of HDPE bottles, PETE bottles and recyclable corrugated cardboard. The design of commercial and industrial programs will be decided between the hauler and the business. The commercial and industrial recycling programs must at least target high-grade paper, corrugated cardboard, aluminum, plastic and glass.

The County will designate a Solid Waste Coordinator to promote, implement and administer the County's waste management programs, including recycling. The primary recycling related responsibilities of the Solid Waste Coordinator will be to:

- Develop and maintain a recycling education library and assist schools with educating students.
- Provide technical assistance to units of local government throughout the County.

- Facilitate the enactment of an anti-dumping ordinance with a fine for the first violation and increasing fines thereafter.
- Provide waste audit assistance to the commercial, institutional and industrial sectors.
- Develop a recordkeeping system to measure the effectiveness of the County's recycling programs and to track the generation and management of construction/demolition debris.
- Encourage the County's procurement of plastic products containing post-consumer plastic.
- Evaluate programs to encourage the recycling of white goods.

The County will help close the recycling loop by increasing market demand for recycled content products. Beginning on January 1, 1995, at least 50 percent of the dollar value of paper and paper products purchased by units of local government and school districts in Lee County will be recycled paper and paper products. This goal will increase to 75 percent of the total dollar value by January 1, 2000. Wherever economically and practically feasible, the recycled paper and paper products should contain post-consumer paper. In addition, beginning no later than January 1, 1995, all units of local government (not including school districts) will institute the use of re-refined motor oil and remanufactured/retread tires on government vehicles, wherever such use is practical and economical.

- Landscape Waste Management - The only in-county landscape waste composting site is located at the Dixon Landfill. The future status of the site is uncertain. The County will seek public input and evaluate the need for additional composting capacity in the County.
- Final Disposal - The County reviewed a variety of options for final processing and disposal of the waste which could not be reduced, reused or recycled. After reviewing its options, the County has decided that W composting, refuse derived fuel processing and incineration for energy recovery/volume reduction are not recommended components of the County Plan at this time. The County did recognize that although a mixed waste processing (MWP) facility was not needed at this time, the need for one to increase recycling rates may need to be considered in more detail in the future.

During the planning process, the City of Dixon made a decision to close the Dixon Landfill. A landfill closure plan was submitted by the City to the IEPA and the IEPA approved the closure of the Dixon Landfill by September 1, 1993. The impending closure of the Dixon Landfill had a significant impact on the disposal options available to Lee County. As a result, the Citizens Advisory Committee reviewed other landfilling options

and eventually recommended the long-term disposal strategy outlined below under Disposal Program #1.

During the last several weeks of the 90 day public comment period, the City of Dixon announced that it was negotiating with a private company to keep the Dixon Landfill open into the foreseeable future. If an agreement is reached to keep the Dixon Landfill open, then the County's long-term disposal strategy outlined under Disposal Program #1 may not be necessary and could be replaced by Disposal Program #2.

The long-term disposal strategy outlined under Disposal Program #1 will be the County's recommended disposal program unless the County Board passes a resolution to officially recognize Disposal Program #2. The two disposal programs are discussed below.

Disposal Program #1 - The County's long-term final disposal options in order of priority are: 1) transport its waste out-of county or 2) consider the siting of a new landfill in Lee County, in accordance with the siting procedure outlined in the Landfilling Chapter of Volume I. The County's first option is to secure an agreement with an out-of-county landfill for disposal of Lee County's non-hazardous solid and special from the County(ies) in which the landfill(s) is located. The haulers in the County will not be forced to utilize the landfills identified by the County.

As a second, option, the County Board or a municipality in the County will consider the siting of a new sanitary landfill only if the following conditions are met by the applicant and agreed to in a Host Community Agreement prior to submitting a siting application:

- No hazardous waste shall be accepted.
- A host benefit fee shall be paid to the County on a per ton basis and escalated based on the appropriate Consumer Price Index. The County may choose to share a portion of the revenues with other affected units of local government.
- A 20 year guarantee of disposal capacity of Lee County's non-hazardous solid waste and special waste.
- A property value protection program shall be provided.
- A domestic water well protection plan shall be provided.
- An indemnification agreement indemnifying the County and its officers, agents and employees from liability associated with any and all landfill operation will be provided.
- An assignment of rights clause allowing the siting body the authority to approve or disapprove any transfer of ownership or other interest in the landfill.
- Unrestricted access to all non-financial records associated with the landfill.
- If the landfill applicant is a private individual or corporation, an environmental contingency fund shall be established.

The County will utilize a request for proposed (RFP) procedure to determine the feasibility of transporting its waste to an out-of-county landfill. If it is determined that transporting its waste out-of-county is not desirable, the County will utilize a similar RFP

process to determine the feasibility of option two - siting a new landfill within Lee County.

With the closing of the Lee County Landfill on September 1, 1993, the County will consider the siting and use of a transfer station(s) where it is economically feasible. The County will encourage intergovernmental cooperation and/or public-private agreements in siting and operating a transfer station(s) in Lee County.

Disposal Program #2 - The County's long-term disposal option will be to utilize existing sited landfill capacity within Lee County if the following conditions are met:

- No hazardous waste shall be accepted.
- A host benefit fee and/or local surcharge (pursuant to Section 22.15(j) of the Illinois Environmental Protection Act) shall be paid to the County. Any host benefit fee paid to the County shall be escalated based on the appropriate Consumer Price Index.
- A guarantee of disposal capacity for Lee County's non-hazardous solid waste and special waste.

If the owners/operators of the Dixon Landfill decide to site additional landfill capacity, the conditions listed under Disposal Program #1 for a new sanitary landfill shall be negotiated and agreed to in a Host Community Agreement with the County Board (and if appropriate, the municipality with siting jurisdiction) prior to submitting a siting application.

The Lee County Board will be the governmental entity responsible for taking the lead on implementing the Plan. The County Board recognizes the important role of other units of local government in the implementation of the Plan. As a result, the County will pursue the development and signing of an intergovernmental agreement outlining the duties and responsibilities of the parties signing the agreement. In addition, the County will continue to work with the business community, waste management industry, school districts and other organizations to elicit feedback and enhance cooperation in implementing the Plan.

Lee County's Solid Waste Coordinator will be responsible for administering and overseeing the implementation of the County's Solid Waste Management Plan. Chapter 5 contains specific tasks for the Solid Waste Coordinator to implement over an 18 month period.