

2024 State Solid Waste Plan – “Materials Management Plan-MMP”

Plan is a RULE for 5-year term and is made up of two main parts: (1.) NARRATIVE & (2.) ACTIONS; for Agency Natural Resources (ANR) and Solid Waste Management Entities (SWMEs).

Questions from 2-21-24 meeting with SWMEs

SWME ACTIONS (Solid Waste Management Entity)

Actions that have not changed substantially from the 2019 MMP are not listed.

1. Changed the SWME report deadline from July 1 to April 1 each year, to be closer to when the work was finished (work finishes Dec. 31 of each year).
2. A-Z Guide; all entries must include an address and telephone number or website link with contact information.

Q: For listing places where recycling/recyclables are collected, is it sufficient to link to a list of transfer stations or to the ANR map of transfer stations?

A: Yes.

3. Accessible Communications: Require SWME to attend a training in year 1 and annually review ANR accessible communications best practices.
4. Digital Outreach: Require annual digital outreach with at least two forms, such as Front Porch Forum, social media, electronic newsletter, etc. each on A-Z guide, waste reduction, HHW reduction/disposal, and EPR programs.
5. Print Outreach: one annual outreach in a printed document like press release, newsletter, etc.

Q: Is it sufficient to buy a newspaper ad or have information in a printed town report?

A: Yes.

6. Community Outreach:
 - a. Outreach to all solid waste facilities within SWIP term.
 - b. Annual outreach to town offices and public libraries (in person, phone, or email).

Q: Could this requirement be combined with Business Outreach and/or Disaster Debris section?

A: Possibly.

7. Gas cylinders: year-round collection option must exist within SWME boundary or within 20 miles of an independent town.

Q: Will the timing of this requirement align with implementation of the HHW EPR law?

A: Hopefully, yes. We could also consider language that puts this requirement on hold until the EPR program is in place.

8. Disaster Debris: By the end of year 1 of SWIP term,
 - a. Identify a Disaster Hazardous Material Staging Area within each municipality.
 - b. Contact each municipality and obtain contact info for emergency personnel.
 - c. Establish a Trash and C&D Disaster Debris Plan.

Q: Why are SWMEs responsible for trash?

A: SWMEs are municipalities and do play a role in managing all types of disaster-related materials.

Q: What if the designated staging area isn't available because of the disaster? Should there be a secondary place? Or can it be combined with another town?

A: ANR doesn't want to be proscriptive but will provide recommendations. Agreements between towns or towns and SWMEs may be feasible.

Q: Will ANR provide a Debris Plan template and other resources?

A: Yes.

9. Clean Wood and Inert Debris Management Sites by year 4, identify at least one location within SWME region to site and permit a categorical disposal or storage/transfer area.
10. Removed C&D collection requirements.
11. Residuals requirement is attendance at an annual meeting organized by ANR.

NARRATIVE:

1. Plan Goals follow Statutory Requirements. NEW: The Diversion and Reduction Goals of 50% and 25% were moved to the Narrative Section from ANR's Actions Section.
2. NEW: Challenges in Materials Management – PFAS, Microplastics, Climate/Disasters, Bears.
3. NEW: Climate Change and Environmental Justice section.
4. Market and Facilities Assessment section covers the status of various materials and their markets, like recyclables, organic materials like food waste and leaf and yard debris, C&D waste, HHW, EPR programs, Textiles, Tires, and Residuals/Biosolids.

ANR ACTIONS

1. ANR committed to a Disposal Capacity Stakeholder Process (once within the 5-year MMP term) exploring VT's future disposal capacity.
2. Disaster Preparedness
 - a. Staff person will assist the SEOC in disasters.

- b.** Collaborate between Solid, Hazardous, and Spills Programs to evaluate use of EPA contractor for hazardous materials for communities in disasters.
 - c.** Explore training SWMEs on disaster debris planning with VEM and FEMA.
- 3.** Infrastructure: conduct annual Needs Assessment for SWMEs and municipalities.
- 4.** Coordinate a Reduce and Reuse network.
- 5.** Host a statewide meeting on food recovery/donation once within the MMP term.
- 6.** Actions Previously Not Included: Updating Rules, Guidance, Policies, and Procedures; Grants when funding available; Permitting facilities; and Compliance of Permits and SW laws and Rules.
- 7.** Outreach – includes some waste reduction work if funding and approval received, agrees to follow VT EJ law, ANR Language Access Plan, CMO Communications Best Practices; attend trainings, create a DEC statewide A-Z guide on the Solid Waste Program website.