

TO: CODY ROBYLER, GCMPC
FROM: JAMIE ZAWILA AND MARISSA SEGUNDO, RRS
DATE: 8.24.2019
RE: VIRTUAL COLLABORATION BREAKOUT SUMMARY

On August 11, 2020 Genesee County Metropolitan Planning Commission (GCMPC) hosted a [Virtual Vision Collaboration](#) session with 20 Genesee County community representatives. The goal of this second RRS-facilitated stakeholder engagement session was to discuss enhancing solid waste services in the county with opportunities to collaborate. Ahead of this event, 2,211 Genesee County residents responded to a survey from GCMPC and RRS about their recycling program.

RRS reviewed the GCMPC Solid Waste Roadmap and presented takeaways from that report. During this interactive session attendees were divided into breakout groups to discuss collaborative approaches based on some best practices throughout Michigan and how they could be applicable for Genesee County. Each group explored opportunities, questions, stakeholder roles and next steps for three collaborative approaches focusing on one collaborative approach facilitated by RRS. Below are the summary notes from each breakout group.

Finally, the groups returned to the main session to discuss some initial funding models that may be applicable in Genesee County. The group agreed that the next step would be to continue the interactive conversation and focus on collaboration.

AUTHORITY BREAKOUT GROUP

Regional Opportunities/Vision:	Questions (unknowns)
<p>This could work not reinventing the wheel. SW might be an easier topic to form an Authority around than say – Metro police, fire authority</p> <p>Might be nice for some communities to have this off their plates, but other communities sanitation is very much a part of the community and it'd be challenging</p> <p>Would have to be a good case of moving forward</p> <p>Poor service in Mundy Twp, making headlines</p> <p>An opportunity could be a less formal structure – something to explore to get some easy wins of working together. Communication could be an example.</p>	<p>What is the financial contribution? Is there a way to lower the hurdles for start-up costs?</p> <p>Do the communities that want to work together need to be contiguous?</p>
Other Stakeholder Roles (i.e. decision makers, funders, collaborators, contract manager)	Parking Lot Issues for later discussion
<p>Trustees</p> <p>MTA</p> <p>Citizen representative from each community</p>	<p>Concerns is about loss of control and how to minimize this and get the gains of moving together. Mundy had an inverse experience, but there is an identity for police and fire.</p>
Immediate Next Steps (homework)	
<p>Not identified.</p>	

PUBLIC PRIVATE PARTNERSHIP BREAKOUT GROUP

Regional Opportunities/Vision:	Questions (unknowns)
<p>Consensus that current public/private partnership arrangements have great working relationships.</p> <p>Willingness to looking to work with others.</p> <p>Some felt the service level costs minimal with great services.</p> <p>Some felt private haulers competitive with costs.</p> <p>Communities have to look at many factors such as structures/parcel assessments and how that transfers to resident in structuring costs for services. Communities have different level of difficulties – not a level playing field for contracting services.</p> <p>More to that, not all community challenges are the same.</p> <p>Emterra is going to be hungry for tons because of new MRF in Lansing.</p> <p>Many details to work out.</p>	<p>How do we pick partners that are compatible to work with – that is those having the same SW issues?</p> <p>How best to structure for every ones best interest?</p> <p>Probably many private partners available?</p> <p>Desire to work with proven performer. But this may not be shared across all communities?</p>
Other Stakeholder Roles (i.e. decision makers, funders, collaborators, contract manager)	Parking Lot Issues for later discussion
<p>Did not discuss.</p>	<p>Concern that if there are too many collaborating the service level may change or be compromised to receive a lower cost - i.e. low bid does not always provide the service level desired. Some communities have an expectation of service level offerings. Real need to protect this for community and residents.</p> <p>Grants available for HHW?</p>
Immediate Next Steps (homework)	
<p>Not identified.</p>	

INTER-GOVERNMENTAL BREAKOUT GROUP

Regional Opportunities/Vision:	Questions (unknowns)
<p>Giving up control could result in lack of service.</p> <p>Companies need to talk the talk and walk the walk</p>	<p>Could agreement be arranged for whoever is in control be charged to control the agreement and ensure the services are delivered?</p> <p>Who really controls?</p> <p>Why are apartment complexes not in contract to provide recycling?</p> <p>How do you bring in senior citizen, mobile home, apartments, affordable housing, etc. into the contract? How do you bring these to the table?</p>
Other Stakeholder Roles (i.e. decision makers, funders, collaborators, contract manager)	Parking Lot Issues for later discussion
<p>Did not discuss.</p>	<p>County or local policy to address multi-family provision of services.</p> <p>Not willing to abdicate control to County because current contract and service are great.</p> <p>Costs are crucial to residents. County millage is not the only answer and can be unfair for the contributing community if not receiving benefits.</p>
Immediate Next Steps (homework)	
<p>Work with service provider to provide drop-offs.</p>	

GROUP DISCUSSION FUNDING OPPORTUNITIES

Regional Opportunities/Vision:	Questions (unknowns)
<p>Assessing fee for services without duplication for same service.</p> <p>Having a place where people can take hard-to-recycle items available year round</p> <p>Universal curbside cart-Cart grant from the state/The Recycling Partnership (TRP)</p> <p>33 units of governments collaborating</p> <p>Collaborative education</p> <p>Collaborative contraction</p> <p>Weekly collection for curbside recycling</p>	<p>What services could be collaborative? (Collection, management, etc.)</p> <p>What are the shared goals of the group?</p> <p>Does the county charge a service fee or license for hauler (yes, renewed annually-\$20)</p> <p>-31 municipalities</p> <p>Cart size limitations-HOA's not allowing carts, cost prohibitive for some municipalities</p> <p>Resident demand for recycling frequency of collection and size and space.</p>
Other Stakeholder Roles (i.e. decision makers, funders, collaborators, contract manager)	Parking Lot Issues for later discussion
Did not discuss.	Multi-family contacts to provide recycling
Immediate Next Steps (homework)	
Not identified.	

WHAT YOUR RESIDENTS SAID:

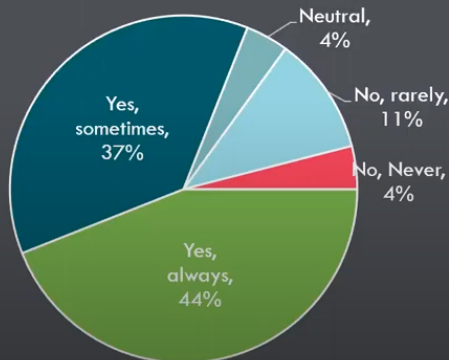


39% Of community programs use wheeled carts

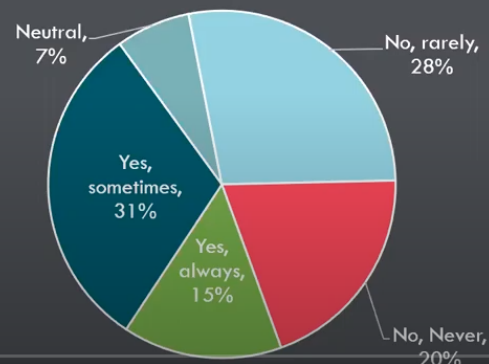


55% Of community programs use hand-held bins

Is a Wheeled Cart Enough Space?



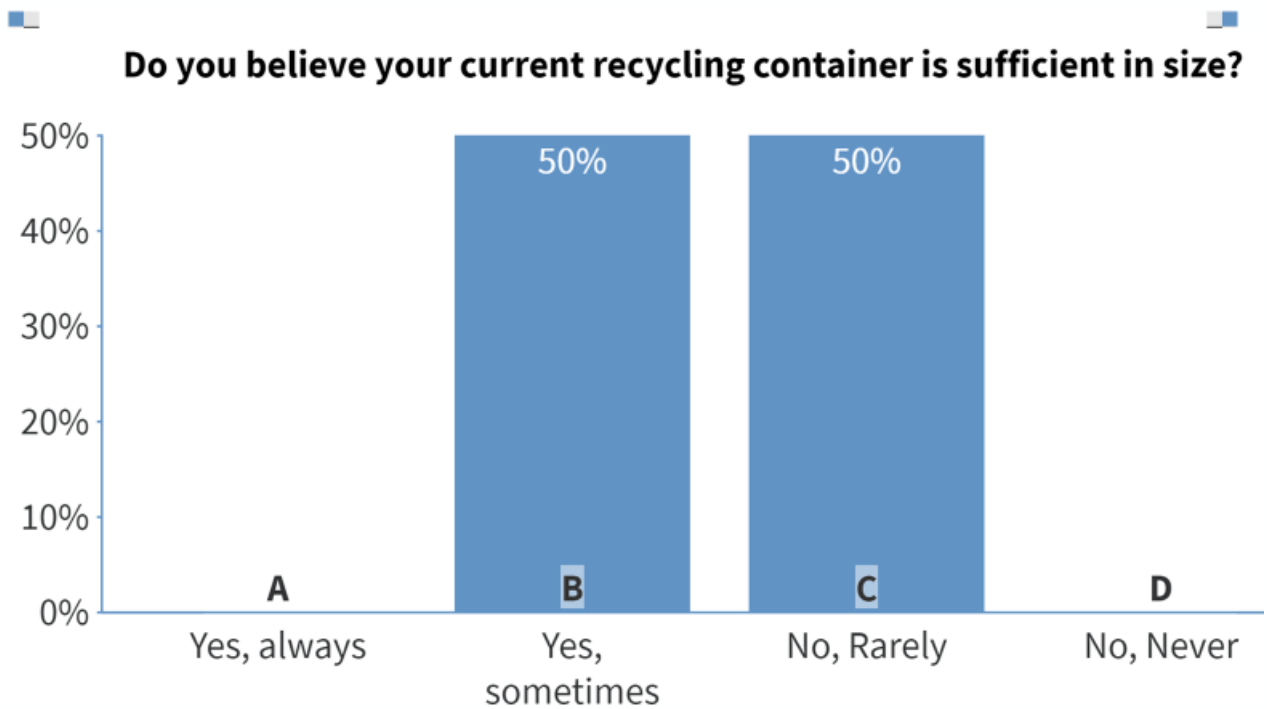
Is a Bin Enough Space?



Solid Waste Management Road



	PHASE 1	PHASE 2	PHASE 3
COLLECTION	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Identify recycling contract expiration dates Develop contracting plan that results in synchronization of contracts within 3 years. Seek 1-year contract extension for communities with contracts that expire in 2020. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Sync up contract schedules for initial collaboration on contracting for 13 communities whose contracts expire in 2020 and 2021 Apply for grants to purchase curbside carts that coincides with new service contracts 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Recycling contract collaboration Implement Cart based recycling in communities with new contracts Develop and construct Limited Service DOS Evaluate potential sites for Basic Service DOS and initiate site approvals Evaluate coordinated contracting with MRFs for all tons from collaborating communities
PROCESSING	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Evaluate potential sites for Limited Service DOS site and initiate site approvals Develop site specific design and feasibility study for Limited Service DOS and Full-Service DOS 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Evaluate coordinated contracting with MRFs for all tons from collaborating communities 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Initiate a dialogue with adjacent Counties related to the feasibility of developing a regional MRF
END MARKETS	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Identify MRF partners for single stream processing in regional counties 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Coordinate with local end markets to provide manufacturing inputs Identify local markets for recyclables commodities, especially for non-curbside recyclable materials 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Work with the MRF to supply material to local markets
EDUCATION & OUTREACH	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Identify measurable goals to launch an outreach campaign Create a library of marketing collateral Improve online presence 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Countywide recycling education campaign Campaigns on target audiences/materials 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Incorporate social marketing tools such as prompts, effective messages, etc. Survey residents to gauge awareness Monitor participation and material quality (contamination)
POLICY	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Establish County goals Form stakeholder group to drive planning Require recycling tonnage reports from haulers Apply for grants for specific DOS facility feasibility and design studies 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Apply for grants On-going dialogues with communities, County, and stakeholders regarding collaboration Evaluate and approve management framework and funding options Work with communities to ensure their 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Continue to foster collaboration Require multi-family recycling



Identify challenges/obstacles for working together to

“Who pays for what”

“Financial resources”

“Cost to increase recycling”

“Pleasing residents needs/wants”

“Not simply coordinating the timing/lengths of contracts, but what that looks like in individual communities for actual service delivery (carts/containers, pickup schedule, changes to existing)”

“Politics”

“Recycling champions in leadership positions”

“Different wants/needs for each community”

“Loss of local control Politics”

Is your community willing to be a part of the ongoing conversation and

