FINANCING
LOCAL FUNDING AUTHORITY FOR INTEGRATED WASTE MANAGEMENT

Rationale

Many of the local funding methods used by local and state governments to further government projects would be useful to support integrated solid waste management projects.

Policy

Local governments should be authorized by state governments to enact a broad range of local fees and taxes to support all aspects of an integrated waste management program (including market development activities) and to set rates for waste collection and disposal. Integrated waste management fees and taxes should be authorized to be levied on waste generators, waste collectors, waste and recycling processors, transfer stations, waste-to-energy facilities and landfills.

State enabling authority should require such fees and taxes to be dedicated to the specific purposes of program implementation on a cost recovery basis and should encourage the establishment of "enterprise funds" by local governments to accurately account for these funds (and to decrease the burden on city and county general funds). In cities or counties that have charter restrictions requiring garbage collection costs to be paid out of the general fund through general taxes, integrated waste management fees and/or taxes should be additionally authorized to supplement basic garbage collection services.

Eligible activities to be funded by such fees and taxes should include staffing, consultants, analyses and all direct and indirect costs including the actual capital costs and operating expenses for integrated waste management programs. Market development activities should include any incremental costs for purchase of recycled products previously not budgeted, economic incentives for the expansion of existing recycling product manufacturing operations, and the attraction of new recycling product manufacturers (including assistance in permitting, financing, site acquisition and pollution control costs).

Fees and taxes should be authorized to be raised by individual cities or counties or jointly by several cities and/or counties working together. In the event that a regional framework is developed, revenues should be authorized to be shared for any authorized integrated waste management purposes pursued individually or jointly.

Cross-reference: Market Development; Procurement