FINANCING

ESTABLISHING ECONOMIC INCENTIVES THROUGH AVOIDED COLLECTION/DISPOSAL COSTS

Rationale

As source reduction, recycling and composting programs are instituted costs of garbage collection and disposal are avoided by the municipality and/or its contractor(s). One of the most challenging aspects of changing local systems to foster recycling will be establishing methods to accrue the avoided collection and disposal costs to the benefit of funding recycling programs.

Policy

Avoided collection and disposal costs should be established in a way that provides incentives for waste generators collectors and landfill operators to expand recycling and encourage the reduction of amounts of waste generated, and that takes into account future increasing waste disposal costs.

In most instances a multi-faceted program will be required over several years' time to change contract and ordinance language and the design of the solid waste system to a point where the price signals are provided to all involved to foster source reduction, recycling, and composting.

Cross-reference: Recycling Economics; Legislation and Promotion