

BOARD OF ALDERMEN

ITEM NO. D(3)

AGENDA ITEM ABSTRACT

MEETING DATE: May 20, 2008

SUBJECT: Report on the Development of an Orange County Solid Waste Plan

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| DEPARTMENT: MANAGER'S OFFICE | PUBLIC HEARING: NO |
| ATTACHMENTS: A – Resolution B – Report on Solid Waste Plan | FOR INFORMATION CONTACT: Blair Pollock – 968-2788 George Seiz – 918-7427 |

PURPOSE

The purpose of this item is for Orange County Solid Waste personnel to provide a report on development of required three year update to the Ten Year Solid Waste Management Plan for the county and its municipalities and for the Town to consider a resolution accepting the plan and offering any comments.

INFORMATION

State law requires every local government entity to develop and submit a 10-year solid waste management plan and update it every 3 years. A major purpose of the plan is to demonstrate how the counties and municipalities are to achieve their stated waste reduction goals. North Carolina has a statewide goal of 40% per capita reduction in waste landfilled. Orange County surpassed that in 2001 and has a goal of 61% per capita waste reduction goal, compared to a 1991-1992 baseline. State regulators initially gave all towns and counties 'credit' for all the recycling (including white goods, yard waste, etc.) programs already in place prior to the statute being passed in 1993, Orange County as a whole has currently achieved a 48% reduction in its waste stream as of 2006-07, our highest ever. A comprehensive integrated plan will move us further towards our goal and this interim plan is a move towards that kind of plan.

Orange County, on behalf of the county and its municipalities, is responsible for preparation of the solid waste management plans and getting them adopted by each of the local government prior to submission. The Orange County Solid Waste Management Planning Work Group was formed in 2005. The Work Group was tasked with reviewing and modifying the existing plan and has met 15 times since its creation, but the County's most recent update (due on June 30, 2006) has not yet been submitted.

The Solid Waste Advisory Board (SWAB), given the delay, recommended that an interim plan be produced and included with this report. Because it is still incomplete, this interim plan / report is more descriptive than prescriptive. Through the Solid Waste Plan Work Group, on which Carrboro is represented, a long-term comprehensive plan is being finalized and due next year, 2009.

FISCAL AND STAFF IMPACT

There is no fiscal or staff impact associated with accepting this report, though eventual decisions regarding how our solid waste and recyclables are handled *could* have impacts. The only actual change that would take place following acceptance of this plan and the FY 2008-09 County

budget would be commingling recycling (already done curbside) at drop-off centers and businesses and adding cardboard to the curbside recycling pickup. The proposed Orange County budget does not include any increase in the 3-R Fee for the addition of cardboard pickup.

RECOMMENDATION

Town staff recommends that the Board of Aldermen accept this report and offer Orange County staff any changes to consider including in the Solid Waste Management Plan Update required by the state.