



**Bloomington Sustainability Action Plan Environmental Quality and Natural Systems  
Working Group Meeting Three Notes (Part 1)  
17 April 2018  
City Hall  
6 pm – 8 pm**

**Topic:** Identify challenges regarding solid waste management and propose solutions.

**Facilitator:** Stephanie Richards

**Computer notes:** Steven Chybowski

**Number of participants:** 15 (Anil Joshi, Kriste Ludberg, Mike Litwin, Melinda Seader, Elizabeth Tompkins, Tom McGlasson, Amanda Figolah, Jane St. John, Autumn Salamack, Steve Cotter, Vicky Meretsky, Stephanie Richards, Farhana Khan, Daphney Richemond, Steven Chybowski)

### **Summary of Topics discussed**

- Review goals and actions discussed in meeting two
- Background presentation of the current situation of Bloomington solid waste management
- Identify challenges the community faces with waste reduction and solid waste management
- Discussion of challenges and solutions for solid waste management
- Continued discussion of challenges and solutions for biodiversity and ecosystem protection

### **Detailed Notes**

#### **Overview of the Meeting**

- We have received some great feedback from working group members and will review all of it in meeting four
- It has been recommended that we continue our ecosystem and biodiversity discussion
- Farhana will give a presentation on waste management
- We will have a breakout session for waste management
- It can be difficult deciding what is a goal and what is an action
- We reviewed the related goals in the comprehensive plan and have brought a handout with the goals
- The Environmental Commission has already given us a great start with the vegetated-habitat connectivity plan
- The recommendations from last meeting were divided up into deer management, invasive species, and biodiversity protection

#### **Presentation on Solid Waste Management**

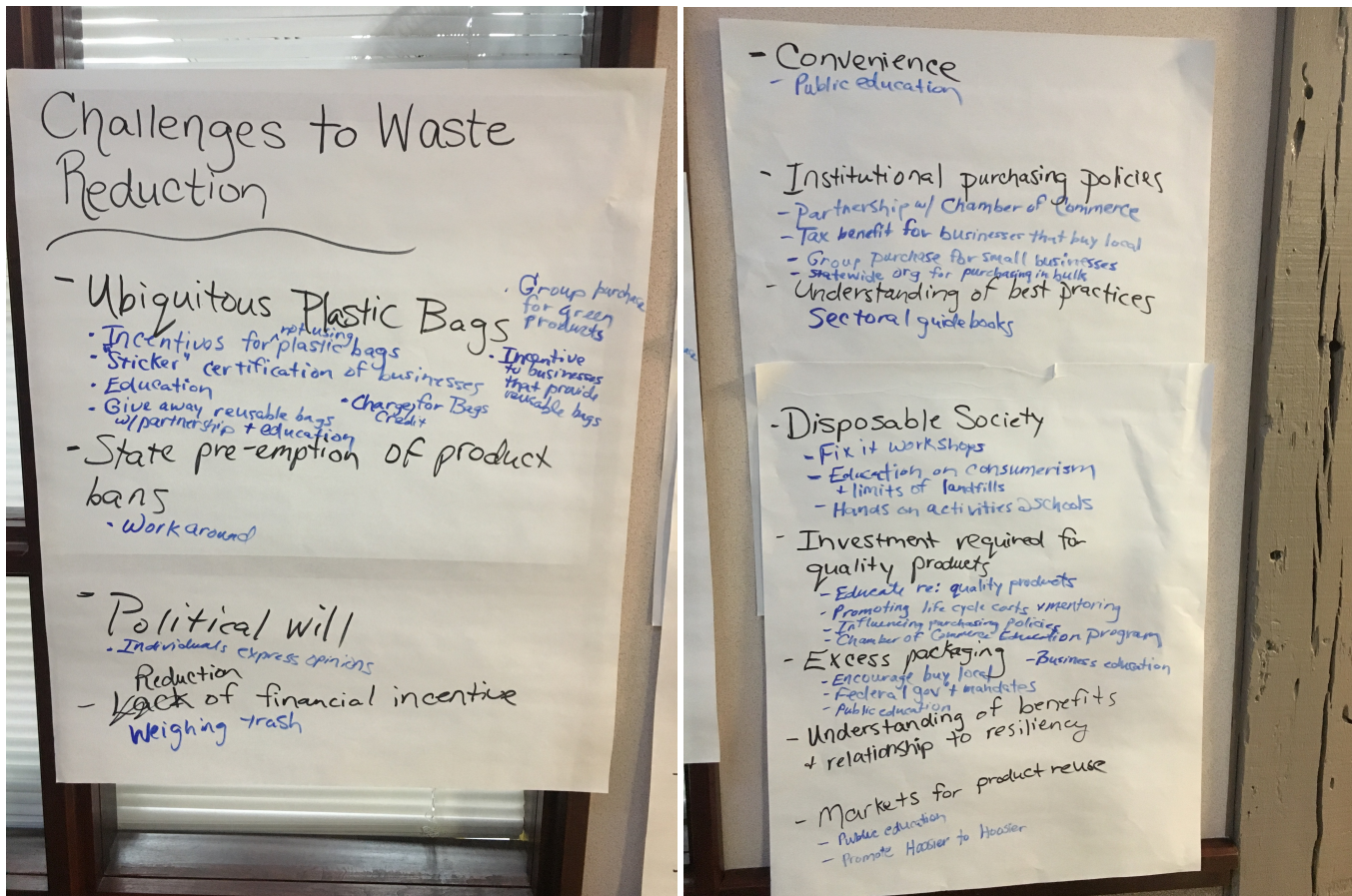
- Does the pie chart on the first slide correlate with the goals listed?
- Private waste collectors have not been collecting data on their waste
- City has data from solid waste management
- The City waste sampling process involved sampling 8-10 trucks throughout a week to see waste composition

- Are there communities that do curbside composting?
- Example of curbside composting in Oxford, England
- Local private composting company collects pickle buckets of composting from restaurants each Sunday and take the buckets to a farm
- There are a couple private businesses in Indiana (Indianapolis) that have been doing composting
- Individuals can also do their own composting
- There are only about seven different species in the nature preserve which is an edit for week two's presentation – the information was incorrect in the introduction to the Bloomington report cited
- School cafeterias are a big opportunity for composting and can be effective by making it a challenge to motivate students
- The Solid Waste District does not take hazardous waste; hazardous waste is a legal distinction
- The Solid Waste District takes household hazardous material – legal difference
- A business that does dispose of hazardous waste has to take it a regulated facility

### **If Waste Reduction is Important, why isn't it Happening?**

- Ubiquitous plastic bags
- *Possible Solution:* Incentives for not using plastic bags
- *Possible Solution:* "Sticker" certification of businesses
- *Possible Solution:* Education
- *Possible Solution:* Give away reusable bags with partnership and education
- *Possible Solution:* Charge for bags
- *Possible Solution:* Group purchase for green products
- *Possible Solution:* Incentive to businesses that provide reusable bags
- State preemption of product bans
- *Possible Solution:* Workaround
- Political Will
- *Possible Solution:* Individuals express opinions
- Reduction of financial incentive
- *Possible Solution:* Weighing trash
- Convenience
- *Possible Solution:* Public education
- Institutional purchasing policies
- *Possible Solution:* Partnership with Chamber of Commerce
- *Possible Solution:* Tax benefit for businesses that buy local
- *Possible Solution:* Group purchase for small businesses
- *Possible Solution:* Statewide organization for purchasing in bulk
- Understanding of best practices
- *Possible Solution:* Sectoral guidebooks
- Disposable Society
- *Possible Solution:* Fix it workshops
- *Possible Solution:* Education on consumerism and limits of landfills
- *Possible Solution:* Hands-on activities at schools
- Investment required for quality products
- *Possible Solution:* Education re: quality products
- *Possible Solution:* Promoting life cycle costs and monitoring
- *Possible Solution:* Influencing purchasing policies
- *Possible Solution:* Chamber of Commerce education program
- Excess packaging
- *Possible Solution:* Encourage buy local
- *Possible Solution:* Federal government mandates

- Possible Solution: Public education
- Possible Solution: Business education
- Understanding of benefits and relationship to resiliency
- Markets for product reuse
- Possible Solution: Public education
- Possible Solution: Promote Hoosier to Hoosier



## What Challenges Stand in our way for Solid Waste Management?

- Control (e.g. Republic)
- Possible Solution: Try to generate competition
- Number of actors feeding into waste stream
- Lack of local landfill
- Lack of funding
- Possible Solution: Coordination with neighboring counties
- Possible Solution: Creative labor use
- Lack of composting
- Possible Solution: Anaerobic digestion
- Possible Solution: Single location to take compost
- Lack of incentives for composting, recycling, etc.
- Lack of transparency
- Possible Solution: Reporting requirements



Post-it 30 25 IN/PO x 30 IN/PO 63.5 cm x 76.2 cm 5.2 SQ FT/PP (0.48 m²)

# Challenges to Solid Waste Management

- Control (e.g. Republic)
  - Try to generate competition
- Number of actors feeding into Waste Stream
- Lack of local landfill
- Lack of ~~fund~~ funding
  - Creative labor use
  - Coordination w neighboring countries
- Lack of Composting
  - Anaerobic digestion
  - Single location to take compost

## Lack of incentives for Composting, recycling, etc.

- Education (e.g. Farmers Market, Schools)

## Lack of transparency

- Reporting requirements