

Alternative Methods to Measure Recycling and Waste Diversion Success

Prepared for

**23rd Annual Northwest Regional
Solid Waste Symposium**

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Issues & Opportunities

Waste reduction and diversion rates are the primary means of measuring solid waste management system success.

Evaluating additional metrics may assist in long-term planning, communication with stakeholders, facilitate partnerships, and leverage resources.

Background Paper

- *Long-Term Goals for Sustainable Resource Use in the Metro Region*

– Prepared by:

- Maul Foster & Alongi, Inc.
- Gary Liss and Associates
- Oregon Natural Step Network

– Completed October 11, 2007

Definition of Sustainability

“Sustainability” means **using, developing and protecting resources** in a manner that enables people to meet current needs and provides that future generations can also meet future needs, from the joint **perspective of environmental, economic and community objectives** [ORS 184.421 (4)].

Intent

The project intended to present an approach to long-term goal development for the **Regional Solid Waste Management Plan 2007-2011** that:

- Charted a path toward sustainable resource use in the region
- Provided measurable indicators outside of the traditional waste hierarchy
- Provided short- and long-term goals including resource and energy use
- Identified key leverage points

Approach

- Review alternative frameworks:
 - Zero Waste
 - The Natural Step
 - Washington's Beyond Waste



Zero Waste

- Palo Alto, CA
- Oakland, CA
- San Francisco, CA



The Natural Step

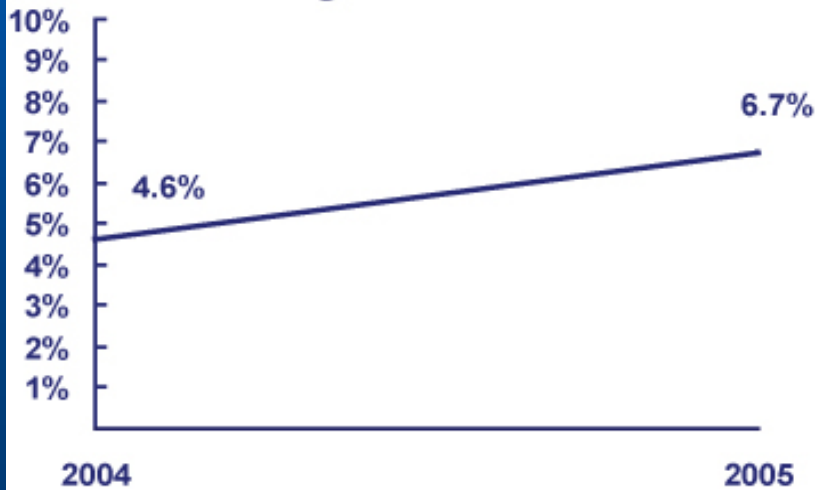


- Whistler, BC

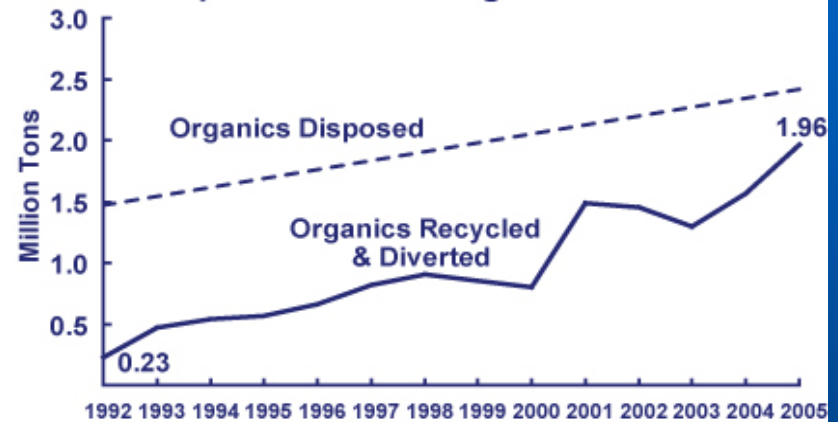
Beyond Waste

● Washington State

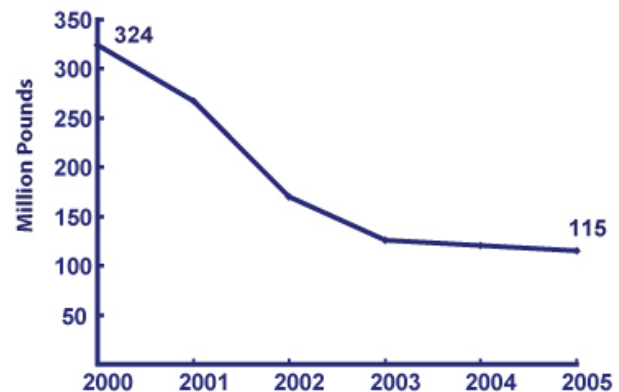
Market Share of Green Building Projects in Washington: 2004 - 2005



Organics (compostables) Recycled, Diverted & Disposed in Washington: 1992 - 2005



Recurrent Hazardous Waste Generated in Washington by Medium- and Large-Quantity Generators: 2000 - 2005



Example Metrics

- Production vs. generation
- Renewable materials and energy
- Procurement policies
- Green buildings
 - Construction
 - Management
 - Deconstruction



Example Metrics

- Durable products and take-back programs
- Production and purchase of local food
- Production and purchase of green products
- Green business program participation

Example Proposed Goals

- Provide education programs that incorporate resource conservation concepts, including waste as resource, greenhouse gas issues and renewable energy.
- Provide guidance on nontoxic and/or less toxic equivalents for standard products by 2010.
- Develop environmentally preferable purchasing standards for Metro municipalities by 2010.
- Work with local businesses to meet goals for product stewardship associated with products and packaging by 2017.
- 2040 vision for RSWMP (carbon neutral, 100% renewable, 100% EPP)

Leverage & Partnerships

- Utilize existing data sources
- Teach by example
- Inter-agency coordination
- Green building and sustainable product organizations
- Business associations, neighborhood groups, schools, non-profits



Future Considerations

- Green Building Requirements
- Greenhouse Gas Legislation
- Product Content Requirements
- Environmentally Preferable Purchasing Policies

Thank you!

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