

Current Situation

The District of Columbia has to make decisions about how to handle municipal solid waste over the next twenty years.

In order to do so legally and effectively, DPW must comply with the requirements of the DC Sustainability Plan and also be prepared to handle a projected 250,000 increase in population over the next twenty years.

As well, DC has set goals to reduce its climate footprint and other air, water, land footprints (natural infrastructure).

DC should benefit from the economic value of handling residual assets and have them accrue in DC rather than outside the jurisdiction.

Solution

Therefore DPW is developing an analytic framework that handles substantive data and information that defines the current DC solid waste management system and compares it, using the same data variables, alternative designs for a solid waste management system that accounts for current technologies, regulations, City mandated actions, and environmentally preferable actions.

These design elements are not now fully integrated into the current system because they were not required at that time. DPW will have the ability now to consider these variables in considering options.

DPW is going to map their strategy from the process of solid waste management rather than just from the materials we collect.

Current strategies include singular acts such as limiting Styrofoam. DPW is going to use a more systematic approach to decision making. We are taking an executive management approach to the entire system.

DPW is including these features of natural capital asset management with financial information as part of the due process in evaluating technology choices and understanding their environmental, economic and political outcomes.

Below is snapshot of what that analytic tool DPW will use.

