



Solid and Hazardous Waste Management

POLICY 1. The Michigan Association of Planning supports laws requiring: source reduction; the use of biodegradable products and packaging where composting is an established solid waste management method; incentives for the use of reusable products and refillable packaging; and the banning of non-recyclable products and packaging.

POLICY 2. The Michigan Association of Planning supports laws requiring recycling and reuse of materials in the waste stream through source-separated or co-mingled collection programs, manual or mechanical separation to provide recycling for metals, glass, paper, plastics, and the removal of common hazardous wastes, e.g., batteries, paints, and solvents. Procurement laws that encourage the use of recyclable materials should accompany these laws. In addition to these procurement incentives, there needs to be a re-examination of laws that provide incentives for the utilization of raw, natural materials that may provide a cost savings incentive to the manufacturer making tree cutting for paper fiber use actually cheaper than using collective recyclable paper fibers.

POLICY 3. The Michigan Association of Planning supports resource recovery programs that produce soil additives, mulch, or compost from yard debris and organic waste.

POLICY 4. The Michigan Association of Planning supports recycling of contaminated demolition debris, volume reduction by removal of inert or demolition debris containing hazardous material, and use of technologies such as compaction or environmentally safe waste-to-energy.

POLICY 5. The Michigan Association of Planning supports comprehensive education programs on waste minimization, reuse, recycling and resource recovery. Such education programs would involve the media, schools, industry, government, and academia.

POLICY 6. The Michigan Association of Planning recommends that local and state ordinances should be reviewed to increase siting flexibility for solid waste management facilities while ensuring environmental protection and environmental justice. To make siting feasible and predictable, standards by which siting decisions are made should be developed and applied, possibly through a conditional process. New facilities should be consistent with local land use plans based on community consensus and meet the most rigorous standards to protect the environment.

POLICY 7. The Michigan Association of Planning supports interstate and intrastate regional partnerships between governments at all levels to coordinate state, regional, and local planning efforts and to find the best practicable, environmentally safe, and equitable solutions to solid and hazardous waste management problems.

POLICY 8. The Michigan Association of Planning supports broad public involvement as well as participation by state, regional, and local authorities when siting solid waste management and recycling facilities, and planning for solid waste management. If consensus fails to produce a resolution, then negotiation and arbitration should be used to resolve conflicts.

POLICY 9. The Michigan Association of Planning supports procedures that ensure when landfills are built or expanded in operation, they meet or exceed all existing and, where practical, new standards, and are operated in an environmentally safe way by certified operators.

POLICY 10. The Michigan Association of Planning supports actions that lead to the expansion and stabilization of the economic base for recycling in the local, regional, state, and national economy, including the support for existing and new laws designed to encourage the manufacture and purchase of products made from recycled materials.

POLICY 11. The Michigan Association of Planning encourages the evaluation and use of public/private partnerships where appropriate to manage solid waste.

POLICY 12. The Michigan Association of Planning supports the rapid assessment and cleanup of brownfields with appropriate assurances so that the site may be returned to productive use in the community.

POLICY 13. The Michigan Association of Planning supports the appropriate reuse (parks, open space) of closed landfills after methane gas has been recovered and leachate has been contained or after methane production has subsided, and where public health is not jeopardized by exposure to hazardous materials.

POLICY 14. The Michigan Association of Planning urges all agencies siting and reviewing siting of waste management facilities to assess the impact of the facility on the neighborhood and to ensure that waste management facilities are not being disproportionately placed in low income and minority communities. The location of waste management facilities should be part of a comprehensive planning process, which includes the opportunity for meaningful public participation and public consensus.