

IX. THE SOLID AND HAZARDOUS WASTE ELEMENT

A. SOLID WASTE

In past years the City has been involved with three separate sanitary landfills. The old municipal landfill was terminated at least 40 years ago. The second landfill site, located north of the City has been inactive for over a decade but still serves as the transfer station for the Okanogan County landfill. The third site, located near the transfer station has also been closed for a number of years.

At the present time the City of Tonasket disposes of its solid waste in Okanogan County's Central Landfill. The City, like the majority of other communities in Okanogan County, resolved during 1989 to cooperate with the County in the siting of a new central landfill. The new Central Landfill was completed in the early 1990's and has been receiving solid waste from the City ever since.

As in most communities, the issue of solid waste disposal has become an important issue in Tonasket for a variety of obvious reasons. Consequently, the City of Tonasket supports the vision of the State of Washington in regards to solid waste management. That vision is presented in the Washington State Solid Waste Management Plan as follows:

All solid waste in Washington State (including industrial waste) will be managed by the highest priority method possible, as specified in the amended Solid Waste Management Act, to protect the environment and human health.

The City also embraces the goals outlined in the State's plan as a means to make that vision a reality. Tonasket is also a member of the Okanogan County Solid Waste Advisory Board and adopts the County's Solid Waste Plan as its own. Listed in order of priority are the following options for dealing with solid waste, associated goals applicable to our area, and objectives as well as policies that the City should use to meet these goals.

1. WASTE REDUCTION

The general goal for waste reduction is that everyone practice waste reduction so that waste generation per capita will decrease annually.

The objectives intended to meet this goal are as follows:

- 4** The City government should make every effort to identify, acquire and distribute all educational literature that is available at no cost.
- 4** The City should institute variable waste disposal charges that include a container size as small as ten gallons to reward those households or businesses that have reduced waste to this low level.

- 4 The City should consider levying a surcharge on commercial waste.
- 4 The City should consider restrictions and bans to encourage substitutions for products that threaten human health and environment. This strategy cannot be implemented until "THE BAN ON BANS" legislation expires July 1, 1993, if in fact Legislature allows the expiration.

A policy which the City of Tonasket should consider adopting as a means to realize the objectives and ultimately the goal for waste reduction is:

- 4 In its provision of services, the City should consider both the product and its packaging when purchasing the materials necessary to provide the service. The City should then use the options that generate the least waste.

2. RECYCLING

The general goals for recycling is to have everyone recycle, reuse, or compost all waste possible.

The objectives intended to meet this goal are as follows:

- 4 The City should advocate, by resolution and support, recycling throughout Okanogan County.
- 4 The City should establish a central composting station for leaves, yard clippings and other such debris.
- 4 The City should identify and pursue grant programs that fund innovative techniques in recycling.
- 4 Identify and distribute educational materials regarding recycling.
- 4 Work with the private sector to make reuse, recycling and composting opportunities readily available.

A policy which the City should consider adopting as a means to realize the objectives and ultimately the goal for recycling is:

- 4 All public facilities should incorporate recycling, composting and reuse strategies at every opportunity while providing municipal services.

Because of the increasing costs and environmental concerns created by landfilling and an ever-increasing amount of solid waste, the City has acquired a special dumpster for the collection of recyclable materials. The recycling dumpster should be viewed as just the beginning of a broader effort to reduce solid waste disposal needs through recycling.

3. DISPOSAL TECHNIQUES

The general goal for disposal techniques is that only source-separated waste is disposed, with all reusable, recyclable, compostable material removed.

The objectives intended to meet this goal are as follows:

- 4 Research the feasibility of curbside recycling for small communities and coordinate these efforts with the Okanogan County solid waste management efforts.
- 4 Utilize disposal practices are environmentally sound and protect human health.
- 4 Participate in Okanogan County solid waste disposal decision-making processes.

4. SOLID WASTE MANAGEMENT

The general goal for solid waste management is to provide adequate resources to manage waste by the highest priority method possible.

- 4 All levels of government, citizens and the private sector are working cooperatively.
- 4 Play an active and cooperative role in developing the Okanogan County Solid Waste Management Plan.

A policy which the City should consider adopting as a means to realize the objectives and ultimately the goal for recycling is:

- 4 Ensure that a representative of the City attends County solid waste planning meetings to support the goals outlined in this Comprehensive Plan.

B. HAZARDOUS WASTE

Hazardous waste is created by the use of many materials in households, business places and industries. Many citizens that are interested in the appropriate disposal of hazardous wastes are discouraged from taking responsible action due to the limited available options. Frequently, the cost of responsible disposal is well beyond the capabilities of individuals, small businesses and small industries. The industries that produce hazardous materials and substances seem to shun responsibility of waste disposal while they are the most capable and knowledgeable resources. It is apparent that hazardous wastes must be dealt with on a local level, at least until an appropriate nationwide policy is developed to address the larger scope of the problem.

1. GOAL

- 4 The Tonasket area's air, land, surface and ground water resources must be protected from pollution from the use, handling, storage and disposal of hazardous materials and substances.

2. OBJECTIVES

- 4 Tonasket should prepare a hazardous waste mini-plan that reflects those policies contained in the Okanogan County Plan with additional policies to be implemented in the community. Zoning can be used to implement a portion of this Plan.
- 4 A program should be developed to safely dispose of household hazardous wastes so they do not end up part of the local landscape.
- 4 A central collection area for the disposal and possible treatment of hazardous waste should be established in an industrial area away from residences, streams and rivers. After collection the waste would be hauled to a regional facility.
- 4 The City should encourage Okanogan County to develop a regional facility that accepts hazardous wastes.
- 4 Business and industries that keep hazardous substances should be allowed to store and treat like hazardous wastes that are generated on site.