SWANA EPR Summit

Thomas A. Mackie

Mackie Shea, PC

Vice Chairman, EBC New England

Environmental Business Council of New England

- Many members with a stake in Massachusetts, regional and national environmental and energy developments
- Robust Solid Waste Committee, chaired by David Murphy of Tighe & Bond
- Many members in all aspect of environmental and energy businesses:
  - Major environmental consulting and planning firms
  - Law firms
  - Public affairs firms
  - Client firms
- Frequent interaction with regulators and policy makers

Broad Based Discussion

Identify the problem(s)

Identify the stakeholders

Range of solutions

Range of tools available

Pragmatic evaluation of realistic options

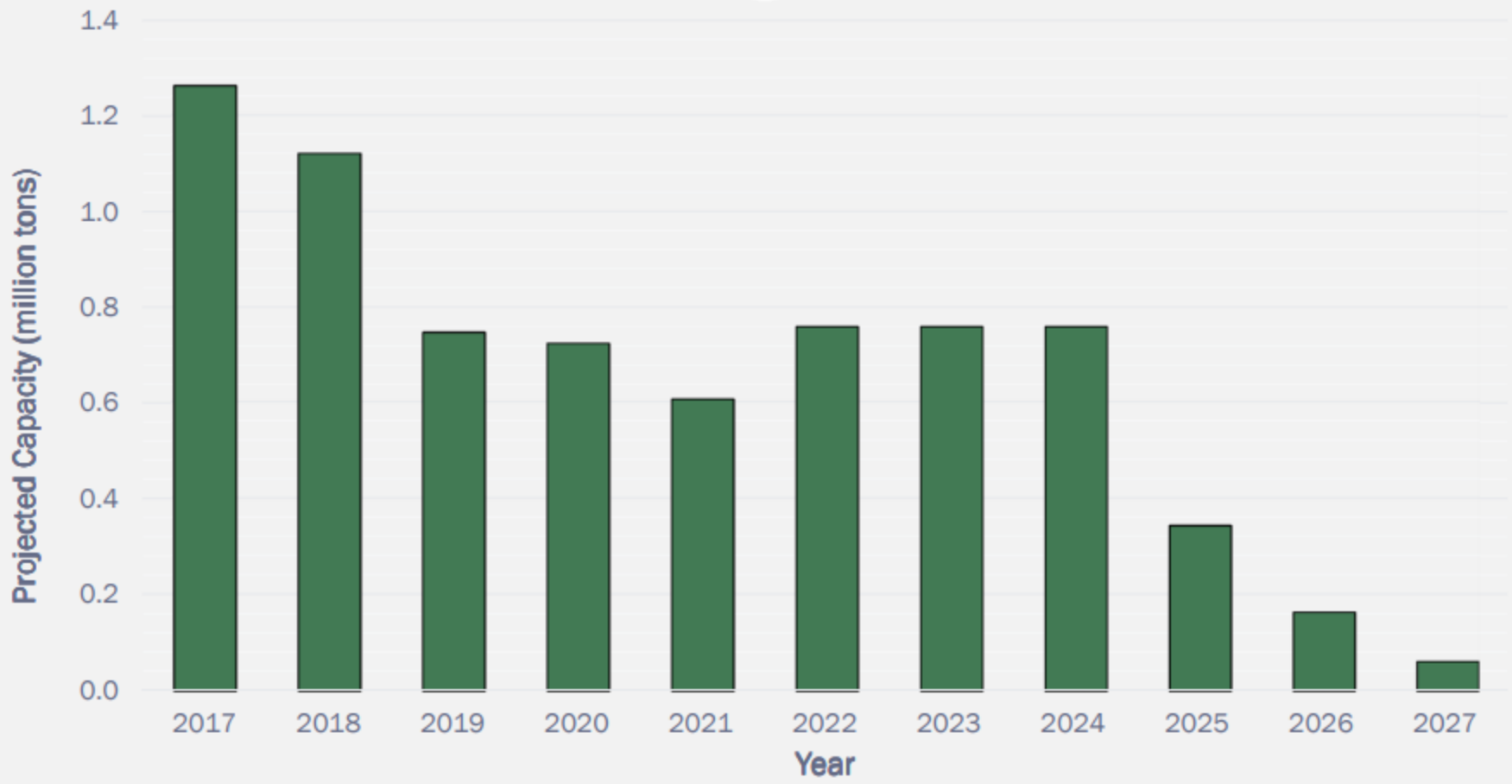
Cost benefit analysis

Identify unintended consequences

EPR in Context of Energy and Environment

- Sustainability, resource conservation, efficiency
- Across all economic sectors
- Not strictly an environmental play
  - Should not be driven by waste management priorities
    - Public does not care enough about waste issues
    - Entrenched stakeholders will resist
- Rationale needs to have greater societal impetus for legislation or regulation to succeed

Massachusetts Projected Landfill Capacity



Note: The Town of Bourne Landfill is projected to be capable of an increase in MSW capacity after its ash disposal contract with Covanta SEMASS expires in Dec. 2021.

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PUBLISHED
Feb. 26, 2019

Casella only bidder on new Boston recycling contract, higher than any disposal bid

Waste Management declined to bid for the first time in years, leaving city officials with a case of sticker shock and limited options.

- Boston's invitation for bids included six potential contract opportunities — based on geographic districts and various service offerings — for an estimated annual workload of about 38,500 tons. Casella pitched $115 per ton for a citywide rate at the lowest end and $150 at the highest. A second option, which would involve paying MRF workers Boston's living wage ordinance, raised pricing by $10 per ton in all categories.

Until that reduced waste future materializes, with progress beyond the city's current 21% recycling rate, Boston is also continuing to plan for a new set of five-year contracts to meet its disposal needs. Residential material goes to regional facilities owned by Wheelabrator and Covanta. Both companies submitted bids for some or all of the more than 240,000 tons of waste generated per year from residential routes.

Wheelabrator came in the lowest, with a range of $80-$83.75 per ton (with the ability to take no more than 58,000 tons), followed by Covanta at $93.61-$94.82 per ton and a bid from Republic Services including options from $108-122 per ton. Republic's bid involves sending material its Boston transfer station, centrally located in the Roxbury neighborhood.

Metro

The state’s ban on food waste lacks teeth, critics say

MASSDEP SOURCE REDUCTION INITIATIVES

- SOLID WASTE ADVISORY COMMITTEE SOURCE REDUCTION DISCUSSIONS AS PART OF 2030 SOLID WASTE MASTER PLAN
- Meetings:
  - January 17, 2019
  - February 20, 2019

MassDEP Extended Producer Responsibility (EPR) Discussions

- Enforce cardboard manufacturer responsibility to promote a closed loop system.
- Hold producers responsible if their packaging is not recyclable. Manufacturers should pay for people to send packaging back to them. Packaging responsibility should drive producers to think more about their packaging, which could drive source reduction.

- Support paint and electronics EPR bills filed this session.

Other Initiatives in Massachusetts

- Plastic bag bans
  - Municipal plastic bag bans – 88 municipalities
  - Whole Foods and Big Y supermarkets plastic bag elimination
- Other single use packaging bans
- Styrofoam food packaging – 9 municipalities
- Other single use plastics – e.g., straws

Regional and National Trends

- Packaging Reduction
  - Food and beverage manufacturers plan to reduce packaging by 19% from 2005-2020
- E-Commerce
  - Moving to lighter weight more flexible packaging
    - Proctor and Gamble's "Air Assist Package" led to 50% material savings
- Other waste stream shifts – reduced newspaper and magazine circulation and material use
- Many source reduction shifts affect recycling

Other States' Source Reduction Initiatives

- California

  Alameda County http://www.stopwaste.org/preventing-waste

  CalRecycle https://www.calrecycle.ca.gov/ReduceWaste/Home/

- Oregon DEQ

  https://www.oregon.gov/deq/mm/Pages/WastePrevention-and-Reuse.aspx

- Make Every Thread Count

  Average consumer buys 60 percent more clothing & keeps them ½ as long as 15 years ago.

Task Force to Study Methods for Reducing Consumer Packaging that Generates Solid Waste

Membership

Special Act 16-6 There is established a task force to study methods for reducing, through source reduction, reuse and recycling, consumer packaging that generates solid waste in the state.

Contact

Task Force to Study Methods for Reducing Consumer Packaging that Generates Solid Waste

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Information

Notice of Solicitation for Public Comment

***Deadline for Submission of Public Comments has been Extended to October 2, 2017**

The *Task Force to Study methods for Reducing Consumer Packaging that Generates Solid Waste* is accepting written information for the Task Force to review and consider. Written testimony and other shared information should be emailed to Robin Bumpen at Robin.Bumpen@cga.ct.gov. Any written testimony or other documents submitted to the Task Force will be posted on the Task Force website and will be considered public information.

Testimony, written comments, and other documents must be

Strategies for achieving a reduction of not less than twenty-five per cent of consumer packaging in the state's solid waste stream on and after January 1, 2024, and decreasing municipal costs associated with managing such waste stream through the implementation of: (A) alternative low cost methods of managing and reducing consumer packaging in an environmentally sustainable manner that additionally yields economic benefits through the creation of job opportunities or (B) an extended producer responsibility program for consumer packaging;

6.5 Packaging extended producer responsibility: EPR was discussed and debated. The Task Force voted 6 – 3 to recommend NOT pursuing EPR for the State of Connecticut. That said, the Co-Chairs of the Task Force decided to allow the addition of two addenda to the recommendations. These two addenda are at the end of this list of recommendations. Addendum 1 provides the majority opinion of the case for the avoidance of EPR. Addendum 2 provides the case for implementing an EPR system.