

The Role of Landfills in Integrated Solid Waste Management Systems

Mark Draper, Solid Waste Director

e2Tech Forum

June 26, 2014



- Quasi-municipal corporation owned by the City of Caribou and the Towns of Limestone and Fort Fairfield
- Contracted with 30+ other communities with a total population served of approximately 35,000
- In 2013, we disposed of 25,765 tons of waste generated from within our region
- 20 recycling drop-off stations in 17 communities



- Landfill operations began in 1977
- Regional recycling program in early '90s
- Closed attenuation landfill in 1997 after construction of secure landfill cells
- Subsequent improvements:
 - Increased capacity
 - Active gas extraction system
 - Leachate transport pipeline

Today's Landfills Are:

- Not the “dumps” of yesterday
 - Redundant composite liner systems
 - Liner performance monitoring
 - Leachate collection
 - Landfill gas extraction and re-use
 - Highly-regulated
- Adjustable in scale which allows flexibility
 - Build capacity for relatively short-term need
 - Accommodate changes in waste volume
 - Implement design improvements
 - Close
- a common component of an integrated waste management system

Waste Management Hierarchy Is

- A great public awareness tool
- Useful as a public policy guideline
- A worthwhile goal

Waste Management Hierarchy: Not a One-Size-Fits-All Mandate

- Maine is a diverse state; geographically, demographically, and socio-economically
- WTE is a great option for regions with dense population, higher waste generation, and a lack of suitable landfill locations
- In rural, sparsely-populated regions, a secure landfill may be the better (and only) option
- Goals should be set, and planning should occur, regionally

Municipal Service

- Municipalities are obligated by law to provide solid waste disposal for residents and businesses
- Incumbent upon municipal government to select the best option for that municipality
 - Mix of private and public options
- Less costly disposal = additional tax dollars for other uses
 - such as recycling programs, schools, recreation programs, road maintenance , social programs, etc.
 - or a reduced tax burden on citizens and businesses

Future

- Focus on upper rungs of hierarchy
- Facilitate a process to identify State policy or practice options that benefit all Maine residents

Questions?

Mark C. Draper
Solid Waste Director
(207) 473-7840

mark@tricomcommunityrecycling.com

www.tricomcommunityrecycling.com