

A person wearing a red shirt is kneeling on a paved surface, sorting through various types of waste into nine green plastic bins. The bins are arranged in a 3x3 grid. The top row contains paper and cardboard. The middle row contains white plastic containers, aluminum cans, and glass bottles. The bottom row contains more paper and cardboard, more aluminum cans, and white plastic containers. The background is a paved area with large, light-colored stones.

Discussion of Advancing Community Level Data

COMMON ISSUE

- Recommend 2 critical elements of a national plan to advance community level data.

SPECIFIC ISSUES

- 1) Recommend 2 methods to help communities value and resource the collection of data.
- 2) Recommend 2 ways to ensure communities use data to improve their programs.
- 3) Identify 1 example of local data not commonly collected now that should be, and recommend how to expand collection of that data.
- 4) Recommend 2 ways to ensure linkages between local, state and national data.
- 5) Identify 2 ways to ensure the integrity of local data.

COMMON ISSUE

Recommend 2 critical elements of a national plan to advance community level data.

- Standardization of definitions,
- Being able to align terms like EPA facts and figures with WARM. Create a tool that aligns or translates between the two.
- Needs to be manageable
- Standardize tools and methods
- National regulation for requiring measurement
- Being able to provide economic development data to local elected officials, including economic analysis
- National contamination rate/study
- Expand the scope of data available, like Energy Star portfolio, to look at trends between public and private sectors
- Participation from people all over the country in putting a plan together
- What organization can build consensus among public, private sector
- Common platform for storing and sharing data

Recommend 2 methods to help communities value and resource the collection of data.

- Leveraging contracts, franchise agreements, etc. against reporting requirements
- Reflect what communities value
- Help communities benchmark
- Investing in staff
- Help communities understand how it will affect them
- Transparency around what folks report compared to their peers, could lead to competition and recognition

Recommend 2 ways to ensure communities use data to improve their programs.

- Use data comparatively to learn from each other, with textiles, NYC has innovative textile programs but there is still a lot disposed, so NYC could look to another community to learn how they compare
- Create an incentive/award program that features communities that have used the program
- Target a message around data, how can you target information to residents to improve recycling
- Help communities measure their own progress (rather than comparing to other communities).
- Sharing testimonials related to economics, such as siting MRFs based on data
- MN created a Green Steps Cities program

Identify 1 example of local data not commonly collected now that should be, and recommend how to expand collection of that data.

- Get a handle on non-residential tons
- Multi-family units
- Dumpster dives and talking to haulers and analyze what is being wasted
- Contamination rates, often overlooked at the local government level
- The true costs

Recommend 2 ways to ensure linkages between local, state and national data.

- Acceptance of what is the important data everyone should collect
- Continuing to use new technology for acquiring data
- States could consolidate and aggregate data
- Consistent language and platforms that talk to each other
- Everyone uses different language and definitions, need a common language. Can't use Facts and Figures to calculate GHG in Warm
- Requiring data reporting from national to state to local level
- Require in franchise agreement to provide data
- Understand the quality of material moving across state and national jurisdictions so we understand quality which translates to economic value

Identify 2 ways to ensure the integrity of local data.

- Measure what you can and don't measure what you can't (don't measure chicken litter)
- Delivering a service to rate payers

Discussion of Advancing National and State Level Data



COMMON ISSUE

- Recommend 2 critical elements of a national plan to advance national and state level data.

SPECIFIC ISSUES

- 1) Recommend 1 or 2 methods to coordinate groups that collect state and national data.
- 2) Identify 1 example of national and state level data not commonly collected now that should be and make a recommendation on how the collection of that data should expand.
- 3) Recommend 1 or 2 ways states and the EPA could help strengthen local data.
- 4) Identify 2 ways to ensure the integrity of national and state data.

COMMON ISSUE

Recommend 2 critical elements of a national plan to advance national and state level data.

- A system modeled after portfolio manager, the work of SERDC and a certain degree the TRI, report up state and LG data and report it in context of Facts and Figures and report user location, start the work of mapping material flows. Have a certain amount available free and then after that there would be a fee. To give info on where the MRFs and end users are.
- National level organizer is needed (federal government or a non-regulatory agency or a partnership)
- Organics and work with states to report that data
- Economic development data that can be applied regionally and include in a national platform
- Within F&F break down and address in the wasted energy data to identify types and flow of materials
- Model it on regulatory side of things for DHS that sets minimum standards that states have to meet to collect data
- Federal gov't should require states to have SMM plans, with different goals for different states
- Require states to be accredited and set a standard for accreditation like a college but for measurement (Recycling University)
- Required element of state SMM plans should be a measurement element

1. Recommend 1 or 2 methods to coordinate groups that collect state and national data.

- Use states' managers meetings to get into the nitty gritty and make decisions, maybe hold the meetings more frequently
- More collaboration, possibly some type of online communication platform for measurement, could be available to communities, businesses, etc. Could use the portal to collect data without overlap of data.
- EPA should sponsor the previous idea
- Need for definition help for commodity groups

2. Identify 1 example of national and state level data not commonly collected now that should be and make a recommendation on how the collection of that data should expand.

- Direct to end market industry information. For ex., Arkansas promised Walmart confidentiality in their reporting and that worked well.
Aggregated data.
- In Maryland, Walmart and Target and Dollar Stores report directly to the state so they don't have to report to the local government

3. Recommend 1 or 2 ways states and the EPA could help strengthen local data.

- Capture rate concept standardized and benchmarked
- Providing support and tools esp. to smaller communities
- State and EPA could provide guidance on sample contract and franchise language
- If you don't contract or franchise, you can accomplish the same data collection through licensing haulers

4. Identify 2 ways to ensure the integrity of national and state data.

- (for question #2) the point of SMM is to minimize the impact of material, so states are not collecting the total impact of materials in their states like Oregon
- Do a better job collecting information beyond the boundaries of MSW. Collect at the local level.
- Now question #4
- It would be good to see generation rates at the state level within F&F
- As far as overall critical issues to address, there are not a lot of private industry in the room, we need to engage them better to get that data collected
- Coordinate with commodity groups and national measurement at the EPA level
- Publishing the data in a comparable format over a period of years, even if the data is imperfect.
- Money, time and communication. Ensure someone is there to collect and report data consistently.
- Funding from the federal government to provide state level staff to collect and compile data.
- Report data in a more granular format, be transparent about how data is aggregated
- Annual audits of data at local levels to ensure quality is checked. Maybe check a sample each year. Also at the state and national level.
- The amount of data, the more we have, the less margin of error, so if you don't contribute data you're contributing to the data integrity problem. Be consistent in reporting. Be constant. Granular – the lowest level you can put in, the better. Accredited agency to review. Use industry marketing definitions. Do QC.
- Best practices are also important to document, in addition to quantitative data. Should also be looking at BMPs.