Tribal Waste Management Operations and Maintenance:

Understanding Cost of Services and Developing a Funding Strategy

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Overview

- What do we mean by Operations and Maintenance or O&M
  - Components of waste operations and maintenance
  - Operational considerations
- The Federal Family Authorities and Capacity
- Developing a funding strategy starts with quantifying the need
- Tribal input is critical, albeit burdensome for some Tribes

View from Iowa Tribe of Kansas and Nebraska Office June 2023

What Do We Mean by O&M

- Components of "operations"
  - Labor: day-to-day labor for residential waste collection, handling at transfer station or other consolidation points, transportation to final disposal, administration
  - Direct costs: fuel for trucks, electricity/water for facilities, etc.
- Components of "maintenance"
  - Maintenance extends the life cycle of facilities and equipment and protects past investments
  - Costs of warranties
  - Repairs and Replacement parts

Federal Family Authorities and Capacity

Multi-Agency Tribal Infrastructure Task Force

US Environmental Protection Agency

Indian Health Service

US Department of Agriculture, Rural Development

Department of Housing and Urban Development

Department of Interior, Bureau of Indian Affairs

- GAP has authority, but limited funding, and funding is multi-media.
- GAP does not have capacity to handle the level of funding it would take to support O&M in the form of grants.
- IHS has authority but no appropriation.
- EPA and IHS need more information to understand the order of magnitude of the needs and to figure out how to balance workload.

Quantifying Tribal Solid Waste O&M Needs

Key Factors and Scenarios

- Not every community needs curbside collection. But there is also a cost of service for staffing drop off stations.
  - Costs of curbside solid waste collection
  - Costs of drop off programs
  - Costs and feasibility of recycling and composting program
  - Transfer station operations and hauling distances as well as final disposal costs

What will be gained by this?

- First step towards building a funding strategy
- Allows EPA and partner agencies to make a data-backed request to explore potential funding sources

Blackfeet Nation transfer station October 2022

Providing Tribal Input to the Effort

Tribal Input:

- Identify the needs, preferences, and challenges of tribal communities
- Ensures that the solutions are culturally appropriate, feasible, and sustainable

Methods:

- Workgroup participants
- Webinars, focus groups, site visits, etc.
- Direct outreach to tribes; outreach to tribal groups: TWAR, NTC, etc.

What beyond service costs will be considered

- The impact of transportation, open dumps, and inflation on O&M needs.
- Markets and ability to off-set costs through waste diversion and waste reduction.
- Private and municipal disposal costs

Level of Service	Scope of Services				
	SW Drop Off & Transfer to disposal	SW and Recycling Drop Off and Transfer Station(s)	Curbside SW collection w/Direct Haul to disposal in packers	Curbside SW collection with Transfer Trailers (TS) & long haul to disposal	Curbside SW and Recycling collection w/ TS and/or MRF, DD or Long Haul
Basic Service					
Enhanced Incl. Education and Outreach (E&O)					
Premium E&O Plus Enforcement					

Other Cost Factors to Consider & Document

Transportation:

- Transportation Cost per ton/mile
- Direct Haul in Packer Truck to disposal site
- Transfer Trailer haul to disposal site

Disposal Costs:

- Tipping Fee
- Market Fee or Revenue
- “Partnership” discounts (MOU, Put-or-Pay, Cooperative agreement)

Choctaw Nation Recycling Facility June 2022

Questions and Feedback Session

1. WiiFM
2. We’ve been through this before…What’s different now?
3. How can I help?
4. Feedback we seek:
   - *What types of data on costs versus budget do you currently maintain*
   - *Are you willing to host a contractor to observe onsite operations and calculate real-time costs*
   - *What sources of funding do you currently use for O&M*
   - *How common is contracted service versus public/tribal provided service?*
   - *Are landfill/WTE costs lower if you enter a flow control agreement with a private operator or municipality?*