WEST VIRGINIA CODE: §22-15A-18

§22-15A-18. Establishment of county recycling programs for solid waste; petition for referendum; ballot contents; election procedure; effect of such election.

(a) On or before October 18, 1992, each municipality described in subsection (b) of this section shall submit a proposal to the Solid Waste Management Board, consistent with the provisions of this section, describing the establishment and implementation of the mandatory recycling program. The Solid Waste Management Board shall review the submitted plans for consistency with the criteria provided in this section, the county or regional solid waste management plan, and the statewide management plan. The Solid Waste Management Board may make suggested changes to the plan and shall provide technical assistance to the municipalities in the development of the plans.

(b) On or before October 18, 1993, each municipality with a population of 10,000 or more people, as determined by the most recent decennial census by the Bureau of the Census of the United States Department of Commerce, shall establish and commence implementation of a source separation and curbside collection program for recyclable materials. Implementation shall be phased in by July 1, 1995. Such program shall include, at a minimum, the following:

(1) An ordinance adopted by the governing body of the municipality requiring that each person, partnership, corporation, or other entity in the municipality shall separate at least three recyclable materials, as deemed appropriate by the municipality, from other solid waste: *Provided*, That the list of recyclables to be separated may be adjusted according to whether the generator is residential, commercial or other type of establishment.

(2) A scheduled day, at least one per month, during which separated materials are to be placed at the curbside, or similar location, for collection.

(3) A system that collects recyclable materials from the curbside, or similar location, at least once per month: *Provided*, That to encourage full participation, the program shall, to the maximum extent possible, provide for the collection of recyclables at the same rate of frequency, and simultaneous with, the regular collection of solid waste.

(4) Provisions to ensure compliance with the ordinance, including incentives and penalties.

(5) A comprehensive public information and education program covering the importance and benefits of recycling, as well as the specific features and requirements of the recycling program. As part of the education program, each municipality shall, at a minimum, notify all persons occupying residential, commercial, institutional, or other premises within its boundaries of the requirements of the program, including how the system will operate, the dates of collection, the responsibilities of persons within the municipality and incentives and penalties.

WV Legislature

(6) Consultation with the county or regional solid waste authority in which the municipality is located to avoid duplication, ensure coordination of solid waste programs, and maximize the market for recyclables.

(c) Notwithstanding the provisions of subsection (b) of this section, a comprehensive recycling program for solid waste may be established in any county of this state by action of a county commission in accordance with the provisions of this section. Such program shall require:

(1) That, prior to collection at its source, all solid waste shall be segregated into separate identifiable recyclable materials by each person, partnership, corporation, and governmental agency subscribing to a solid waste collection service in the county or transporting solid waste to a commercial solid waste facility in the county;

(2) Each person engaged in the commercial collection, transportation, processing, or disposal of solid waste within the county shall accept only solid waste from which recyclable materials in accordance with the county's comprehensive recycling program have been segregated; and

(3) That the provisions of the recycling plan prepared pursuant to §22-15A-17 of this code shall, to the extent practicable, be incorporated in the county's comprehensive recycling program.

(d) For the purposes of this article, recyclable materials shall include, but not be limited to, steel and bimetallic cans, aluminum, glass, paper, and such other solid waste materials as may be specified by either the municipality or county commission with the advice of the county or regional solid waste authority.

(e) A comprehensive recycling program for solid waste may be established in any county of this state by: (1) A petition filed with the county commission bearing the signatures of registered voters of the county equal to not less than five percent of the number of votes cast within the county for Governor at the preceding gubernatorial election; and (2) approval by a majority of the voters in a subsequent referendum on the issue. A referendum to determine whether it is the will of the voters of a county that a comprehensive recycling program for solid waste be established in the county may be held at any regular primary or general election. Any election at which the question of establishing a policy of comprehensive recycling for solid waste is voted upon shall be held at the voting precincts established for holding primary or general elections. All of the provisions of the general election laws, when not in conflict with the provisions of this article, shall apply to voting and elections hereunder, insofar as practicable. The Secretary of State shall prescribe the form of the petition which shall include the printed name, address, and date of birth of each person whose signature appears on the petition. Upon verification of the required number of signatures on the petition, the county commission shall, not less than 70 days before the election, order that the issue be placed on the ballot and referendum held at the next primary or general election to determine whether it is the will of the voters of the county

WV Legislature

that a policy of comprehensive recycling of solid waste be established in the county: *Provided*, That the petition bearing the necessary signatures has been filed with the county commission at least 100 days prior to the election.

The ballot, or the ballot labels where voting machines are used, shall have printed thereon substantially the following:

"Shall the county commission be required to establish a comprehensive recycling program for solid waste in _____ County, West Virginia?

For Recycling

Against Recycling

(Place a cross mark in the square opposite your choice.)"

If a majority of legal votes cast upon the question be for the establishment of a policy of comprehensive recycling of solid waste, the county commission shall, after the certification of the results of the referendum, thereafter adopt an ordinance, within 180 days of certification, establishing a comprehensive recycling program for solid waste in the county: *Provided*, That such program shall be implemented and operational no later than 12 months following certification. If a majority of the legal votes cast upon the question be against the establishment of a policy of comprehensive recycling of solid waste, the policy shall not take effect, but the question may again be submitted to a vote at any subsequent election in the manner herein provided.

(f) A comprehensive recycling program for solid waste established by petition and referendum may be rescinded only pursuant to the procedures set out herein to establish the program.

To rescind the program, the ballot, or the ballot labels where voting machines are used, shall have printed thereon substantially the following:

"Shall the county commission be required to terminate the comprehensive recycling program for solid waste in _____ County, West Virginia?

Continue Recycling

End Recycling

(Place a cross mark in the square opposite your choice.)"

(g) If a majority of legal votes cast upon the question be for the termination of a policy of comprehensive recycling of solid waste previously established in the county, the county commission shall, after the certification of the results of the referendum, thereafter rescind by ordinance the comprehensive recycling program for solid waste in the county within 90

WV Legislature

days of certification. If a majority of the legal votes cast upon the question be for the continuation of the policy of comprehensive recycling of solid waste, the ordinance shall not be rescinded, but the question may again be submitted to a vote at any subsequent election in the manner herein provided.

(h) In the case of any municipality having a population greater than 30,000 persons, as indicated by the most recent decennial census conducted by the United States, the governing body of such municipality may by ordinance establish a materials recovery facility in lieu of or in addition to the mandatory recycling program required under the provisions of this section: *Provided*, That a materials recovery facility shall be subject to approval by both the Public Service Commission and the Solid Waste Management Board upon a finding by both the Public Service Commission and the Solid Waste Management Board that the establishment of a materials recovery facility will not hinder, and will be consistent with, the purposes of this article.

WV Legislature