

ANEI's Organizational Experience on Waste Management

PLANNING POLICY PROJECTS

The Rural Community Toxic Waste Project, 1997-1998

In Partnership with the Southwest Regional Planning Commission and with funding from the USDA Rural Development Administration, ANEI provided technical assistance and training to 59 rural towns in New Hampshire, enabling them to work cooperatively to develop regional, comprehensive, long-term programs for household and small-quantity business hazardous waste disposal. The initiative built upon the successes of existing programs and improves participation and collaboration.

Vermont Solid Waste Plan, 1998

ANEI worked at the request of the Vermont Department of Environmental Conservation, in conjunction with DSM Environmental Services, to plan and facilitate the public participation portion of Vermont's State Solid Waste Plan revision. ANEI conducted a phone survey to provide detailed, specific responses on solid waste issues. The Institute helped organize regional meetings with solid waste districts and clusters of municipalities, creating an agenda and process that enabled the identification of critical issues, draft positions and potential actions. ANEI helped structure and process the information collected, including survey data, public response meetings, and other comments. Participants from across the state helped consider the challenge of "taking out the garbage" safely and economically, and their participation helped shape the 1998 Vermont Solid Waste Plan.

Tompkins County Re-Use, 1998

Tompkins County contracted with ANEI to strategize their reuse initiative as part of a multi-year commitment to environmentally sound solid waste management. ANEI facilitated sessions to link the ideas of the county and state governments, private sector, and non-profits, and collectively create a strategic plan, moving the County's reuse goals forward.

Composting Study: Proving That Composting Pays, 1996

ANEI directed a composting study at Dartmouth College in Hanover, NH to devise an economic model to measure the cost of sending organic wastes to landfills versus composting facilities. Funded by a grant from the American Forestry and Paper Association, the study resulted in new information about economic impacts that traditionally are not considered when assessing the viability of alternative solid waste recovery options. The grant also funded the construction of a composting facility in Hanover.

Keene Mobile Education Feasibility Study, 1996

ANEI worked with the City of Keene, NH to conduct a feasibility study for developing a mobile solid waste education center. The project's goal was to educate the public on solid waste issues, emphasizing biological, chemical and physical science concepts.

Bulgarian Solid Waste Policy: 1994-1998

In the first phase of this effort, Antioch New England Institute worked in partnership with the Institute for Sustainable Communities, the Bulgarian Ministry of Environment and Waters, and the US

Environmental Protection Agency to design and implement a policy-making model. As a result, Bulgarian leaders created the nation's first comprehensive environmental policy, as well as national legislation on solid waste. Working with the same partners, the Institute completed the second phase of the project: to support the policy's implementation. The Institute's training and technical assistance programs helped local governments and the ministry to develop a national public awareness campaign on solid waste, and provided local officials throughout the country with the resources and information they needed to implement the new policy.

The Institute also helped local leaders develop skills to promote public participation in the process. The momentum of this effort led to the creation of solid waste programs far exceeding expectations: within one year, more than 160 local governments had implemented programs! Bulgaria's comprehensive National Solid Waste Law passed and went into implementation in 1997.

Macedonian and Albanian Waste Planning Program: 1998

On the Macedonian side of Lake Ohrid, residents reported illegal dumping of waste; on the Albanian side, destroyed automobiles, live ammunition and other remnants of the latest political unrest lay along the lakeshore. Up until 1998, neither of these countries had had a solid waste management plan since 1980. Even though these two countries share Lake Ohrid, they had had a guarded border for many generations with almost no exchange, including communication regarding solid waste management. In the spring of 1998, assisting the Institute for Sustainable Communities, the Antioch New England Institute functioned as facilitator as well as solid waste expert. Through dialogue, site visits, and round-table discussions, the Antioch New England Institute helped Macedonians and Albanians to identify shared concerns during a fertile period for shared systemic change, which helped protect the lake that area residents call "a gift from heaven."