

**BURNT**

*A Member of Community Shares*

Solid Waste Reform In Tennessee

## **TDEC ~~SABOTAGES~~ SOLID WASTE REFORM**

**Violate Policy Of Local Solid Waste Manager Dominated Task Force**

**“IF YOU BEGIN WITH THE CONTENT OF SOLID WASTE, SOLUTIONS FALL LIKE RAIN FROM THE SKY”**

[PETER ANDERSON]

**THERE WILL BE PUBLIC COMMENTS, BUT ONCE TDEC DECIDES, PUBLIC COMMENTS ARE OFTEN USELESS. WE NEED ANOTHER STRATEGY**

TDEC DID NOT BEGIN WITH THE CONTENT OF SOLID WASTE. TDEC BEGAN WITH A DETERMINATION TO LANDFILL AS MUCH WASTE AS THEIR LANDFILL OWNING FRIENDS COULD TAKE. THE RESULT WAS A LAST MINUTE BETRAYAL OF THE POLICY OF THE “STATE SOLID WASTE REDUCTION TASK FORCE” COMPRISED PRIMARILY OF LOCAL SOLID WASTE MANAGERS WHICH RECOMMENDED A BAN OF FOOD WASTE AND YARD FROM LANDFILLS. TWO WEEKS BEFORE THE STATE SOLID WASTE BOARD MEETING, TDEC ADMITTED THEY HAD DONE NO RESEARCH ON COSTS OF THIS POLICY. THE LANDFILL DOMINATED ‘SOLID WASTE ADVISORY COMMITTEE VOTED AGAINST THE BAN BECAUSE THERE WAS NO RESEARCH ON COST. OF COURSE, THERE WAS NO RESEARCH ON THE COST OF ANY OTHER POLICIES EITHER.

**NOTE:** A *BURNT* member was a member of the “Task force” and another attended every session. We found TDEC employees professional and accessible. However, the good policy formulated by our “Task force” was defeated in a sneak attack [see ‘What Is Wrong With TDEC?’

TDEC [The Tennessee Department of Environment and Conservation] did a switch and bait on proposed regulations to favor landfills at the expense of people. State Solid waste Reform began in 2007 under an administration backed *bill—HB 2287/SB 2289* [pg. 4-5] *BURNT* was the only group to oppose this bill—we spotted the language which would allow TDEC to continue their system of recycling lite, landfill heavy system. The proposed regulations [link] are structured around the useless, inaccurate government reporting of local governments. *There are three (3) full pages describing the various degree of enforcement by TDEC against local governments which fall short.....yet the State has NEVER enforced against a local government over solid waste failures since 1991.*

These regulations follow the last “reform” in 1991. Initially. The 25% diversion of solid waste was reasonable. However, in 1996, TDEC created an incredible loop hole which caused Class IV Landfills to grow from 12 in 1994 to almost 80 today—most of these located in poor and minority areas. *Tennessee is the only state with this loop-hole yet they are not embarrassed.*

### **What were some of the hallmarks of this “reform”**

>>started in year 2007 with HB 2287/SB 2289 –an administration bill

>>terrible environmental injustice and racism by TDEC—three groups official State Groups which voted on this—‘Solid Waste Reduction Task Force’ were 46 out of 49 members white—TDEC does not want brown and black people around

>>despite extreme poverty of state and extreme economic problems, TDEC made no use solid waste as a raw material in business for jobs—hello, governor and Chamber of Commerce.

>>despite National research, TDEC ignored facts that landfilling organic wastes food waste, yard waste, and paper create methane gas, a major contributor to greenhouse gas.

**Let's remember TDEC has butchered landfill after landfill** including Dickson County, Coffee County, Carter County, the Class II Coal Ash Landfill in Harriman which is a \$1 billion crisis AND fifty (50) more landfills in evaluation due to high level water pollutants. .Two regional landfills inside the city limits of Memphis. More than 75 unlined Class IV landfills

See below "What is Wrong With TDEC"--a Legislative flyer and commentary

**LINKS---**

- jobs from solid waste
- national expert letter on organic food and yard waste causing green house gasses and the
- regulations [preliminary] go to -----

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>>, Solid Waste Advisory Committee", and 'State Solid Waste Control Board', anmd --hich