

COMMUNITY YARD WASTE DEMONSTRATION SITES

April 14, 15 & 16, 2009



What is Yard Waste?

Plant material resulting from lawn maintenance and other horticultural gardening and landscaping activities and includes:

- Grass
- Leaves
- Pruning
- Brush
- Shrubs
- Garden Material
- Christmas Trees
- Tree limbs up to 4 inches in diameter.

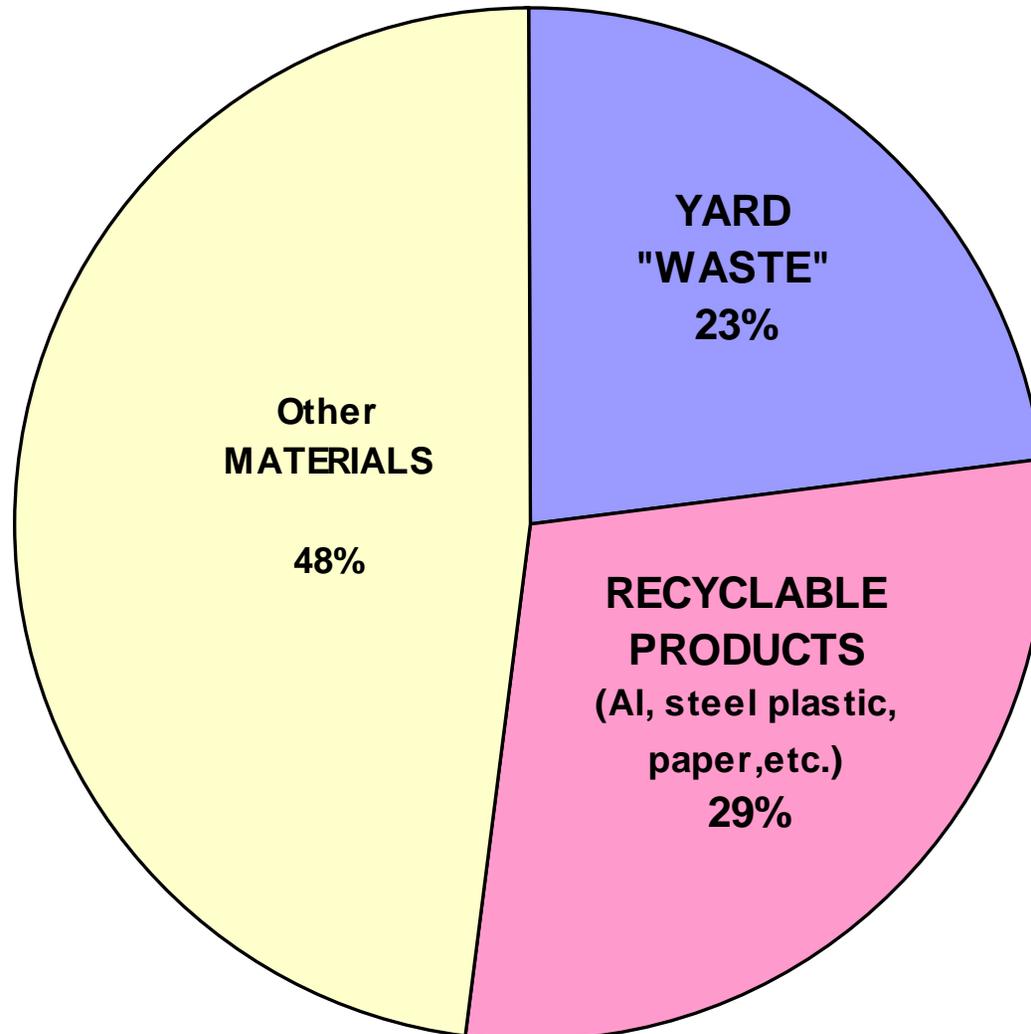
By diverting our yard waste from disposal we are taking responsibility for our waste today as opposed to making it the burden of future generations.

Why

Were Community Yard Waste
Demonstration Sites
Established?

*Provide an additional option for
residents to handle yard waste*

Yard Waste is Nearly $\frac{1}{4}$ of the Residential Waste in Delaware



Benefits of Keeping Yard Waste Out of the Landfills

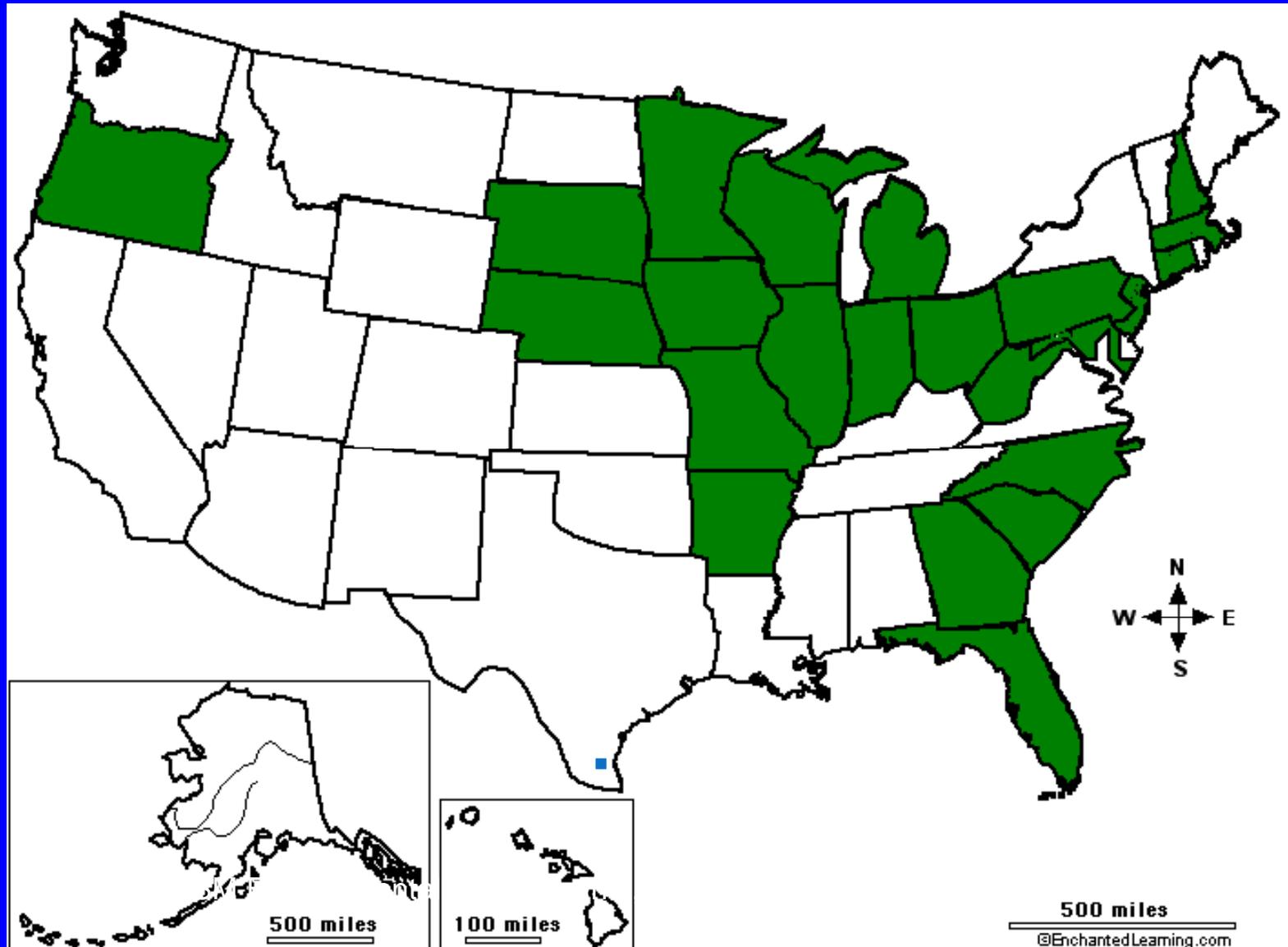
- Extended landfill life
- Increased local production of mulch and compost
 - Mulch reduces need for herbicides and watering
 - Compost aids moisture retention, reduces the need for fertilizer, and creates a healthier soil



Reduce greenhouse gas emissions



Most States Have Restrictions on Yard Waste Disposal, Including PA, NJ & MD



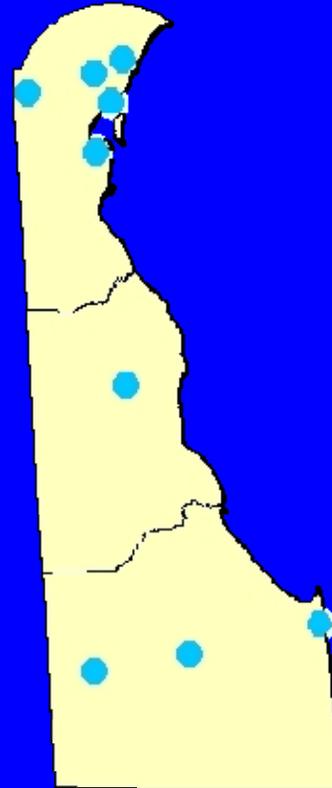


Yard Waste in Many
Communities in other states
is part of regular curb-side
Recycling Pick up

North Carolina

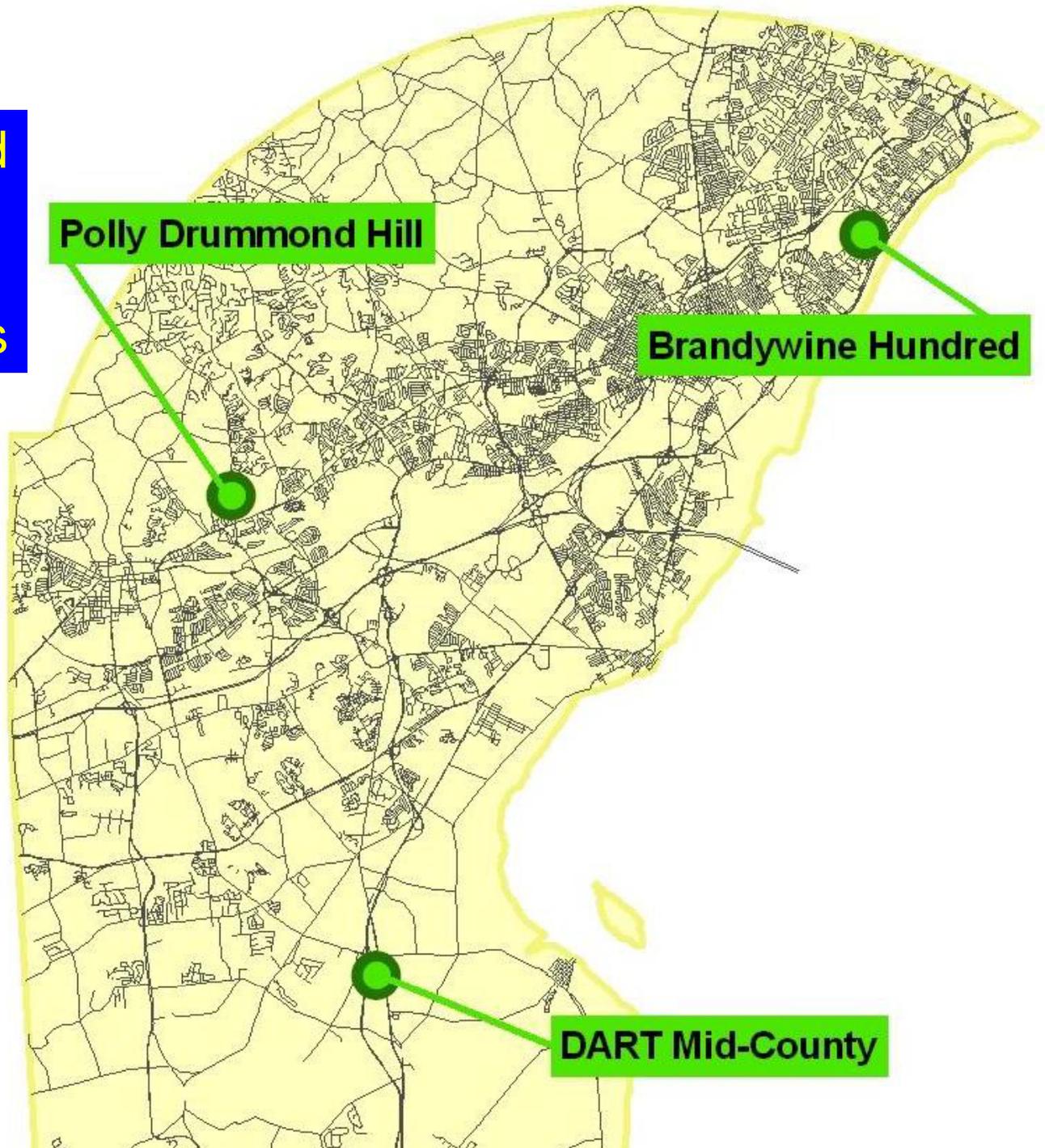
Delaware Municipalities that Currently Have Yard Waste Management Programs

- Delaware City
- Dover
- Georgetown
- Newark
- New Castle
- Newport
- Rehoboth
- Seaford
- Wilmington



And compost demonstration sites in:
Ardentown, Felton, Laurel, Wilmington

**DNREC Established
Three Community
Yard Waste
Demonstration Sites**



Polly Drummond Hill

Brandywine Hundred

DART Mid-County

When Yard Waste Sites Opened, DNREC Made Clear:
Continued Operations Would Require Additional Funding



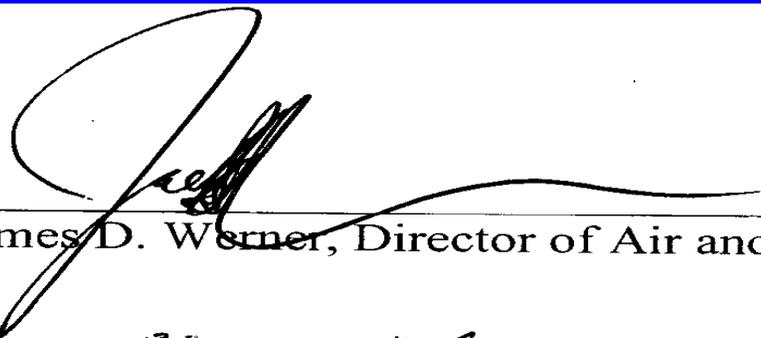
Polly Drummond Hill Road Site – November 2007

Senate Joint Resolution 2 issued by the 144th General Assembly required that:

“DNREC and DSWA shall work with all necessary partners to open and operate, as long as feasible, at least three demonstration community yard waste sites which shall be available to the public for disposal and recovery of residential yard waste.”

And that we did ...

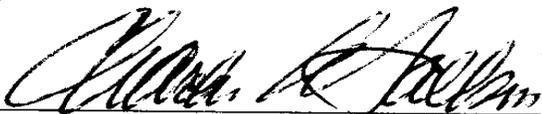
This Memorandum of Agreement (MOA) shall remain in effect from the date by which both parties have signed this MOA until January 24, 2010. Renewal, modification or termination is subject to the mutual agreement of both Divisions.



James D. Werner, Director of Air and Waste

4 Feb 2008

Date



Charles A. Salkin, Director Parks and Recreation

2/4/8

Date

What prompted these public meetings?

“Yard Waste Drop Sites. It is the intent of the General Assembly that all yard waste drop sites in New Castle County remain operational unless otherwise directed by the General Assembly. The Department of Natural Resources shall conduct public hearings on and submit a plan for maintaining operations of the yard waste drop sites to the General Assembly by May 2009.”

- Section 88, House Bill 525 (Bond Bill)

And here we are ...

- Operational Costs:
 - About \$50,000 per site per year.
 - Total costs: \$150,000 per year
- Paid using one-time “Penalty funds”

*DNREC cannot sustain these costs indefinitely
without additional funding*

Options for Future Operations

Option 1:

Continue as is with a dedicated source of funding
from the legislature:

Not Likely!

Recycling bill (HB 159) was defeated in
General Assembly in 2008.

Options for future Operations (cont.)

Option 2:

Operate sites with little or no free mulch.

- Costs: About \$50,000 per year for all 3 sites .
Still need Funding for pad clearing and maintenance.
- \$100,000 per year saved by exchanging value of the mulch for the cost of grinding.

*Mulch value is high right now (April 2009),
BUT future of mulch for grinding agreement uncertain.*

Options for Future Operations

(cont.)

Option 2 continued:

- Revenue to cover the cost of pad clearing and maintenance still must be generated.
- Possible sources of revenue:
 - Sticker program similar to a Park's annual pass.
 - Donation boxes.
 - Fee booths (require staff investment)

Options for Future Operations

(cont.)

Option 3: Privatization - Could be any combination of existing public and/or private locations.

- At least one local contractor has offered to allow the public to use their site free of charge.
- There would be no free mulch under this scenario.

Previous Comments on Community Yard Waste Sites:

- *“This is truly and environmentally friendly idea ... we would like to voice our support to keep the site open.”*
 - Ray and Madelyn Jeffery – Wilmington
- *“Please keep the yard waste sites open ...these sites are worth the expense.”*
 - Mr. and Mrs. Muckle – Newark
- *“Providing these sites is one of the best decisions the state has made. Please continue ...”*
 - Paul Lyons – Heritage Park
- *“I implore you to keep the yard waste sites open. This is an invaluable service.”*
 - Joseph Marvasi – Newark
- *“We appreciate it so much I tell all of my friends from New Jersey and they wish they had a place like this.”*

Now tell us what you think!

- Questions
- Comments
- Suggestions
- Recommendations