

MONTACHUSETT REGIONAL PLANNING COMMISSION

REGIONAL GOALS AND STRATEGIES

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*Regional Goals and Strategies
Introduction*

On December 28, 1976, the Montachusett Regional Planning Commission endorsed a document entitled: Report on Growth Policy for the Montachusett Region. This report represented the extensive efforts of interested citizens throughout the Region to analyze and document their attitudes on many vital issues affecting the growth of their communities and surrounding region both presently and into the future. It is believed that this report records, as accurately as possible, the aspirations and concerns of the Montachusett Region relevant to a multitude of growth issues.

As a result of the Report on Growth Policy, a decision was made to revise the goals and objectives, which guide policy for the Montachusett Regional Planning Commission. The intention was to develop a new set of goals and objectives, which were an accurate reflection of local and regional policies as specified in the Report on Growth Policy.

Goals and objectives, in general, provide a unifying and consistent direction in which the Montachusett Region and its Planning Commission can move. They describe an ideal state (or goal) to work toward and the means, through various programs or objectives, to arrive at that goal. It is intended that these goals and objectives function as an action program to guide the future activities of the Montachusett Regional Planning Commission.

The Regional Goals and Objectives draft was presented to MRPC on June 29, 1993 as a preliminary draft. Subsequent to that, input was received. The transportation segment of the goals, policies and objectives was distributed to the Montachusett Joint Transportation Committee members. After receiving their input the MRPC adopted the transportation goals at its July 27, 1993 meeting prior to the adoption of the overall Regional Goals, Policies and Objectives.

Municipalities have joined together in the Commission to promote with the greatest efficiency and economy the coordinated development of the district and the general welfare and prosperity of its people.

Commission members will defer to a municipality's preference when the municipality's preference

- a) is in accordance with the goals and policies
- b) is not in accordance with the goals and policies but does not injure the member's municipality.

All project descriptions put forward for consideration should be accompanied by an analysis of the project in terms of the goals and policies with reference to the specific goal or policy to which it relates.

Regional Goals and Strategies
A Summary

1. Regional Growth and Development

The Montachusett Region is experiencing an extended period of growth and development in all of the areas contained in this statement of the goals and objectives of the Montachusett Regional Planning Commission. This growth and development is being fueled by the growth of population and the expansion of the economy. This creates jobs and the needs and demands for additional housing, services and infrastructure, land-use regulation, environmental and natural resource protection, and transportation needs, to list a few. This growth and development is bringing about major changes in the social, political and economic fabric of the region.

Growth and development can be haphazard and piecemeal as it has been in the past, or it can be an orderly, planned process that addresses not only the present population, but future generations as well. The push of development from the urban centers, especially from the east makes planning for regional growth imperative. Planning needs to be on a regional level, for what develops in one community eventually affects all communities. We need to encourage planning that fosters cooperation, and explicitly recognizes that all local governments have a vital role to play in developing long-term solutions to the challenges and opportunities of growth and development in the whole Montachusett Region.

Through regional growth planning strategies we look to address issues of a regional nature that reflect local circumstances and priorities. Although some of our regional communities are facing more intense growth and development than others, this growth and development is putting pressure on all local governments. Working together, sharing knowledge, experiences, and resources, we will all benefit from the opportunities, which become available, and be able in a unified way, to help minimize the impact of the problems. This means that it is essential that there must be cooperation among all of the critical interests in the region.

GOAL: To have planned and orderly growth and development in the Montachusett Region, fostered through the cooperation of all the critical interests in the region, including local government, business and industry, agencies and groups, and the citizens of this region.

Regional Growth and Development Objectives:

- 1.1 Growth and development must be guided by the needs of the communities that make up the MRPC, in such a manner as to be able to provide for present and future populations of the region.
- 1.2 The patterns of Growth and development should be planned in a way that minimizes the negative impacts and encourages the potential opportunity to improve and protect the *natural* environment, *balanced* land-use, natural resources, *improved* infrastructure and services, transportation, *and improved* economic development. This should be accomplished while creating needed affordable housing, and providing solutions to other problems such as brownfields, solid waste and wastewater problems.
- 1.3 To work with existing regulations such as those for environmental protection and affordable housing (commonly known as MGL Chapter 40B) by educating

communities, and encouraging a unified attempt to improve outdated regulations and enact regionally sensitive legislation.

Regional Growth and Development Strategies:

Assist municipalities to:

- Develop growth plans and patterns to guide their future development at a rate and in a pattern suitable to their means and within the capability of their environment and natural resources such as available water, soil suitability, and air quality.
- Adopt adequate mechanisms for guiding growth and development, such as “Smart Growth”, updated zoning, subdivision controls, and comprehensive planning.
- Encourage region-wide cooperation and *intermunicipal* understanding.
- Participate Facilitate the preparation of a regional growth and development plan that complements other regional plans such as housing and economic development.

2. Environmental Quality

A healthy environment is a prerequisite for a healthy life. While it is technologically easy to modify the natural environment, it can be quite difficult to remedy any resultant damages. In recent decades, the region has seen unprecedented growth and a pattern of sprawl prevails throughout the state, placing significant strain on natural resources, environmental quality and wildlife habitat. The protection of air, water, and natural resources should be a priority concern in all land use decisions.

GOAL: THE INTELLIGENT USE AND CONSERVATION OF THE NATURAL ENVIRONMENT.

Environmental Quality Objectives

- 2.1. The capability of the Region's natural environment to support community and urban development building on the recent effort to analyze the build out potential for the region.
- 2.2. Identify and promote development alternatives that will minimize damage to the natural environment.

Environmental Quality Strategies

Development of Regional Environmental Resource Maps should include the identification and analysis of critical and sensitive areas.

Assist municipalities to:

- inventory natural resources including surface and groundwater supplies, wetlands, ponds, lakes, rivers, streams, priority and supporting habitats for endangered species, areas for passive and active recreation such as public swimming, hiking and organized sports.
- analyze development capability recognizing environmental constraints
- identify and abate sources of pollution.
- maintain overall water quality and quantity.
- protect natural flood control systems.
- plan innovative and cost effective recycling and wastewater disposal systems.
- protect existing development from flood and other natural hazards, which may include a no-growth option in sensitive areas.

- plan and implement conservation and open space strategies
- protect priority habitats and supporting areas to preserve biodiversity
- develop an understanding of specific air quality problems and develop plans and reasonable strategies to attain or exceed National Ambient Air Quality Standards.

3. Land Use

Land use is fundamental to environmental protection and economic development concerns. This supply is finite. Used wisely, it can produce a multitude of benefits. If used unwisely, the damage can spread far beyond the specific site and even become irreversible. Order and diversity are among key components of intelligent land use.

GOAL: *THOUGHTFUL CONSIDERATION OF THE WAY IN WHICH LAND IS PUT TO USE.*

Land Use Objectives

- 3.1 Differences between urban, suburban, and rural land use characteristics are to be recognized and preserved for the diversity they provide.
- 3.2 The preservation of agricultural land should be encouraged.
- 3.3 Future development should be channeled to those areas, that possess the environmental capabilities and the municipal infrastructure necessary to support it.
- 3.4 Development patterns that will allow for future activity alternatives should be encouraged.
- 3.5 Complementary and coordinated land use policies should be promoted and competitive and duplicative efforts should be discouraged.
- 3.6 Transportation efficient land use patterns should be encouraged.
- 3.7 Land development should be consistent with local zoning.
- 3.8 Development practices that incorporate the principals of sustainability should be encouraged to the maximum extent practicable.
- 3.9 Local communities should be encouraged to integrate their long range vision for their towns with their zoning practices.
- 3.10 Development patterns should be consistent with regional environmental protection goals and objectives.

Land Use Strategies

Development of Regional Land Use Maps (existing and projected) assist municipalities to:

- carry out land use planning and implementation
- adopt subdivision and zoning controls and other land use regulations
- adopt cluster and planned-unit development regulations
- revitalize their urban centers to preserve the diversity of the Region, to reduce tendencies towards urban sprawl, and to protect existing public and private investment
- inventory historic places
- inventory existing agricultural and silvicultural land
- site municipal service activities
- develop energy efficient land use patterns

4. Individual Opportunity and Welfare

Certain needs are basic to all human existence. Without efforts to supply these needs, all other goals have little purpose.

GOAL: *ALL RESIDENTS OF THE MONTACHUSETT REGION ARE TO HAVE ACCESS TO THE MEANS TO FULFILL BASIC HUMAN NEEDS.*

Individual Opportunity and Welfare Objectives:

- 4.1 No person shall be denied equal opportunity because of race, sex, age, religion, nationality or particular disability.
- 4.2 Level of unemployment and underemployment should be reduced.
- 4.3 Opportunities should exist to abate outmigration of the Region's youth.
- 4.4 Provision of essential human services should be based on human need within the constraints of available resources.
- 4.5 Because diverse cultural (4.1 race, sex, age, religion, nationality, or particular disability) and socio-economic groups are an asset to the community, adequate planning measures should encourage multi-cultural and economic development efforts.

Individual Opportunity and Welfare Strategies:

Assist municipalities to:

1. Assure that all residents of the Region have access to basic human needs such as housing, food, clothing, health care, social services, transportation, educations and recreation.
2. Reduce the rate of unemployment through efforts to preserve existing job opportunities and to create and attract new ones.
3. Support efforts of state, regional, and local agencies, providing human services where they are consistent with Commission goals.
4. Provide equal opportunity through Affirmative Action Programs.
5. Reduce youth outmigration through appropriate innovative employment, housing, and recreational programs.
6. Gear education and training programs towards communities' need and opportunity for acquiring new knowledge and training for individual growth.
7. Consider specific minority needs and to integrate physically challenged population into the mainstream.

5. Public Administration

Public administration has become an increasingly important goal and objective in planning due to the changes in the public services demanded versus the public services received. These changes heighten the need for the region to be more aggressive and diligent in seeking the public services provided through public agencies on the municipal, state and federal level.

Increased interest in reclaiming underutilized developed lands (brownfields and greyfields) has led to increased desire for creation of public parks that require maintenance. In times of fiscal austerity, many public services can be financially strained, forcing reductions in needed services that rank lower in priority. Efforts to identify creative financing mechanisms should be identified, including public/private partnerships.

GOAL: *EFFECTIVE, EFFICIENT AND ECONOMICAL PUBLIC SERVICES COMMENSURATE WITH LOCAL AND REGIONAL NEEDS.*

Public Administration Objectives

- 5.1 Public services should be maintained at a level reflective of local need.
- 5.2 Municipalities should maintain local control over local affairs.

- 5.3 Inter-municipal cooperation should be encouraged especially where there are opportunities to maximize economies of scale and efficient use of resources.
- 5.4 Alternative tax mechanisms should be explored and developed to relieve the disproportionate dependence on the property tax.
- 5.5 State and Federal assistance for state and federally mandated programs should be promoted.
- 5.6 MRPC should deliver training and technical assistance to help local officials in the areas of municipal management, access to non-local resources, and compliance with state and federal laws and regulations.
- 5.7 Opportunities for public/private partnerships in the management of public services should be explored (for example: public riverfront parks near area businesses).

Public Administration Strategies

Assist municipalities to:

1. Involve citizens and public officials in planning and decision-making on local, regional and state levels by developing public participation programs.
2. Make available educational and training opportunities to all residents for improvement of their skills.
3. Promote regional cooperation.
4. To provide information to public officials and citizens of the Region through a regional information center which will include information on state and federal regulations and funding sources.
5. Access land-planning information through computerized data bank, which will include a GIS.
6. Identify tax-exempt properties to recover loss and to explore existing regulations and new legislation.
7. MRPC should assist municipal management accessing state, federal and private resources addressing local and regional planning and development needs.

6. Housing

Several regional housing studies estimated that 20-30% of the households in the region would require assistance to live in decent, safe and affordable housing. Most low and moderate income households are forced to spend an excessive portion of their incomes to maintain adequate housing, while families with the lowest incomes and the homeless face a critical situation. Even middle class families are faced with sky-rocketing housing prices that put home ownership out of the question. A broad based housing policy needs to be followed which will encourage new construction, and the rehabilitation and preservation of decent affordable housing.

Sufficient affordable housing opportunities need to be provided to households of all income levels. The major focus of affordable housing production should be on households with the greatest need, e.g. households earning less than 80% of the regional median income.

Communities in the Montachusett Region should endeavor to enact and update policies and programs that will facilitate the provision of clean, safe, and affordable housing for all residents. In addition affordable housing should be used to prevent homelessness and promote diverse communities.

The current market rate home construction pattern has led to a sprawling growth pattern, severely encroaching on natural resources and wildlife habitat. Regional housing objectives must be balanced with protection of these resources. The housing market

should be continuously evaluated to determine the size of the gap between house prices and the ability of the region's residents to purchase them.

GOAL: THE AVAILABILITY, TO EVERY HOUSEHOLD IN THE REGION, OF SAFE, SANITARY AND DECENT HOUSING, IN A HEALTHY LIVING ENVIRONMENT, AT A REASONABLY AFFORDABLE PRICE.

Housing Objectives:

- 6.1 A wider range of housing opportunities, both by type and location should be available to persons of all income levels and especially to low and moderate income.
- 6.2 The responsibility of providing publicly assisted housing to meet the region's housing needs should be shared equitably by the region's communities.
 - 6.2.1 The need for housing, as expressed in MGL 40B should be addressed in a manner which affords opportunity to a wide range of incomes, and benefits both communities and developers.
- 6.3 New housing construction, especially higher density housing, with existing and planned public investment in facilities and services, should be coordinated so as to provide maximum amenity and convenience, and the efficient use of public investment.
- 6.4 New housing construction, especially higher density housing should be coordinated with existing and expanding employment opportunities.
- 6.5 The location of housing should be planned in a manner which has no adverse impact on the environment.
- 6.6 The existing stock of sound housing and of healthy, viable neighborhoods should be preserved, and substandard housing should be rehabilitated or demolished, as appropriate.
- 6.7 Housing stock and the number of rental units need to be expanded to provide decent, priced housing to meet the need of the present and future population.
- 6.8 Housing opportunities should be equally accessible without regard to race, religion, age, sex, disability, household structure, or ethnic background.
- 6.9 Suburban and rural housing should be preserved and protected from deterioration through socio-economic changes.
- 6.10 Provide sufficient affordable housing ownership opportunities to households of moderate and low income levels.

Housing Strategies:

Assist municipalities to:

1. Access up-to-date files on housing reference materials and data in the Commission's Resource Center.
2. Secure various state and federal funds for the improvement of housing conditions.
3. Access information on housing and housing programs.
4. Assist communities in understanding the provisions of MGL Chapter 40B and the comprehensive permit application process.
5. Advocate to state and federal government that appropriate housing programs and levels of funding become more available to the Region in order to meet present and increasing needs.
6. Develop an overall understanding of the housing situation in the total Region.

7. Prepare and maintain housing plans and documents such as assessments of housing assistance needs, housing goals and policies statements, and future housing needs projects.
8. Work toward meeting 10% affordability for all year round housing units in accordance with MGL Chapter 774.

7. Transportation

GOAL:

To provide a safe, reliable, affordable multi-modal/intermodal transportation system throughout the Montachusett Region for the movement of all peoples and goods, to formulate strategies to attain and maintain national ambient air and water quality standards, and protect priority habitats from fragmentation, to encourage economic development and revitalization, and to seek appropriate funding mechanisms in order to implement policies and objectives.

- 7.1 Improvement and maintenance of existing road network, increasing efficiency, safety and economy and decreasing congestion.

Transportation Strategies

- 7.1.1 Locate and prioritize deficient roadways, implementing a program to bring them to an adequate level of service.
 - 7.1.2 Minimize accidents, congestion and driver frustration through improvements in roadway maintenance, signal timing and improved signage and geometrics.
 - 7.1.3 Encourage communities to limit access to new and improved roads constructed to promote more efficient vehicular movements in order to insure adequate levels of service are maintained in the future.
 - 7.1.4 Promote and encourage the preservation of rights-of-way for construction of future transportation projects.
 - 7.1.5 Promote and encourage roadway construction and upgrades to include provisions for bikeways and pedestrian ways, where appropriate. Roadway safety features, such as adequate land and shoulder widths and bicycle and pedestrian responsive traffic signals, shall also be included where appropriate.
 - 7.1.6 Promote economic development to coincide with highway capacities and local zoning laws.
 - 7.1.7 Promote and encourage roadway design and management principals that appropriately address storm water flows, wildlife passage, and maintenance practices to minimize environmental impacts.
- 7.2 To improve the mobility of those without automobiles and provide incentives for those who wish to reduce automobile use.

Transportation Strategies

- 7.2.1 Promote and encourage sufficient, appropriate innovative public transit programs designed to increase transit ridership.
- 7.2.2 Promote and encourage more efficient and timely interregional rail passenger services.
- 7.2.3 Promote and encourage public carpooling for residents who work within and outside the region.
- 7.2.4 Encourage communities to designate and construct bikeways and pedestrian ways, including sidewalks, as an alternate method for commuting and recreation.

- 7.2.5 Promote and encourage safe, adequate parking facilities for all transit and carpool users.
- 7.2.6 Promote safe, clean, accessible vehicles and transit facilities for patrons of the Montachusett Regional Transit Authority services.
- 7.2.7 Promote and encourage public transit programs designed to address the needs of non-traditional and economically disadvantaged individuals, i.e. Job Access Reverse Commute (JARC) and Welfare to Work (WtW) programs.
- 7.2.8 Promote and encourage the ideas, concepts and goals of Environmental Justice through Public Participation, etc. to address identified needs and concern.
- 7.3 To improve and expand transportation services for the elderly, disabled and economically disadvantaged.

Transportation Strategies

- 7.3.1 Provide coordination and technical assistance to transportation services to generate consolidated services.
- 7.3.2 Secure available state and federal aid for improved elderly and disabled services.
- 7.3.3 *Facilitate* efforts between the private sector and social service agencies in providing transportation for the elderly and disabled.
- 7.3.4 Promote goals of the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) paratransit program as established in MART's ADA complementary plan.
- 7.3.5 Promote goals of Job Access Reverse Commute (JARC) and Welfare to Work (WtW) programs and the concepts of Environmental Justice to expand services to identified segments.
- 7.4 To continue to improve the multi-modal/intermodal transportation systems to facilitate the movement of goods and people through the region, leading to greater economic growth potential in the region.

Transportation Strategies

- 7.4.1 Promote and encourage improved rail, air and truck transportation.
- 7.4.2 Work to maintain railroad tracks, airports and other infrastructure within the region.
- 7.4.3 Promote the development and utilization of centralized terminal facilities for intermodal transfer and distribution of goods and people.
- 7.5 To encourage and support development patterns consistent with land use policies and goals in the region.

Transportation Strategies

- 7.5.1 Coordinate the regional transportation planning process with the of state, federal and local priorities and public transportation..
- 7.5.2 Conform transportation plan to other local and regional plans, i.e. land use, water quality and housing plans.
- 7.5.3 Promote convenient vehicular travel along the regional road network to the state highway system to promote growth consistent with local and regional plans.
- 7.5.4 Promote a public transit system whose routes are developed and refined in coordination with existing and planned development patterns in the region.
- 7.5.5 Promote a public transit system by focusing on people with one car or less.
- 7.5.6 Encourage development patterns within communities in order to mitigate sprawling conditions that provide further congestion to the existing transportation network and further fragmentation of wildlife corridors and habitats.
- 7.5.7 Encourage and promote efforts to utilize Brownfield sites within the Region, especially those located on or near major transportation links that assist and/or improve the efficiency of these systems.

- 7.5.8 Encourage development patterns across community boundaries that make use of existing strengths in the transportation network.

- 7.6 To promote an energy-efficient multi-modal transportation system within the region.

Transportation Strategies

- 7.6.1 Encourage the use of public transit, carpooling and alternate methods of transportation.
- 7.6.2 Minimize traffic congestion.
- 7.6.3 Promote mass transit that is safe, energy efficient and economical to maintain.
- 7.6.4 Promote the development of zoning regulations that encourage freight rail use in logical locations that are acceptable to local communities.

- 7.7 To promote strategies and plans, which will help to attain and maintain National Ambient Air Quality Standards.

Transportation Strategies

- 7.7.1 Identify site-specific, transportation-related air quality areas, and develop improvements, as necessary to reduce the levels of harmful pollutants at these locations.
- 7.7.2 Develop a program of Transportation Control Measures (TCMs), in cooperation with state, regional and local agencies, which when implemented will reduce transportation-related emissions in the region.

8. Economic Development

Consistent with the trends in New England and the state there has been a significant loss of Federal Department of Defense and manufacturing jobs. Economic Development involves fostering conditions which residents can achieve full employment. Efforts to create employment opportunities within the Montachusett Region must be supported.

GOAL: STRENGTHEN THE ECONOMY OF THE REGION

Economic Development Objectives

- 8.1 The Region's economic base should be expanded and diversified in order to strengthen and stabilize the Region's economy.
- 8.2 The Region and municipalities should receive an equitable share of State and Federal dollars supporting job retention and growth.
- 8.3 Urban and village centers should be revitalized as one of the key components in the economic development of the Region.
- 8.4 Economic development should be complementary among communities within the Region and surrounding regions.
- 8.5 Human resources and existing capital investment should be fully utilized.
- 8.6 . Efforts to promote business/*industries* should be supported.
- 8.7 Concurrently, interest in the region's environmental quality and natural resources has significantly increased. Stakeholders are focusing on playing up the potential of these resources to support eco-tourism. Economic development strategies these proponents suggest, wherever possible.
- 8.8 Develop recreation and tourist attractions consistent with local and regional plans and complementing the efforts of existing and future stakeholders.

Economic Development Strategies

Assist municipalities to:

1. Strengthen the regional economy through The Montachusett Region Comprehensive Economic Development Strategy (CEDS) formerly referred to as the Overall Economic Development Plan (OEDP) and periodically update the CEDS.
2. Advocate the continued operation of state and federal facilities and institutions in the region.
3. Revitalize the urban and village centers of region's municipalities.
4. Work with economic development proponent organizations to complement existing regional marketing strategies.
5. Work cooperatively with economic development proponent *and other regional* organizations to complement, create and implement business retention and attraction programs.
6. Develop recreation and tourist attractions consistent with local and regional plans and complementing the efforts of existing and future efforts.
7. Increase agricultural activity and productivity.
8. Be aware of state and federal activities, which may change the status of public facilities and institutions.
9. Encourage development of work force skills improvement programs.
10. Promote economic development.
11. Site and establish locations for industrial development.
12. Participate in Economic Development on a regional basis in cooperation with state and federal efforts and encourage cooperation and foster and intermunicipal cooperation.
13. Provide technical assistance to community officials in community development and planning activities that promote economic development.

9. Energy

Energy is a critical element in nearly all human activity. Yet due to dependency on foreign supplies and increasing scarcity of certain forms of energy, the cost of energy continues to fluctuate. New England, with its high-energy demand and reliance on petroleum-based fuels, will be particularly hard hit by any "energy crisis".

GOAL: GREATER ENERGY EFFICIENCY, CONSERVATION AND
 DEVELOPMENT

Energy Objectives:

- 9.1 Resource recovery and recycling should be increased.
- 9.2 All buildings should be energy efficient in design, construction and retrofitting and should incorporate principals of regional sustainability.
- 9.3 Heating and cooling systems should be energy efficient.
- 9.4 The use of easily renewable sources of fuel should be increased.
- 9.5 Land Use development should be energy efficient.
- 9.6 Alternative energy sources should be developed.

Energy Strategies:

Assist municipalities to:

1. Develop and implement energy conservation and efficiency programs.
2. Develop and utilize safe energy sources available within the region.

3. Develop standards of social equity to be employed in all energy conservation programs, so as to not unfairly burden any socio-economic group or geographic location.
4. Plan for overall energy management and conservation for the region.
5. Consider energy-related factors in the development or regional and local growth plans.
6. Participate through MRPC involvement in the formulation of any state or federal plans or programs for energy rationing supply, or distribution that affect this region through MRPC involvement.

10. Solid Waste

The solid waste management issue is extremely important for our region. Many of our landfills are almost filled to capacity. As a result any disposal or recycling facility should be viewed on a regional basis not on a community basis. However, any host community must express its willingness to allow such a facility to be located in their community.

GOAL: DISPOSAL AND RECYCLING ISSUES SHOULD BE CONSIDERED
FROM A REGIONAL PERSPECTIVE

Solid Waste Objectives

- 10.1 Adverse environmental impacts on land, aquifers, wetlands, floodplains, watersheds and other environmentally sensitive areas should be minimized.
- 10.2 Communities should base their siting decisions on safety, health, environment and land use considerations.
- 10.3 The facility should be appropriately sized for the Montachusett communities. These communities should be given the first option to participate in the newly sited resource recovery facility.
- 10.4 Solid waste management should be based on the concept of recycling, composting and processing on the site. The MRPC should work with developers to create a facility plan, which has a commitment to emphasize recovery of recyclable materials. Communities should be given credit for recyclable materials at the community level and for source reduction which also takes place at the community level.
- 10.5 All new landfills need to be environmentally secure, well-managed, well designed, and sited in environmentally safe areas.
- 10.6 Resource recovery facilities with combustion requirements should be environmentally safe and provide supplemental energy recovery as well as meeting local government regulations.
- 10.7 A resource recovery facility should have a State approved policy of collecting and disposing of household hazardous waste materials.
- 10.8 Any regional resource recovery facility must provide cost estimates to contracted communities on a long-term basis so that communities can determine the financial stability regarding the disposition of solid waste.
- 10.9 Site locations for resource recovery facilities should be accessible to major transportation links to assure the most efficient way of transporting solid waste in the region. The use of residential routes as part of the transportation network should be avoided.
- 10.10 Special consideration should be given for developing adequate buffer zones to protect residential neighborhoods from noise, debris, and odor.

Solid Waste Strategies

Assist municipalities to:

1. Obtain support of adjacent communities.
2. Work with proponents of solid waste management facilities to be certain the host community and region receive special treatment.
3. Obtain a facility, which is not merely a storage facility or long-term stockpile site.
4. Develop a facility plan, which has a commitment to strengthen recovery of recyclable materials.
5. Conduct yearly collections of household hazardous wastes and to adopt practices, which include measures for safe temporary storage of household hazardous wastes and environmentally safe disposal of solid wastes.
6. Develop an educational component as part of the facilities program working with facility operators. It should provide public information and education to the general public as well as elementary and secondary school students regarding the benefits of recycling.