

SCOPE OF PROJECT

The Iowa Department of Natural Resources (IDNR) notified the Metro Waste Authority (MWA) that the waste diversion calculation would be 23.35% for fiscal year 2007. This would be the first time in MWA's history that they would be calculated as being below the 25% waste diversion calculation goal. This would have required MWA to submit an additional \$1.10 per ton disposed to the IDNR, equaling more than \$440,000 per year.

MWA hired BARKER LEMAR Engineering Consultants (BARKER LEMAR) to evaluate the current and historical figures used to calculate the waste diversion percentage. BARKER LEMAR also investigated possible additional tons that had been excluded from MWA's baseyear tonnage figures.

IMPLEMENTATION

BARKER LEMAR identified lime residual sludge generated by the Des Moines Water Works in 1988 (MWA's base year) that was being disposed of in lagoons and is now being used as a soil additive for agricultural activities. BARKER LEMAR performed a current and historical review of solid waste regulations to determine that this material is considered solid waste and that placement of this waste in lagoons constituted disposal. BARKER LEMAR also evaluated solid waste regulations to determine that a landfill could have accepted this material for waste disposal.

BARKER LEMAR identified 109,600 tons of lime residual sludge and successfully amended MWA's baseyear to include this amount. The addition of these tons to the base year allowed MWA to achieve a waste diversion percentage of 35.59%. This figure was rounded up to 36%, which is the state average. Thus, MWA, was not required to remit an additional \$1.10 per ton to the IDNR. In fact, since they achieved the state average, they were able to reduce their tonnage fee to the IDNR by \$0.10 per ton. The results of these efforts equates to an estimated \$480,000-per-year savings to MWA.

SERVICES

Investigate historical waste management strategies; research historical and current federal and state waste regulations; perform rural waste generation surveys; perform waste diversion percentage calculations; coordinate baseyear tonnage amendment request to IDNR.

TIMELINE

Project Start Date: July 2008

Project Completed: December 2008

