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## Hot Topic: Attention Cities--Heads Up on Solid Waste!

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# Hot Topics for Tennessee cities and towns

February 18, 1994 #4

## Attention Cities — Heads Up On Solid Waste!

by Sharon Rollins and Leslie Shechter  
MTAS Consultants

Time is running out to finalize regional solid waste plans, due to the state on June 30. Make sure your city's interests are represented!

### Who Is Responsible?

The Solid Waste Management Act of 1991 assigned the responsibility to form solid waste regions to counties — and many regions have turned out to be single-county regions. Each region must develop a plan that:

1. ensures a 10-year disposal capacity and
2. shows how it will accomplish a 25-percent reduction in the amount of solid waste entering its landfills and incinerators.

These plans are due to the Tennessee Department of Environment and Conservation's Division of Solid Waste Assistance by June 30. Although they are being developed for regional solid waste boards, cities need to be familiar with the plans. They may impact YOU more than you counted on. First, be sure you get a copy of the plan, preferably while it's still in draft form. Review it carefully.

### What To Look For

Check to see if your city's interests are represented in the following areas:

1. Is the cost to implement the solid waste regional plan equitably distributed between city-county and between city-city. Look at short- and long-term costs. Pay particular attention to how the plan will be funded.

While the act requires counties to use special revenue fund accounting for solid waste activities, it doesn't prohibit using property taxes to finance operations. If the only or

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ON PAGE 3 — Changes to the MTAS Family and Medical Leave Act publication.

major source of funding will be countywide property taxes, then cities that will continue to provide collection and/or disposal should make sure their residents aren't subsidizing the county's services as well as paying for city services.

2. Is your city expected to implement a new program in recycling? Public education? Special waste collection? How will it be paid for?
3. Does the plan lock your city into a long-term solution that you can live with? Are options available? What provisions are made for cost control?
4. Cities may have more landscaping and demolition waste than counties. What provisions are made for disposal of this waste?

### **What If The Plan Falls Short?**

Work with the regional solid waste board to get your concerns resolved **before** the plan is finalized and submitted to the state. If there are unresolved issues or areas of disagreement, put them in writing and make sure the state receives a copy.

Time is running out. Act soon!

## **Family and Medical Leave Act Publication Needs Changes**

If you have a copy of *The Family and Medical Leave Act — A Guide for Local Governments*, published in August by MTAS and the County Technical Assistance Service, there are changes to page 19. The page features a list of U.S. Department of Labor offices in Tennessee where you can get additional information. Here's the updated listing:

**U.S. Department of Labor District Office**  
1321 Murfreesboro Road, Suite 511  
Nashville, Tenn. 37217  
(615) 781-5344

### **Area Offices**

Federal Building  
710 Locust Street  
P.O. Box 123  
Knoxville, Tenn. 37902  
(615) 545-4620

Federal Building, Room 484  
167 North Main  
Memphis, Tenn. 38103  
(901) 544-3418

### **Field Offices**

Federal Office Building, Room B-3  
109 South Highland  
Jackson, Tenn. 38301  
(901) 424-4081

Federal Office Building, Room 7  
South Garden Street  
Columbia, Tenn. 38402  
(615) 388-5763

Federal Building, Room 103  
P.O. Box 356  
Cookeville, Tenn. 38503  
(615) 528-7506

Joel Solomon Federal Building, Room 66  
Chattanooga, Tenn. 37402  
(615) 752-5124

208 Sunset Drive, Suite 504  
Johnson City, Tenn. 37604  
(615) 283-4554

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