Environmental Issues and Your County

Local governments providing for public health and safety through protection of Air, Land, and Water
 Counties Contend with Host of Environmental Topics

Solid Waste/Land Use/Air Quality/Water Quality/Planning/Economic Development/Tourism
Solid Waste Management Act of 1991

- **County Responsibilities:**
  - Proper management of solid waste collection, transfer, transport, processing, and disposal
    - Includes recycling, diversion, waste tire management and problem waste collection.

- **Solid Waste Region Responsibilities**
  - Must have Solid Waste Plan
  - Must meet 25% Waste Reduction Goal
  - Must provide for Community Education
Components and Services

- Planning
- Waste Reduction
- Financing
- State Grants
- Waste Tires
- Recycling
- Collection and Transportation

- Household Hazardous Waste
- Used Oil
- Education, Information and Reporting
Collection, Transportation and Disposal

Each county must assure that a collection system is available to all residents.

- Type collection system
- How transported
- Where disposed
- How financed
Waste Reduction/Recycling

• Counties must divert 25% of Waste (T.C.A. 68-211-821)

• How waste reduction is measured (T.C.A. 68-211-835)
Restrictive Wastes

• Whole tires cannot be disposed of in Tennessee landfills
• Other problem wastes include oil, batteries, and recently “E-wastes”.
• Household Hazardous Waste collection events are funded by TDEC and can serve as participatory community events.
Financing Solid Waste

• Solid Waste Management Fund (T.C.A. 68-211-821)
• Local Funding Options (T.C.A. 68-211-835)
• Used Oil Collection Fund (T.C.A. 68-211-1005)
• Recycling Rebate (11 counties)
• Recycling Equipment
• Material Recovery Facility
• Used Oil
• Waste Tire Funding
• Development Districts
• Household Hazardous Waste
• Planning Grants
How CTAS can help..

Technical Assistance Areas

• Facility Siting and Regulatory Issues
• Waste Reduction
• Bids and Equipment Specification
• Cost Effectiveness
Water Issues

• Water Quantity

• Water Quality

• Source Water Protection
FIVE MAJOR RIVER BASINS OF TENNESSEE AND POSSIBLE INTER-BASIN TRANSFERS

Mississippi

Tombigbee Waterway

KY Pipeline

Barren

Cumberland

Tennessee

Conasauga

Legend:
- Yellow: Mississippi River and Western Tributaries
- Green: Tennessee River Basin
- Light Blue: Cumberland River Basin
- Yellow: Barren River Basin
- Brown: Conasauga River Basin
Tennessee Counties with Potential Need for Water Supplies

- Counties with emerging water conflicts and/or shortages
- Counties with priority need for additional water supply
- Water supply studies or regionalization already underway

Source: Federal & State data
Point Source Pollutants

... are identifiable sources of pollution such as a pipe or ditch from a municipal or industrial wastewater treatment facility.
Nonpoint Sources of Pollution

created when rain, snow or irrigation runoff flows over or through the ground and picks up pollutants
Storm Water Discharges, Phase I

• Phase I of this federal program was implemented in 1990.
• Phase I used a permit system to regulate storm water discharges from larger cities and construction projects.
Storm Water, Phase II?

- Expanded Phase I by requiring counties, cities, and additional other parties to implement programs and practices to control stormwater runoff.
- If you are named, you need a Permit and plan
Counties often need to address Surface Runoff Problems

- New Development can increase likelihood of flooding
- Bare soils and “impervious surfaces” contribute to runoff
- Can lead to “impaired stream” designation and permit violations
Applies to everyone in Tennessee

- Must notify the Division of Water Pollution Control to receive a permit for grubbing, clearing, grading or excavation of 1 or more acres of land
- Could be in the form of a StormWater Pollution Prevention Plan (SWPPP)
Phase II Funding/Financing

- Debt Financing-for capital-intensive projects
- Federal, State, or Regional Grants and Loans (ex. State Revolving Loan Fund—SRF)
- Stormwater Utilities
- General Fund
- Plan Review and Inspection Fees
- Fee-in-Lieu of On-Site Construction
Air Quality Issues

• EPA recently revised the standard for two ‘criteria pollutants’, OZONE and PARTICULATE MATTER.
• These revisions impact Tennessee government, business and residents.
Southeastern areas exceeding the 8-hour ozone standard

About 65% of Tennesseans live in non-attainment counties

494 counties named, nationwide

Source: www.epa.gov
What does “non-attainment” mean?

• The ‘Measured levels’ for these criteria pollutants have exceeded the health-based standard

Or…The air is not always healthy to breathe
How can non-attainment affect my county?

• Possible Impact on economic development
• Tougher permitting for industry
• Industrial recruitment difficult
• Highway funds subject to transportation conformity rules
Final Comments..

• Recognize and promote your existing county programs
• Take proactive stance on regulatory issues
• Strive for most efficient and affordable ‘service delivery’ that assures public health and safety
• Call CTAS