

The Five Elements of a Tribal Integrated Waste Management Plan

These 5 elements represent the basic requirements that must be included in a tribe's IWMP for that plan to be considered adequate for GPRA purposes. Plans not meeting all 5 elements may be adequate if a region determines that one or more elements are not necessary for a tribe's situation.

1. Description of the community service area

Details that describe the community service area may include the following: population and demographics, community assets and resources, households and housing, population projections, economy, climate, geography, and geology and natural resources. This background will provide valuable information when preparing later sections of the ISWMP and to inform readers of the needs in the local community service area. Defining the current and projected extended community that may be served by the program is important to better address current and future solid waste needs. Educational and cultural traditions in many communities can be used to the advantage of the solid waste management program by increasing awareness, pride, and community involvement to maintain a successful program.

Information about the number and location of households and housing clusters can be used as a basis for predicting rates of waste generation, assessing proposed alternatives, developing the fee structure, and predicting revenue. Population projections and related waste generation rates can be used to estimate the lifespan of available disposal facilities and to predict future needs of the solid waste program. Details about the local economy can be used to assess community-specific economic needs and to predict the specific solid waste needs of industrial generators. Information about local climate conditions may determine the feasibility of waste collection, storage, transfer, and disposal plans. Geographical features may limit final disposal options and dictate special needs of the solid waste program. Finally, information about the geological and engineering properties of the surface and subsurface is particularly important when considering landfill site selection, closure of existing dumps, and economic feasibility studies.

2. Description of the Tribe's solid waste program structure administration

Details about the program administration and management will provide a basis for decisions about long-term management plans and will clarify necessary improvements to maintain a successful solid waste program. A description of codes and ordinances and details about related enforcement policies are important in maintaining compliance.

3. Description of the Tribe's current and proposed waste management practices

This section describes the current and proposed waste management practices in detail to assess strengths and weaknesses of existing and proposed practices. Current waste management practices should include information about: current waste generators; the amount and composition of waste generated; estimated future waste generation growth rates; unmanaged waste sites; collection, transfer and disposal of household, special, and hazardous waste; waste reduction practices; and descriptions of facilities, regional infrastructure, and current partnerships. Presenting the current waste management practices in detail will clarify the elements of the existing program that are successful and any that should be improved in the future. Proposed waste management practices should include information about: special considerations, limitations, and inefficiencies of the

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current program; equipment and facility needs; a detailed alternatives analysis, including information about the cost and feasibility of the alternatives considered; and details about proposed waste management, including information about collection, transfer, disposal, special and hazardous waste, waste reduction, potential partnerships, compliance and enforcement, community education, and implementation. Presenting the proposed waste management practices in detail will clarify the aspects of the considered alternatives that are the most beneficial to the solid waste program. Presenting information about the proposed partnerships, enforcement policies, community education and implementation will provide governing bodies and potential funding sources with evidence that the plan is well thought out and likely to be successful.

4. Description of the funding and sustainability and the long-term goals of the Tribe's solid waste program

This section describes the financial implementation and long-term goals and strategies to provide a basis for fee structure and for requesting financial assistance. This section should also provide evidence that the solid waste management program is capable of effectively supplying service to the community. A description of the sustainability and long-term goals of the solid waste management program demonstrates a commitment to improving services beyond basic compliance.

5. Demonstration of approval of the plan by appropriate governing body

Demonstrate how and when the plan was approved or acknowledged and by what entity. Ideally, approval or acknowledgement would be by Tribal Council Resolution.