

4.4.2

Solid Waste Planning and Transportation

Presenter

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In many respects, West Virginia is a microcosm of the Appalachian region. The Appalachian region extends from New York to Georgia, and incorporates portions of thirteen different states, and the entirety of West Virginia. Because of the rural nature of Appalachian communities, little or no infrastructure exists for long-term solid waste management. West Virginia and surrounding regions are geographically isolated and lack major interstate transportation routes. Hauling and transportation issues were chief among the main obstacles the Monongalia County and Marion County Solid Waste Authorities faced when they began creating a GIS in 2008. As the MCSWA grows the role of the GIS grows to assist with planning and managing recycling pickup, transportation of materials to regional markets, and planning new facilities, including the development of a small scale digital city initiative. Hauling of solid waste is regulated as a utility through the state Public Service Commission (PSC) using route tariffs which exists only in narrative form. The MCSWA was faced with interpreting these narratives into a working GIS map. Creating a solid waste GIS has created Mountains of Opportunity" because it provides solid waste transportation issues as a layer thus making it part of infrastructure planning. Because it is regulated by the public service commission as a utility solid waste should be considered in the pre-planning stage by government and private planners. "