Brent Dieleman

Education

B.A. - Environmental Studies: Biotic/Physical World, Dordt University, 2003

Professional Affiliations

Solid Waste Association of North America (SWANA), member

SWANA Sustainable Materials Management Division, Program Committee Member

Professional Experience

Mr. Dieleman is a Project Manager with SCS Engineer’s Sustainable Materials Management Division. Brent has 19 years of solid waste planning experience, including 10 years helping communities develop and execute short- and long-term solid waste management plans and 15 years managing and directing waste characterization studies and audits. Mr. Dieleman’s planning experience includes short- and long-term solid waste planning services, including evaluating current solid waste infrastructure/identifying new infrastructure/facility needs, exploring funding sources, developing zero waste plans, engaging stakeholders and building consensus for waste diversion initiatives, conducting public education and outreach with an emphasis on equity considerations, recycling technical assistance, analyzing organics management technologies, measuring recycling contamination, and researching industry trends. Select examples of Brent’s most recent solid waste project planning experience include:

Solid Waste Project Planning

**Twenty-Year Solid Waste Management Plan/Zero Waste Planning Services, Arlington County, VA:** Brent serves as the lead writer in drafting the County’s new 20-year solid waste management plan; planning activities completed to date include develop a draft outline of the plan, research of state planning requirements, prioritize waste diversion initiatives (includes estimating initiative costs and greenhouse gas impacts), presentations to the Solid Waste Advisory Committee (SWAC), and draft portions of the plan.

**Buncombe County Waste Diversion Study, NC:** Brent collaborated with the County to develop a waste diversion study that was adopted and approved by the County Board of Supervisors on November 1, 2022; Brent worked with County staff to identify waste diversion priorities to be studied as part of the plan; he quantified the potential impacts each initiative could have on waste disposal and diversion in the County and produced a plan for the County to achieve high diversion rate.

**Compost Design Services, Blessing Greenhouse & Compost Facility, Inc., DE:** Brent supported existing design and budgeting efforts by investigating the grant application process for the USDA’s Fertilizer Production Expansion Program.

**Waste and Recycling Characterization Studies, Various Clients, including Anne Arundel County, MD.**  Brent has managed over 20 solid waste and recyclable material characterization studies over his 14 year career at SCS Engineers; this includes managing the solid waste characterization study for Anne Arundel County in 2013-2014; Brent designs and executes all aspects of these studies that range in complexity from a one-week, one material stream study to a multi-season, multi-stream, and multi-facility study that depends on the needs of the client.

**Recycling Planning and Assessment Studies, Frederick County, VA; Northern Shenandoah Valley Planning Commission**  
Current recycling markets have strained municipal and private entity recycling programs. Brent has worked with clients to explore options for modifying current recycling programs in order to improve program resiliency and facilitate long-term sustainability. This work includes assessing contaminants in recycling program streams in an effort to inform public education activities and negotiate fair contracts with recycling processors. This work often includes engaging with processors and others to understand contamination issues prior to working with a client and evaluating a specific program.

**Solid Waste Collection Study, City of College Park, MD.** Brent recently completed solid waste collection program evaluations that analyzed aspects of the City’s bulky refuse, brush, and regular refuse and recycling collection programs. Many of these programs were inefficient and program costs had increased significantly over the last several years. Mr. Dieleman led a team of staff to complete field observations and ride-alongs with collection personnel to understand the day-to-day challenges with the programs. With an understand of the issues, Brent facilitated meetings with City staff to discuss potential program updates and changes, which included requiring containerized refuse and recyclable materials, limiting bulky item collections, and charging fees for excess amounts of materials. The project concluded with Mr. Dieleman presenting the results and recommendations to the City Council where all recommendations were adopted.

**Recycling Technical Assistance, Pennsylvania Department of Environmental Protection, PA**. Mr. Dieleman has provided recycling technical assistance to nearly 35 local governments to help overcome challenges to waste diversion and program inefficiencies. Projects include evaluating pay-as-you-throw systems, commercial recycling improvements, curbside collection of food waste, curbside collection of yard waste, and modernizing local recycling ordinances. A major focus of Brent’s work for PADEP has been to help local governments evaluate existing curbside and drop-off recycling programs and make recommendations for how the programs can improved. Recommendations about scope of services, materials accepted, collection frequency and schedule, and material preparation guidelines are developed.

**Zero Waste Strategic Plan, Prince George’s County, MD**. Brent developed and documented the County’s strategy to reduce the quantity and toxicity of waste generated and increase the proportions of waste diverted to recycling and composting programs. A key objective of this project was to engage with stakeholders in the County to receive their feedback and ideas for what the County could prioritize in their plan.

**Waste Diversion Initiatives, Montgomery County, MD.** Mr. Dieleman supports the County’s efforts to evaluate programs and increase the amount of material diverted from disposal. Projects include multi-family and commercial recycling distance surveys, identifying undocumented recycling activities, and waste characterization.

**Mandatory Commercial Organics Recycling Compliance Study, Los Angeles County Department of Public Works, CA.** Brent researched the requirements of California’s AB 1826 that requires businesses and multi-family properties to recycle organic materials from their waste stream. He developed recommendations for Los Angeles County to consider implementing the requirements of this law within the County’s existing franchised hauler agreements.