



Department of
**Environment &
Conservation**

Part 8 SW Plans DRAFT Rules

Jeremy Hooper| October 7, 2026

Background: Solid Waste Plans

- **T.C.A. 68-211-603** requires TDEC to develop a **statewide solid waste management plan** (State Plan)
- **T.C.A. 68-211-813** requires each solid waste planning region to develop its own **regional solid waste management plan** (Regional Plan)
- **T.C.A. 68-211-815** requires that each Regional Plan be:
 - Consistent with **T.C.A. Title 68, Chapter 211, Part 8**
 - Consistent with the **statewide solid waste management plan (State Plan)**
 - Consistent with **all applicable laws and regulations promulgated by TDEC**

Reminder: Solid Waste Planning Regions

Municipal Solid Waste Planning Regions



PC 814: Regional Solid Waste Planning

- **Sponsors**
 - Todd
 - Reeves
- **Amends solid waste regional planning process**
- **Plans:**
 - resubmitted to TDEC at least once every 10 years
- **TDEC's Role:**
 - Reviews plans for completeness and compliance
 - Approve or disapprove plans
- **By Dec. 31, 2027:**
 - Promulgate rules
 - Plan evaluation criteria
- **By July 1, 2028:**
 - New/Revised plans due to TDEC

DRAFT Rules Provide

- Requirements for regional solid waste board composition, meetings, records, and Department notification;
- Minimum content requirements for regional solid waste management plans;
- Requirements for plan submission in a format and manner prescribed by the Commissioner;
- Procedures for administrative completeness review;
- Criteria for evaluating whether regional plans comply with statute, are consistent with the State Solid Waste Management Plan, accurately represent the regional solid waste system, and demonstrate a feasible approach to implementation;
- Procedures for approval, disapproval, resubmittal, and appeal of regional plans; and
- Requirements for plan updates and revisions when material changes occur;

Evaluation Criteria Example

- (c) At a minimum, each regional plan and any revised regional plan submitted by a municipal solid waste region shall include the following:

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1. Demographic information;

2. Current system analysis shall include:

- (i) Waste streams, including data concerning types and amounts generated;
- (ii) Collection capability, including data detailing the different types of collection systems and the population and areas which receive and do not receive such services;

(e) Evaluation of Specific Plan Elements.

1. Demographic Information - The Commissioner shall evaluate whether:

- (i) The plan includes current population estimates for the region;
- (ii) A description of the methodology used to develop such data;
- (iii) Demographic data is derived from reliable and publicly available sources, where possible, including but not limited to:
 - (I) U.S. Census Bureau;
 - (II) Tennessee State Data Center or other state-approved projections; and
 - (III) Other governmental or regional planning sources.

Evaluation Criteria Example

(c) At a minimum, each regional plan and any revised regional plan submitted by a municipal solid waste region shall include the following:

1. Demographic information;
2. Analysis of the current system, including:
 - (i) Waste streams, including data concerning types and amounts generated;
 - (ii) Collection capability, including data detailing the different types of collection systems and the populations and areas that receive and do not receive such services;
 - (iii) Disposal capability, including analysis of the remaining life expectancy of landfills or other disposal facilities;
 - (iv) Costs, using the full-cost accounting model developed by the Commissioner, including costs of collection, disposal, maintenance, contracts, facilities costs, and all other applicable costs, and
 - (v) Revenues, including cost reimbursement fees, appropriations and any other revenue sources;

(iv) The Department shall evaluate the plan's cost analysis, including whether:

- (I) The plan utilizes the uniform financial accounting system required by the Department.
- (II) The plan includes all major cost categories, including but not limited to collection, disposal, maintenance, contracts, and administrative costs. Contract information shall include, but not limited to municipal or county contracts of obligation as defined in part (3)(d)5. of Rule 0400-11-01-.03 if a municipality or county within the solid waste region has filed a Contract of Obligation to meet financial assurance requirements set forth in Rule 0400-11-01-.03.

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- (III) Cost information is complete, consistently presented, and reflective of current system operations; and
- (IV) The methodology used to develop cost information is adequately described, accurate, and reasonable.

Next Steps

- Start public comment period
- Schedule public hearing
- Publishing State Plan
- Issuing Region Plan development grants
- Communication to Regions explaining updates and next steps

Updated Timeline*

New Timeline

- **November 2026:** TDEC publishes the State Plan
- **January 2027:** Regional Planning Grants open
- **April 2027:** Grant contracts with counties executed
- **June 2027:** New rules published ⓘ Prior to this date, TDEC will engage the regions on the draft rules, including holding a public hearing and public comment period to receive feedback
- **July 1, 2028:** Regions submit their Regional Plans to TDEC

**The timeline is subject to change as work on the State Plan, rulemaking, and regional planning process continues.*

TDEC will communicate any timeline changes in advance

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