

Meeting Notes: Carbon Free Boston – Waste TAG
July 31, 2018

Questions:

- Should the wastewater system boundary be based on population or geography?
- Is construction & demolition waste included in the ICI sector estimates? How do these assumptions align with city and statewide policies/regulations?
- How are the temporal differences among management strategies (i.e., landfill, incineration, compost) handled in the waste model?
- What is the role of ash landfills in the context of waste management? More specifically, in the context of GHG emissions?
- Within the residential and ICI sectors, what does “other diversion” refer to?
- How do the emissions calculations in WARM compare to the actual emissions realized at waste management facilities?
- How does the methodology used by the state compare to WARM’s methodology?
- How will uncertainty be accounted for in the calculations?
- Are the current policy initiatives incorporated within the BAU scenario?

Comments/Suggestions:

- An estimated 70 dry tons of the 260 dry tons received at Deer Island is considered to be residential food waste based on population data/statistics
- Fertilizer pellets from wastewater treatment are used for land application. The pellets generated at Deer Island are mainly distributed across the Northeast.
- At the point of consumption, GHG emissions associated with source reduction are considered to be upstream emissions. WARM does consider these upstream emissions from source reduction as well as downstream emissions.
- The methane released in landfills when the cap breaks down
- The benefits of some of ZWB’s initiatives are hard to capture in terms of waste and GHG reductions, but they offer co-benefits with other initiatives and their importance needs to be captured in some way
- The material composition of the waste stream has a large impact on the GHG emissions realized. The amount of GHGs emitted rely not only on the management strategy, but also the material type. The more accurate material composition of each waste stream will allow for GHG emission calculations to be more accurate.
- ZWB’s initiatives at this time include short and medium-term diversion initiatives. With long-term initiatives included, ZWB’s policy recommendations should amount to a total diversion rate of 90% (potentially by 2040). The exact timeline of these short, medium, and long-term initiatives is yet to be determined.
- ICI waste generation data is estimated and has unknown and potentially large uncertainty.
- Although the city does not have direct control over ICI waste management, this sector has a large potential for waste reduction and emissions savings.
- Temporal analysis is important for implications of different material types as well as the implementation of the ZWB initiatives