County's plans for solid waste near approval OK

By Aug. 3, Oakland County should have a complete solid waste plan outlining proposed rubbish incincration and landfill sites for the next 20 years.

That's the day the Oakland County Board of Commissioners is expected to adopt the plan

Commissioners is expected to adopt the plan that's been on the drafting table for four years. After it's official, it will be sent to Oakland's 61 cities, townships and villages for final approval

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It must be adopted by two-thirds of the local governing bodies, although all municipalities will participate in the plan once accepted.

"After it's adopted, the next step will be signing contracts with the individual communities. There's no way to escape it, because if we don't adopt our plan, the state will draft its own," said George Schutte said, the county supervisor of solid waste.

In 1975, the state legislature adopted Public Act 641 which became effective last Dec. 31. It

mandates counties must pass a 20-year plan for their garbage disposal. The deadline for plans to be submitted to the state is this month— although' Schutte said 'the deadline can be stretched through August.

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A SOLID waste consultant hired by the county has worked with a volunteer solid waste committe, comprised of field experts, to design the plan. Throughout the drafting period the has been reviewed by community representatives and disposal companies.

The plan calls for developing four landfills, during the next 20 years, one of which is presently under construction in Lyon Township. Four energy recovery facilities (webre grabege is burned and turned into steam to heat adjacent buildings) and two transfer station sites will also the constructed.

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placed on top of each rubbish deposit. The sani-tary landfills will also be equipped with special pipes that collect the leachate draining from the burief retires and carry it to sealed collec-tion tanks, he explained. "It really works best to have private industry run the landfills and have them lease them to us. Private industry also has more tax advan-tages than the county," Schutte said.

tages than the county," Schuttle said.

THE PLAN calls for only one landfill in each of the four communities, a citizes information committee to serve as a forum for reviewing issues related to the landfill and royalities (amounts still unknown) to be paid to hest communities.

There will also be transfer stations throughout the county, in light industrial areas, where small garbage trucks that collect rubbish from the curbsides at homes and businesses will transfer the waste to larger semi-trucks, that will haul it to landfills or incinerator stations.

After the landfill is filled to capacity (5 to 10 vears), a gold course or park can be built over

constructed in their area, Schutte said.

"Nothing can assure people who live close to a landfill that it won't smell and that the cost won't be prohibitive. The public has told us they want us to minimize the use of landfills, which we have done by planning incinerator stations," he added.

e added. INCINERATOR stations, also known as ener-

INCINERATOR stations, also known as energy recovery stations, are presently operating in Ponitiae and in the southeast part of the county, burning garbage from those communities.

The combustors transform the solid waste to steam energy. Under the 20-year-plan, one cust to the Parke-Davis plant, one next to the Ford Motor Plant in Wixom and one in the Oakland County Service Center. "We looked for sites where industry could use the steam generated," he explained.

Although residents may favor burning 100 percent of the county's solid waste, is just in't feasible, Schutte explained.

"It's difficult to capture every scrap generated and there must be 900 tons a day put into a combustible unit. There are certain time of the year that more waste comes through, like spring and summer when people are working on their lawns and other times when it's way down. We'd need a large constant flow, which we can't guarantee," he said.

Oakland County residents generate eight mil-lion pounds of solid waste a day. In 3½ weeks it is enough to fill the Silverdome to the roof.

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As the plan nears approval stages, the fee
system is still being debated, Schulte said.

It appears each municipality will be charged
a flat rate and it will be passed on to the residents through an already-collected millage tax.
Schulte noted that township residents will
most likely save money on the whole deal, because they are presently required to contract
for their waste collection.

"The new system might force townships to
organize and have one collector for the area,
not several, like they presently have," he added.

Parents want their kids to learn about computers, county phone survey says

Computers are going to play a major role in people's lives during the 1980s and Oakland County parents apparent ly want their children to learn about the advanced technology in school. According to a survey of 384 Oakland County adults, 89 percent of those questioned said public schools should help students learn about computers. The telephone survey was conducted by Project Outreach, a service of the Michigan State Board of Education, ingham County Intermediate School District administered the project; the survey is conducted only when districts ask for the service.

"We present the results to the public through the local school district. The data is also available to the State Board of Education," said Phillip Bab-cock, evaluation specialist with the Ingham County Intermediate School District.

THE 23-MINITE Survey included

Even though financial burdens are plaguing the schools, 44 percent of those questioned said the quality of the local school districts has stayed the same, while 11 percent said they are getting better. Twenty-four percent said they were getting worse.

But parents agreed that if it comes between cutting programs and closing schools to keep the education level high, they favored closing schools. The survey indicated that 77 percent sup-ported school closing where declining enrollment occurs.

When discussing education, 44 per-cent said enough emphasis is placed on vocational and technical education pro-grams. The basic education program has enough emphasis, said 50 percent of the respondents but 44 percent said there is not enough attention paid to in-dividual needs?

District.

THE 23-MINUTE survey included questions about school performances in one question that garnered the most support asked about citizen included control of the performance and school closings. Persons were interviewed March 22-25 and 28 and 29.

Overall, persons surveyed rated finances as the biggest problem facility of the public schools. "I think the survey is quite representative of people's feelings," Baboock said.

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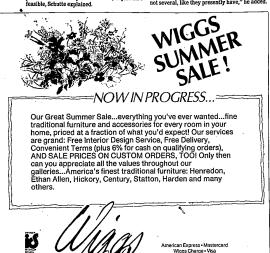
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