

# By 1976 We Face Mountain Of Trash

Interest in garbage is pretty low.

Most people don't think about it other than to remember which day to put it on the curb for collection. But what happens to it after it's collected will become a chronic problem by 1976 unless some safeguards are met now.

This is the simple conclusion of a preliminary report on solid waste disposal issued by the Southeast Michigan Council of Governments last week.

County and Oakland County, the problem is even more severe because the space for landfills is nearly used up, Case said. Collection units will have to go outside the county for landfill space, he said.

The solution? Case said that taking the problem off the backs of local governments and putting it on the county's shoulders is one possibility.

"I personally feel that a government larger than local governments will have to take the power through the State that the landfills don't hurt

neighboring property values," Case said. The entire operation could be financed by the selling of bonds which would be retired on income generated by a charge for dumping in the landfills, he suggested.

SEMICOG doesn't have - and doesn't want - the authority to handle the waste problem on a regional level, Case emphasized. It merely is conducting the study and drawing up recommendations on solving the problem, he said.

Glass recycling centers make a small dent in the solid waste problem but the eventual solution to the problem will include recycling, incinerating and disposing of waste in landfills, he says.

IT'S SOCIETY'S obligation to taking care of industrial waste also, Case said. "Up until now, government hasn't taken care of industrial waste," he said. "Industry has had to provide its own way out.

"It is clear that solid waste disposal is everyone's problem. While it is true that all of us are contributing more and more to household waste, the bulk of the load is related to earning a living," he says of industrial waste.

Metcalf and Eddy Inc. of Boston, a consulting engineer firm, made the regional estimates on trash ranging from the 1970 estimate of 34,720 tons per day to the forecast for 1980 of 43,220 tons per day and 1995 of 51,650 tons per day.

THE AVERAGE person can help the problem by cutting down on his solid waste as much as possible and leaning on his state legislator for his support in creating solid waste legislation.

"The critical thing is to convince the State Legislature to move on it," Case said. Support of the legislators "takes a little prodding from home," he said. Four local residents served by the committee studying the problem including Robert Coleman, 37710 Wendy Lee,

Farmington, director environmental health for the Oakland County Health Department; Carnes Hill, 29940 Woodbrook, Farmington, principal engineer for Ford Motor Co.; Samuel Katz, 3184 Franklin Fairway, Farmington, salvage operation manager for J.L. Hudson Co.; and Ed Siemert, 15950 Oporto, Livonia, Livonia's chief engineer.

The study has been financed by donations from business, private persons and a federal-state grant.

MOST SOLID waste ends up in landfill sites currently, but land for these sites is becoming more and more scarce, says Homer Case, chairman of the SEMCOG study and supervisor of Bloomfield Township.

Some highlights of the report:

● If people and industry continue producing solid waste refuse at the same rate as at present, there will be an accumulated overload of 4.8 million tons by 1976.

● In 1970, the pro-rated amount of trash per person per day was 14.7 pounds in Wayne, Washtenaw, Macomb, Oakland, St. Clair and Monroe counties.

● Seventy-two per cent of the daily per person solid waste output comes from industrial, commercial or construction processes that provide jobs in the region.

● In the six counties, 39 landfill sites are currently in use but seven will be filled in the next year and approximately 14 more will be needed by 1976.

● By 1995, the problem will be even greater. A deficiency of 300,000 acre feet (defined as one acre of space and one foot deep) will exist unless new techniques are developed or new landfill sites are opened.

TO RESIDENTS of Wayne



CHARLES A. FRANK, 39687 Mayville, Plymouth, has been named general manager of Super Strut of Michigan in Novi. Prior to this appointment, Frank was a product manager for Unistrut Corp. of Wayne. He has been associated with the metal framing industry for 19 years.

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