



# Analytics

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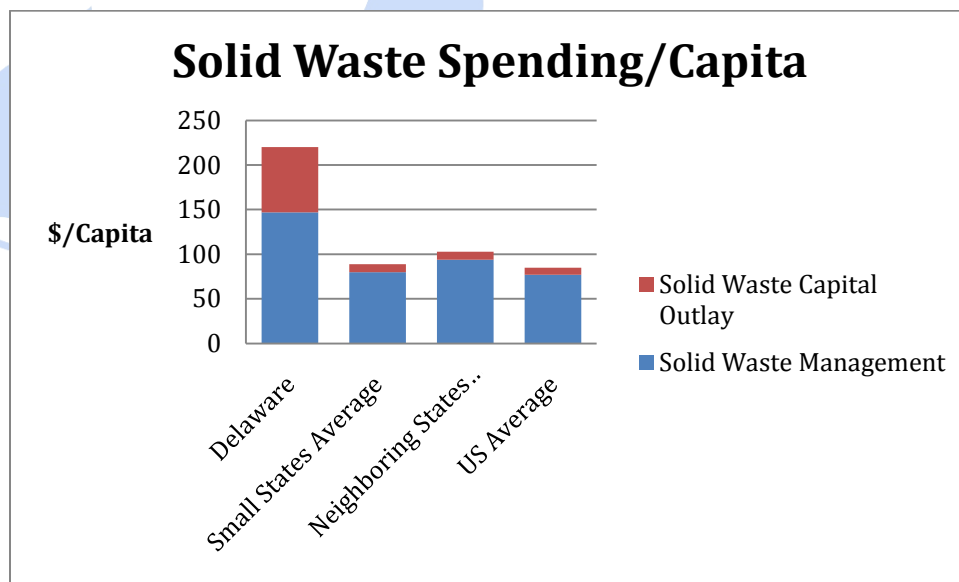
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*Our comparisons of per capita costs for solid waste handling with other states showed Delaware was 159% higher (Figure 1).*

Figure 1

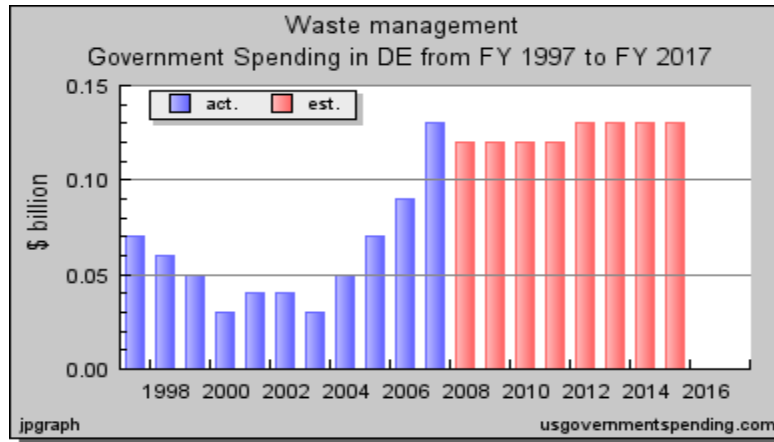


Source: US Census, 2007

This appears to be a reporting anomaly. The chosen year, 2007 was unusually high (Figure 2). There also is a real possibility data was double counted. The state and municipalities report their spending including tipping fees. The tipping fees

maybe reported a second time by the Delaware Solid Waste Authority. DSWA is a private, non-profit company but is often confused as a public arm of the state.

Figure 2



It is unlikely Delaware's municipalities collect waste more inefficiently than in other states. DSWA appears to be competitive for tipping fees with other regional landfills when transportation costs are considered. By law, all Delaware municipalities must use DSWA landfills but private haulers (92% of waste stream) can go out of state. The two largest haulers, Waste Management and Republic/Allied, are vertically integrated companies with their own landfills in neighboring states. They both use DSWA landfills.

We did find a problem with un-funded state mandates requiring DSWA to handle

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recycled materials without a revenue stream. The \$8 million annual costs are buried in tipping fees. We have reported on this in detail elsewhere.

This is our third review of spending areas in Delaware. Each study has found a combination of data problems, reporting problems, or unusual situations. I would offer a caution to anyone else using the US Census data to dig deep before publishing results. I have also noted, however, even when led down a seemingly dead end path, I have found some significant problem with the way the State of Delaware spends our money. We will have to look into every nook and cranny to dig out all the problems.