



The Municipal Waste Management
Association
Fall Summit 2003
Detroit, Michigan

Sarah Lile, President of the Municipal Waste Management Association and
Director, Department of Environmental Services
City of Detroit

Biographical Profile

Sarah D. Lile was appointed the first Director of the Department of Environmental Affairs for the City of Detroit in November, 1995 and re-appointed by Mayor Kwame M. Kilpatrick. The Department was created in 1993 and endorsed by the electorate in the Charter amendments of 1997. Before coming to city government Ms. Lile was a partner in the law firm of Fink Zausmer P.C. where she specialized in environmental litigation and planning, eminent domain, and commercial litigation.

Ms. Lile is a *cum laude* graduate of the University of Detroit Law School. After law school, she served as law clerk to the Honorable Julian Abele Cook, Jr., former Chief Judge of the Federal District Court for the Eastern District of Michigan. From 1982 to 1988 she served as Assistant Dean and Lecturer in Law at Wayne State University Law School in Detroit and was a member of the Executive Board of the Institute for Continuing Legal Education. Ms. Lile is a Charter member of the D. Augustus Straker Bar Association.

As Director of the Department of Environmental Affairs, Ms. Lile develops and implements policy for all environmental issues affecting City government, including solid waste and environmental code enforcement. She is responsible for the City's brownfields programs and other environmental initiatives. She is the Co-chair of the Redevelopment of Urban Sites (REUS) Team, a joint initiative of the State of Michigan and the City, with cooperation from the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (USEPA). The partnership has become a model program throughout Michigan and the Midwest. She chairs the City's Brownfield Redevelopment Authority and has worked extensively on state and federal brownfields legislation. She is a member of the Detroit Economic Development Corporation (EDC) board of directors, as well. She currently serves on the steering committee for the Southeast Michigan Water Quality Consortium, a voluntary organization dedicated to improving water quality within the Rouge River Watershed and the Detroit River sub-watershed. She is also a member of the Michigan Department of Environmental Quality Advisory Committee.

Nationally, Ms. Lile has represented the City on the Enterprise for Environment and on the Executive Committee of the 1999 National Town Meeting on Sustainable Development. Ms. Lile is President and member of the Board of Trustees of the Municipal Waste Management Association, an affiliate of the U.S. Conference of Mayors. She also serves on the U.S. EPA's Local Government Advisory Committee and was recently appointed to the Government Advisory Committee to the USEPA Administrator for the Council on Environmental Cooperation under the North American Free Trade Agreement (NAFTA).