

Washtenaw County Materials Management Planning Committee (MMPC)
Meeting Minutes

2/12/2025, 10:00 AM

Washtenaw County Learning Resource Center
4135 Washtenaw Ave., Ann Arbor, 48108

Members Present: Seegert, Mazanec, Bukowski, Ukena, Maciejewski, Reeve, Nicholson, Mason (ex-officio), Drinan (ex-officio), Ohren, Williams

Members Absent: Cornell, Kerkez

Washtenaw County Staff Present: Eggermont, Wright

Resource Recycling Staff Present: Heflin (virtual), Oulton (virtual), Naud

Call to order: Chair Ohren called the meeting to order at 10:12am

New Member, Oath of Office

Williams took Oath of Office and gave a brief introduction.

Roll Call

- a. David Seegert – present
- b. *Jennifer Cornell – absent*
- c. Paul Mazanec – present
- d. Todd Bukowski (Vice Chair) -present
- e. Bryan Ukena – arrived at 10:17am – present
- f. *Lindsey Kerkez – absent*
- g. Joseph Ohren (Chair) - present
- h. Jason Maciejewski – present
- i. Bruce Reeve - present
- j. James Nicholson – present
- k. Marc Williams – present
- l. Sarah Mason (ex-officio) – present
- m. David Drinan (ex-officio) – present

Eggermont noted he has an application for the Northville Township vacancy and anticipates submitting that to the Board of Commissioner's for consideration.

Moment of Silence (for Scott Frush)

Land Acknowledgement (read by Wright)

Approval of Agenda

Motion to approve the agenda moved by Mazanec, seconded by Williams. All in favor.
Motion carries.

Last Meeting Minutes Approval

A motion to approve the 1/8/2025 Meeting Minutes moved by Seegert, seconded by Reeve.
All in favor. Motion carries.

Work Program Review / Considerations

Eggermont explained Washtenaw is resubmitting the work program and reviewed the edits that make the work program align with new required EGLE formatting. Work program reformatting included only sharing year one planning and a year one budget. Eggermont mentioned the budget includes some potential projects, e.g., a potential waste audit and a project through SEMCOG counties, so suggests adding another \$20,000 in case that materializes. Eggermont reviewed other edits – Committee members had the work program printed out.

Vote on the Amended Version of the Work Program

Motion to approve the amended work program and add \$20,000 to the budget for potential collaboration with SEMCOG moved by Mazanec, seconded by Nicholson. All in favor.
Motion carries.

Data Questions and Feedback / Key Takeaways

Naud opened up the floor for questions on data related to the last Materials Management Planning Committee. Bukowski asked about obtaining a breakdown of different types of plastic within the plastics category, data on materials like flexible plastics that are captured separately from curbside materials, and food waste specifically from food service businesses. Naud responded we will see where we can get local data for these items and mentioned the NRDC tool that estimates food waste per person and by sector.

Bukowski noted an update is needed on the accepted curbside recyclables for each municipality that are listed in the current Plan. Naud summarized and shared that we want to ensure we are getting the real data to back up our goals in this plan.

Designing SMART Goals and Goals Review**SMART Goals**

Naud reviewed what SMART goals are and why they are beneficial. Naud reviewed the definition of Targets and Actions. Naud went into detail of considerations necessary for SMART goals, Targets, and Actions: e.g., staff, ongoing funding, infrastructure. Drinan shared a high-level vision of reducing waste from landfill.

Naud pointed out that education could be its own goal or be embedded within each goal as an educational target and actions. The same goes for equity and funding.

Vision and Themes

Naud read the vision of the current Solid Waste Plan. Eggermont noted this plan should incorporate consideration of greenhouse gases. Bukowski suggested a focus on the circular economy. Eggermont gave an example of a goal versus a theme – coordinating with municipalities is a theme.

Review of Benchmark Recycling Standards

Naud reviewed the benchmark recycling standards from EGLE and that Washtenaw County is already meeting these standards.

Current Plan Goals

Naud reviewed the goals from the county's 2019 plan and highlighted that these goals lack detail on methodologies to measure and ongoing funding. Naud also reviewed goals from the County's Resilient Washtenaw plan.

Goal – Divert Recyclables from Landfills

Naud reviewed a first, suggested Goal – divert recyclables from landfills. Naud reviewed suggested Targets for this goal and opened the floor for discussion.

Ohren noted that the targets are critical components and that he approves of the suggested Targets language. The committee discussed the importance of education, differentiating between recyclables and compostables, increasing markets for recyclables, and educating elected officials. Ukena asked for clarification on if the committee can recommend advocacy. Naud and Eggermont responded that ^{can and it} it will be discussed further, ^{what this committee will recommend.} and it is a possibility, though. It will ultimately be up to the County what is appropriate to move forward with. Naud noted identifying themes for these goal-setting discussions, such as embodied carbon, circularity, etc.

Examples of what that could look like, such as working with lobbyists, was discussed.

Goal – Divert Compostables from Landfills

Naud reviewed a suggested goal – divert compostables from landfills and noted that education for this goal must be front and center. Naud reviewed suggested Targets and opened up the floor for discussion. The committee discussed winter composting, certified compostable standards for manufactured products, anaerobic digesters, partnerships with farms, and food waste reduction efforts. Naud added: we should ensure we can track diversion of recyclables and organics to align with the state's 45% diversion goal.

Goal – Decrease Per Capita Waste Generation

Naud reviewed a suggested goal – decrease per capita waste generation.

Other goals

Naud reviewed additional goals for consideration including hard to manage materials, siting, and sufficient funding.

Naud noted the committee will continue to work through developing these goals over the next several months and members will also be sent a form to gather their feedback throughout the process.

May Meeting Reschedule?

Plan to follow up on this at the next meeting.

Future Meetings Schedule

Next meeting March 12th

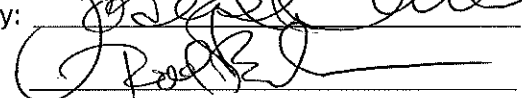
Public Comment

- Leslie from Northville Township: please consider how what you are doing affects the residents of Northville Township. Request to consider the health and safety of the people and mentioned the smell, noise, seagull poop, etc.
- Stephen Brown from Ann Arbor: advocated for an increase in tipping fees, and EPR legislation at the state, also for consideration of how you will address PFAS.
- Jennifer Harsky with Northville Township: requested that neighboring communities be considered in the vision statement and that the County is considering the contamination of its landfill.
- Roland Hwang Board of Trustees with Northville Township: introduced himself and has an application submitted to be a member of the MMPC.
- Jill Hollister with ^{Freedom}Northville Township: Noted concerns about anaerobic digestors
- David Drinan: Advocated for considerations about where siting of a landfill will be and noted it does not need to be in a populated area.

Meeting adjournment

Motion to adjourn the meeting moved by Mazanec, seconded by Seegert. Meeting adjourned at 11:38am.

Approved by:

 (Chair)
 (Vice Chair)