

**Washtenaw County Materials Management Planning Committee (MMPC)
Meeting Minutes**

6/11/2025, 10:00 AM

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

Members Present: Seegert, Mazanec, Bukowski, Ukena, Kofflin, Kerkez, Maciejewski, Reeve, Nicholson, Williams, Hwang, Mason (non-voting), Drinan (non-voting)

Members Absent: Ohren

Washtenaw County Staff Present: Eggermont, Wright

Resource Recycling Staff Present: Naud

Call to order: Vice Chair Bukowski called the meeting to order at 10:01 a.m.

Roll Call

- a. David Seegert – Present
- b. Paul Mazanec – Present
- c. Todd Bukowski (Vice Chair) - Present
- d. Bryan Ukena - Present
- e. Josh Kofflin - Present
- f. Lindsey Kerkez – Present
- g. Joseph Ohren (Chair) - Absent
- h. Jason Maciejewski – Present
- i. Bruce Reeve - Present
- j. James Nicholson – Present
- k. Marc Williams – Present
- l. Roland Hwang – Present
- m. Sarah Mason (ex-officio) – Present
- n. David Drinan (ex-officio) – Present

Land Acknowledgement

Wright read the land acknowledgement to the Committee.

New Member Oath of Office

Josh Kofflin took the Oath of Office and gave the committee a brief introduction.

Approval of Agenda

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

Last Meeting Minutes Approval

Motion to approve the 5/21/2025 Meeting Minutes moved by Nicholson, seconded by Reeve. All in favor. Motion carries.

Review of MMPC Input Form

Eggermont reviewed member feedback from the Member input form. Eggermont noted that the Washtenaw County Board of Public Works does have some jurisdiction over ensuring

that proper siting standards are met in new construction but likely has limited or no jurisdiction with existing facility changes. The Committee discussed the definition of existing facilities versus a new site.

The Committee noted that they will need to measure the progress associated with reuse. Eggermont read a recommended vision statement from one of the members.

Planning Timeline Update

Naud reviewed the timeline for the Materials Management Planning Committee meetings. Naud shared that there will be a recycling chapter draft for the Committee to review at a future Committee meeting.

The Committee discussed the approval process of the Plan's language. Eggermont walked through the voting process and the movement of the Plan to the Board of Commissioners, then the municipalities, then to EGLE.

Hwang asked about the topic order laid out in the work program and asked if specific topics could be re-ordered. Eggermont responded that the workplan is modeled off a template from the Michigan Recycling Coalition and specific topics were ordered in a way that allows the committee to focus on goals and priorities before getting into topics that influence achieving those goals like siting and funding.

Commercial, Institutional, Industrial Recycling

Eggermont reviewed commercial recycling program information from Trinity Health Michigan – David Getty, Executive Director of Hospitality and Ancillary Services

Eggermont spoke with David Getty and shared key findings from that conversation with the Committee.

- Trinity has developed a sustainability team with projects that include an administrator, doctor, and a front-line staff member. The hospital has buy-in from their VP. Eggermont shared challenges that Trinity encounters in materials management including regulations that require the disposal of many waste streams for safety reasons.
- Eggermont shared some of the sustainability projects Trinity is working on, including refurbishing materials and washing fabric curtains instead of throwing away plastic ones every 6 months.
- Eggermont shared that Trinity was able to divert 73,000 lbs of pre-consumer food waste in 2024 working with My Green Michigan.
- Eggermont additionally shared initiatives that Trinity is exploring, e.g., a waste audit and moving to reusable and compostable products as well as reducing unnecessary PPE.

Naud reviewed university recycling findings from University of Michigan – Anya Dale

UM staff were unable to attend the Committee meeting but shared a set of detailed slides. Naud shared proposed new goals from the University of Michigan, including increasing

recycling and compost capture rates and diverting construction and demolition waste for projects over \$10 million. Naud shared educational materials that the University is using to promote trust in the system, including sharing where waste is going. The University has multiple programs around labs, move in move out, etc.

Washtenaw Community College - Becky Andrews, Resource Recovery Manager

Andrews shared the landscape of materials management at Washtenaw Community College. Andrews noted that they rely heavily on custodians and the grounds team, especially for material sorting. All the recyclables are sorted, baled, and stored on-site until there is enough volume for a pick-up, and space is a challenge. Andrews shared one of their biggest challenges is behavior change and not having a central sustainability office. Another challenge is hosting events with people coming from all over the country with different recycling practices. They are working on consistent bins and signage across the campus to support education as well as bringing together sustainability groups across the school. Andrews discussed the college's waste reduction goals and other programs that help divert materials for reuse. Andrews offered to share their waste data with the committee. Naud mentioned the Michigan Materials Marketplace and grants from EGLE.

School Recycling Program – Angela Wright, Washtenaw County Environmental Supervisor

Wright shared the goals of the County's School Recycling Program, which are to increase recycling in K-12 schools with collection systems that work for the school environment and to have recycling education within the schools that is carried out into the larger community. The County contracts with the Ecology Center to provide education programs. Wright reviewed the operational advantages of students using Toter carts in schools and separating the cardboard. Wright spoke to the financial benefits of many school districts working together on the same contract with bundled trash, recycling, and cardboard pickup. This resulted in cost savings for all schools estimated at \$2million across all 36 schools over the course of five years. Around 75% of Washtenaw County's \$100,000 budget for this program goes towards education. Reimbursements for recycling service are provided to schools that meet the minimum education requirement laid out by the County. The Committee discussed the benefits of bundling materials and contracts for the schools and how this could translate to the County's plan. Wright noted that data has been a challenge, noting most data are estimates.

Waste Knot - Angela Wright, Washtenaw County Environmental Supervisor

Wright reviewed the history and benefits of the Waste Knot program. The Waste Knot program is primarily a recognition program for all types of entities, with the goal of inspiring others to act similarly and sharing best practices. An identified challenge is that many commercial locations are only offered recycling dumpsters for cardboard and not all standard single stream materials.

City of Ann Arbor – Sarah Mason, Resource Recovery Manager and Recycle Ann Arbor – Bryan Ukena, CEO

Mason reviewed how commercial recycling is handled in Ann Arbor. All businesses are provided either a recycling dumpster or recycling carts.

Ukena noted that a lot of communities don't have ordinances requiring recycling or licensing haulers. There is a need to build trust in the system so that participants know their materials are being recycled. Ukena wants to encourage local, community-based recycling.

Known Data Update

Naud noted the gaps in data needed to better understand progress to meet recycling goals. Naud highlighted steps we will need to take to narrow the gap in this missing data, e.g., surveying businesses.

Best Practices

Naud reviewed best practices to increase commercial, institutional, and industrial recycling. Naud shared the example of Fairfax County, VA where business owners are required to provide recycling. Ukena noted the value of financial incentives for businesses to recycle within ordinances.

Next Steps

Education discussion will take place at next month's meeting on July 9th. The planning team will work on the recycling chapter draft for future distribution.

Future Meetings Schedule

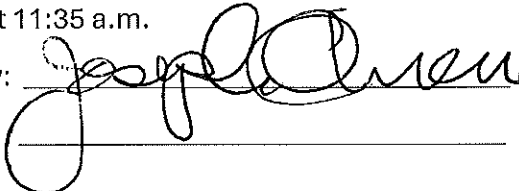
Next meeting - July 9th

Public Comment

None

Meeting adjournment

Motion to adjourn the meeting moved by Nicholson, seconded by Ukena. Meeting adjourned at 11:35 a.m.

Approved by:  (Chair)

(Vice Chair)