

Washtenaw County Materials Management Planning Committee (MMPC)
Meeting Minutes
11/12/2025, 10:00 AM

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

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

Members Absent: Mazanec, Nicholson

Washtenaw County Staff Present: Eggermont, Wright

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

Call to order: Chair Ohren called the meeting to order at 10:00a.m.

Roll Call

- a. David Seegert – present
- b. Paul Mazanec – absent
- c. Todd Bukowski (Vice Chair) - present
- d. Bryan Ukena – present
- e. Joseph Ohren (Chair) - present
- f. Jason Maciejewski – present
- g. Bruce Reeve - present
- h. James Nicholson – absent
- i. Roland Hwang – present
- j. Marc Williams – present
- k. Josh Kofflin – present, arrived 10:05 a.m.
- l. Sarah Mason (ex-officio) – present
- m. David Drinan (ex-officio) – present

Land Acknowledgement (read by Wright)

Approval of Agenda

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

Last Meeting Minutes Approval

Motion to approve the 10/8/2025 Meeting Minutes moved by Reeve, seconded by Bukowski. All in favor. Motion carries.

Vote to Approve Workplan

Eggermont reviewed the draft workplan and noted that the budget will be further developed and brought to the MMPC at a later date. Eggermont asked the Committee to look at meeting cadence and topics in the draft work plan. He noted that Washtenaw is seeking more engagement from community members throughout the process. A couple of dates

were identified that need to be updated from 2025 to 2026.

Motion to approve the workplan moved by Reeve, seconded by Seegert. All in favor. Motion carries.

Special Materials Handling Overview

Eggermont provided an overview with metrics for each of the programs that the County operates below.

Household Hazardous Waste

Eggermont reviewed the Household Hazardous Waste (HHW) program in Washtenaw County. There are two locations, the HHW center, open to Washtenaw County and Northville Township and City residents, and the Home Toxics center, open to Washtenaw County residents. About half of the material collected at these facilities is paint.

County Cleanup Days

County Cleanup Days are open to Washtenaw County residents. They collect tires, bulky waste, electronics, HHW, scrap metal, and white goods (including freon). The goal of these events is not only landfill diversion where possible, but also illegal roadside dumping.

Agricultural Tire Collection

Each year, the County partners with the conservation district to collect tractor tires. In 2024, they collected 34,720 pounds worth of tires.

Waste Reduction Sponsorship Program

Washtenaw County matches funds for waste reduction efforts for groups that apply with their project ideas. For example, Washtenaw provided Augusta with a bulky waste sponsorship concurrent with blight ordinance enforcement.

Medication Disposal Network

Washtenaw County advertises locations that accept medications and sharps for disposal on its website. The County also has an information flyer that they distribute to municipalities, pharmacies, and senior communities.

Challenges and Opportunities

Eggermont shared efforts that could make the system work better to further divert electronics, bulky, hazardous, and medical waste. Eggermont noted that while there is Extended Producer Responsibility (EPR) for electronics in Michigan, there is little enforcement and many electronics end up in the landfill. Eggermont noted that Michigan is ready for a battery EPR law, especially noting the fires batteries cause in trucks and in Material Recovery Facilities. Eggermont noted that municipalities could do a better job educating their residents on their bulky waste collection. Expanding is working on extending HTC hours. Pharmacies across the County have taken a leading role in collecting medical waste, but it would be beneficial to increase collection sites for sharps or liquids.

Ohren suggested that we use the above challenges and opportunities and create more actionable goals around these suggested improvements.

Films

Naud gave an overview of what we understand about how plastic film is being managed. Naud has averages from Meijer stores about what is being recycled in the front and back of house. Naud shared the Michigan Recycling Coalition's Recycle Run program that recycles boat shrink wrap in the state. Naud reviewed what recyclers in the county do and don't recycle in terms of film and the company Trex that turns film into composite decking. Naud noted the current effort to overturn the ban on plastic bag bans at the state level.

Eggermont noted that building goals around films will be difficult because we want to encourage people to move away from single-use plastic bags but also recycle plastic film properly.

Reuse and Textiles

Naud shared a circular economy map that identifies reuse, recycle, and repair operations across the county. Naud spoke about fast fashion and the growing challenge of textile waste globally. Naud shared ideas to improve textile management: educating residents on consumption, policy incentives to encourage businesses and residents to buy mono material textiles, exploring a textile MRF with organizations like Goodwill.

The Committee discussed organizations like Plastic Free Restaurants and We Will Reuse that subsidize the purchase of reusable wares in order to replace single use food ware in schools and restaurants.

Recycle Ann Arbor's Drop Off Facility Overview

Eggermont noted that the County is supporting a replacement Drop off center. The City of Ann Arbor and Recycle Ann Arbor are working on a replacement.

Ukena gave an overview of Recycle Ann Arbor's comprehensive recycling program including a C&D recovery yard, a drop off station, curbside recycling, and more. The drop off center ensures flexible access to residents and greatly reduces illegal dumping in the county. Ukena spoke to the benefit of having staffed drop off locations where residents and businesses can ask questions and foster trust and community building around the recycling system. RAA services ~30,000 cars per year. This success is thanks to having a one-stop drop system. Ukena noted that RAA has been able to keep the costs for dropping off conventional recyclables low. Hard-to-recycle materials have an additional fee to drop off.

The Committee discussed the funding mechanisms that allow for the RAA drop-off location to be open to all residents in the County, including support from Washtenaw.

Organics Chapter Review Options

The Committee discussed how they would like to review the organics chapter – via a

separate working session or after the next MMP meeting. The Committee also discussed how to best integrate comments and feedback into one document to bring back to the Committee to discuss. The Committee decided that they will review and provide feedback on the organics chapter before the next December 10th meeting. The Committee feedback will be sent to the consultant, who will compile all comments and suggestions, which will be reviewed after the next December 10th MMP meeting – the meeting will be extended to allow for this discussion.

Public Engagement Session

Eggermont inquired about availability for the first public engagement session in January. More members were available on Thursday, January 22nd 6:30pm – 8:30pm. The topics would cover recycling, organics, and special materials handling.

Future Meetings Schedule

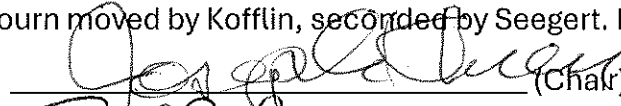
Next meeting December 10th

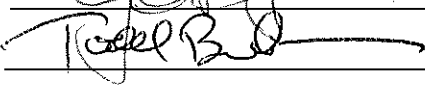
Public Comment

None

Meeting adjournment

Motion to adjourn moved by Kofflin, seconded by Seegert. Meeting adjourned at 11:32a.m.

Approved by:  (Chair)

 (Vice Chair)