

Washtenaw County Materials Management Planning Committee (MMPC)
Meeting Minutes
1/14/2026, 10:00 AM

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

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

Members Absent:

Washtenaw County Staff Present: Eggermont, Wright

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

Call to order: Chair Ohren called the meeting to order at 10:03 a.m.

Roll Call

- a. David Seegert – present
- b. Paul Mazanec –present
- 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 – present
- i. Roland Hwang – present
- j. Marc Williams – present
- k. Chris Williams - present
- l. Sarah Mason (ex-officio) – present
- m. David Drinan (ex-officio) – present

Land Acknowledgement (read by Wright)

Approval of Agenda

Ohren noted that the agenda needs one amendment to have elections.

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

Election of Officers

Chair: Motion to nominate and elect Ohren for Chair moved by Hwang, seconded by Seegert. All in favor. Motion carries.

Vice Chair:

Motion to nominate and elect Bukowski for Vice Chair moved by Ohren, seconded by Seegert. All in favor. Motion carries.

Last Meeting Minutes Approval

A motion to approve the 12/10/2025 Meeting Minutes moved by Bukowski, seconded by Hwang. All in favor. Motion carries.

Review of Member Feedback Input Form

No new member feedback.

Part 115 Requirements

Naud shared that the goal for today's MMP Committee meeting is to have some consensus on goals. Naud reviewed the requirements under Part 115, including meeting the Benchmark Recycling Standards. Washtenaw County is currently meeting all Benchmark Recycling Standards required by the state.

Access and Programs Across Local Units

Naud reviewed a map of access to curbside recycling across the county, including contracted/franchise, municipal, subscription, and no curbside access. Naud reviewed the requirements under Part 115 to develop both recycling and organics diversion goals. Naud reviewed both residential and commercial recycling access, organics drop-off locations across the county, and compost sites.

Data Review and Modeling Increases in Recycling Rate

Naud shared a pie chart of Washtenaw's landfilled waste by type, noted that a big focus will be on decreasing municipal and commercial waste (MCW). Naud reviewed the waste composition of MCW within Washtenaw County. Compostable material makes up 31% of all MCW waste within the county. Within compostable material sent to landfill, almost half of that is food waste. Readily recyclable material makes up 23% of all MCW waste within the county.

Naud reminded the Committee that the recycling rate includes both recycling conventional recyclables and organic material. If 50% of Readily Recyclable Materials (25,000 tons) is moved out of the landfill and into the single stream systems the recycling rate would

increase from 23% to 32%. If 50% of food waste (34,000 tons) is moved out of landfill into composting systems and the other 50% is reduced / eliminated from becoming waste in the first place which would increase the recycling rate from 23% to 32%. If readily recyclable AND food waste is reduced by 50% and the other 50% of food waste is moved out of landfills and into compost streams it would increase the recycling rate from 32% to 41%. Mazanec requested a matrix of different scenarios.

The Committee discussed infrastructure capacity needed, with Naud noting material recovery facilities in the county have capacity to accept 50% more recyclables and a study showed no new compost facility capacity is needed to accommodate the projected tonnage.

The Committee discussed where C&D efforts should fall. Naud responded that current goals address only MCW, which does not include C&D. Eggermont noted the state is not prescriptive on recycling and diversion rates by design to allow for flexibility across the state with counties having very different programs and infrastructure.

The Committee discussed ways to reach these recycling rate levels. The Committee noted that hauler licensing will be key to having better access to data and that infrastructure should always be paired with education.

The Committee reviewed additional scenarios. Better access in 13 townships, increasing participation of single-family homes by 50% doesn't increase the recycling rate by a full percentage point. Naud noted similar results though increasing recycling access in 5 communities with significant MF housing.

The committee discussed the role of Extended Producer Responsibility on infrastructure and education, the bottle deposit system, capture rates for recyclables, and methods for how to gather data from commercial and industrial waste generators.

Goals Overview and Discussion

Naud reviewed the definitions of goals, targets, and actions.

Goal 1 (Data): Create County recycling and diversion rates based on local data to measure plan progress.

Eggermont noted that establishing a capture rate should be a separate action item. Naud noted that businesses can't share data that they do not have, but even the bare minimum of understanding collection routes and total tons in a route will get us better insight. Ohren

noted that we want to think of reporting as a county; it matters less what township waste comes from, but it will be important to capture numbers in total across the county in order to have real data.

Goal 2 (Reduce): Reduce consumption of new materials within Washtenaw County.

Eggermont noted that Ann Arbor is doing a lot of work in this space. Eggermont shared the actions under this goal including, partnering with existing efforts, repealing the ban on bans of auxiliary food packaging, developing a campaign to increase participation in reuse and refill opportunities, etc. Mason suggested setting a target that restaurants in the county use reusable to go ware. The Committee discussed the need to advocate for the move away from single use to reusables. Ukena suggested incorporating an action that calls for highlighting the importance of reuse in all recycling educational items.

Goal 3 (Reuse): Decrease the amount of material discarded from Washtenaw County through material reuse and food rescue.

Naud reviewed actions under this goal and noted we should bolster existing programs to donate surplus food. Other targets include developing campaigns to increase food waste reduction behaviors, increase the cost of disposal, provide technical assistance to organizations doing diversion work, and more. Mason noted that the actions under this goal all relate to food rescue but the goal relates to all materials.

Goal 4 (Recycle): Divert quality streams of recyclable and compostable materials from going to landfill.

The Committee asked for a matrix to better understand where the targets associated with this goal will put Washtenaw County in terms of recycling rate and as a leader in the state on waste management. They want to weigh their goals and targets against other counties as well as the state's goals and consider costs simultaneously.

Naud reminded the Committee that these goals are not solely dependent on county investment. Shared the example of Dexter Township going out to bid for a single hauler and how their residents will now have more access to recycling while paying less. Naud reviewed additional targets under this goal including increasing participation and access in multifamily housing and more.

Goal 5 (Safe disposal for remaining items): Provide options, promote alternatives, or develop opportunities for non-recyclable and non-compostable materials so materials are collected safely and disposed of properly.

Eggermont noted that we want to think about other materials besides recyclables and organics.

Goal 6 (Education): Provide education to support the goals.

Eggermont noted that the county is seeking feedback here on how to include targets for an educational goal noting that all other goals will need to have an educational component.

MISC (looking for thoughts as to where/how to incorporate)

Eggermont noted there are other potential goals that we need to figure out where they should live. E.g., providing financial support to comprehensive drop offs to decrease costs, and improving the reliability and marketability of recovered recyclables processed by MRFs and compost facilities through education that decreases contamination.

Naud asked the Committee if they want a C&D goal and what that would look like? Naud noted that voluntary programs do not move the needle because the economics aren't there. There need to be financial support and incentives built in. UofM is a good example.

The Committee asked about starting with getting better data on C&D waste. Can the county create a C&D ordinance that would require C&D waste haulers to move C&D waste to specific facilities for better tracking? Eggermont noted that we need to ensure that an ordinance would be realistic and that we may want the goal to first be exploring an ordinance related to data collection and reporting. The Committee discussed the logistical challenges for C&D waste sorting on construction and demolition sites.

The Committee asked about collecting a tax for C&D waste tipping. Naud noted that enforceable mechanisms are required and that enforcing a tax would require municipalities to enact this at the local level.

Next Steps and Future Meetings Schedule

Next meeting is February 11, 2026. Funding will be the focus of the next meeting.

Public Comment

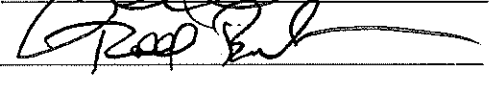
Jill Hollister – Freedom Township, suggested that the Committee look more closely at grocery store food waste. Noted the plan should also aim to educate businesses.

Jen Blaharski – Northville Township, noted disposal of hazardous waste has an impact on communities living close to disposal areas. Hazardous waste ultimately ends up in a landfill, and the need to develop regulations on landfill handling waste safely, both HHW and all waste.

Stephen Brown – Ann Arbor, commented on education. Suggested that the Committee tap into local advocates within communities. Mentioned the organization called Zerowaste.org as a good example. Also suggested targeting schools for education.

Meeting adjournment

Motion to adjourn the meeting moved by Hwang, seconded by Bukowski. Meeting adjourned at 11:49a.m.

Approved by:  (Chair)
 (Vice Chair)