

Washtenaw County Materials Management Planning Committee (MMPC)
Meeting Minutes
2/11/2026, 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, Williams, Drinan (ex-officio)

Members Absent: Mason (ex-officio)

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 10:00a.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) – absent
- m. David Drinan (ex-officio) – present

Land Acknowledgement (read by Wright)

Approval of Agenda

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

Last Meeting Minutes Approval

A motion to approve the 1/14/2026 Meeting Minutes moved by Bukowski, seconded by Seegert. All in favor. Motion carries.

Review of Member Feedback Input Form

Naud let the Committee know that the feedback form has been updated to solicit feedback on the current draft goals. The feedback form was previously designed to capture ideas for drafting the goals.

Meeting Outcomes

Naud reviewed the objectives of the meeting:

- Agree on Draft Goals
- Agree on Draft Targets
- Funding Needs to Share
- Next Meeting - Funding Options

Overview of Draft Goals

Naud reviewed a high-level summary of the current eight draft goals.

Goal 1 - Data: Create County recycling and diversion rates based on local data to measure plan progress. Clarification was requested for the hauler licensure ordinance that it applies to haulers of any materials (trash, recycling, and organics). The committee discussed including redemption data from the deposit return system.

Goal 2 - Reduce and Reuse: The Committee asked about the first target under this goal - Develop a metric by 2033, such as public surveys, to measure participation over time (in the sharing economy). The Committee suggested moving this target date earlier and suggested looking at other campaigns that have been successful to connect people with reuse and refill sharing economy businesses in the region. Eggermont noted that before the county focuses on measuring the participation in the sharing economy, they will focus on the hauler licensure goal. The Committee suggested creating two separate targets under this goal 2 – one for inorganic materials and one for the sharing economy.

Goal 3 - Food Loss and Waste Reduction: Ukena asked why increasing the cost of disposal is an action under this goal to disincentivize the landfilling of organic material, but not under other goals. Naud noted that this can be a part of other goals as well and is also under the advocacy goal.

Goal 4 - Recycle: Wright noted that we may want to have the previous organics goal (goal 3) be sectioned into more targets, like this recycling goal, to discern roles and responsibilities of organics reductions more efficiently. The committee discussed keeping recyclable materials closer to where they are generated. The Committee discussed the economic levers available to incentivize recycling including increasing garbage tipping fees, and ensuring that recyclable commodities are processed in Michigan facilities or as

regional as possible. Ukena, who operates the Recycle Ann Arbor MRF, noted that the goal is always to keep the material as local as they can, but it also depends on markets available. It is also worth considering what the materials get recycled into. Ohren noted that the targets under this goal could turn into actions under the first target listed.

Goal 5 (Safe disposal for remaining items): Provide options, promote alternatives, or develop opportunities for difficult to recycle or dispose of materials, so materials are collected safely and recycled or disposed of properly. The targets address continuing and expanding upon HHW handling in the county; continuing services to collect medical sharps, plastic film, and other hard to recycle materials; and decreasing illegal dumping.

Goal 6 - Education: Provide education to support the goals. The Committee discussed the possibility of conducting a statistically significant survey to understand how residents across the county understand recycling and the services available to them. Mason (via feedback prior to this meeting) suggested having targets on how the education is done - the process, the method, effective practices etc. Ohren suggested splitting up action 3 into two different actions. Ukena asked about the action of developing a uniform set of materials that are prohibited from disposal and what authority the county has to create this list. Eggermont noted cities, villages, and townships would have to enforce their own bans if they wish to keep certain materials from disposal, e.g., organic waste.

Goal 7 - Reduce Construction and Demolition Waste The committee discussed the timeline for implementation. Eggermont noted that while this is an important waste stream to address, he believes collecting data through a hauler license and other goals that focus on recycling and organics should take priority. Naud suggested that the county work with Ann Arbor and build upon the work they are doing in this space.

Goal 8 – Advocacy: The committee agreed with the advocacy goals and suggested adding expansion of the bottle bill as an additional point as well as requiring paper labels on produce to replace the plastic ones.

Targeting Materials for Diversion; Recycling and Diversion Rates; Matrix of Current Diverted Materials with Increasing Projected Diversion Targets; Funding

Targeting Materials for Diversion

Naud reviewed a table that showed currently landfilled material (generated in Washtenaw County) by weight, the recyclability of those materials, and their economic value. Ukena asked about the weight of plastic film in the landfill and challenged that data. Ukena also noted that when thinking about what materials the plan should target, toxicity of materials

(e.g., in PET) should also be part of the criteria used to identify the most important materials to reduce, alongside what is already being used: readily recyclable, weight in landfills, and economic value.

Recycling and Diversion Rates

Naud reviewed the current formulas Washtenaw is using to calculate the county's recycling and diversion rates versus EGLE's formulas. Drinan asked if these will not be uniform across the state. Eggermont noted that the state is leaving the rate open to how counties want to report, so they will not. Counties have access to different data.

Matrix of Current Diverted Materials with Increasing Projected Diversion Targets

Naud reviewed a matrix of materials that are currently being diverted.

Naud walked the Committee through different scenarios for increasing diversion by 10% versus 20%, etc. The Committee discussed the costs of diversion and funding. Ukena suggested looking at communities on the west coast that have achieved high diversion rates as a way to show its feasibility to municipalities in Washtenaw County. Naud noted that we will need to identify communities with robust programs to use as examples, versus relying on communities with material bans as examples, to start. This will demonstrate that education and outreach paired with infrastructure can move the needle on diversion and that bans are not a required starting point.

The Committee discussed the efforts to divert more food waste in the County and the infrastructure available to make this happen. Naud noted that a challenge will be ensuring that there are enough browns to have the appropriate carbon to nitrogen ratio for compost. Naud reminded the Committee that The Recycling Partnership shows that education and outreach paired with infrastructure investments increase recyclables collected and their quality. Naud also noted that state-wide Extended Producer Responsibility for packaging can increase the recycling rate to 70% and that this should be a key advocacy goal.

Funding

Naud reviewed projected funding needs for new and current programs for education; surveying and program evaluation; a new full time employee at the county dedicated to haul. Ukena asked about how the county will plan to fund programs if the Arbor Hills landfill does not get a green light for expansion. Naud and Eggermont noted that we will talk about funding in detail at the next meeting in March. Alternative funding would have to be identified in this case, and program operations potentially reduced.

Calendar Revision

Eggermont noted that the county will again send out a poll to identify a good date for the

public engagement session. They are looking at late April or May for this session. Eggermont noted that if we have quorum we will have public comment.

Eggermont noted that April and May meetings will be cancelled. The Committee and county need to slow the pace down so they can do more in between meetings at this point in the planning process. They need to be prepared to discuss siting before it is the main Committee meeting topic. Eggermont asked for clarification from the State on siting. Eggermont noted that there has been a lot of conversation about the landfill expansion and siting, but the focus should be on the goals right now.

The Committee brought forward a vote to revise the Committee meetings in 2026 and cancel the April and May 2026 meetings. Motion moved by Mazenec, seconded by Seegert. Motion carries. Calendar revision approved.

Next Steps and Future Meetings Schedule

The next meeting will be on March 11, 2026.

Public Comment

Stephen Brown reiterated Ukena's comment about toxic materials - this makes products unrecyclable and uncompostable. Noted negative impacts of PFAS are being found in the compost. Toxic Substances Control Act does not work appropriately to protect public health. We can promote EPR laws that include parameters around toxics.

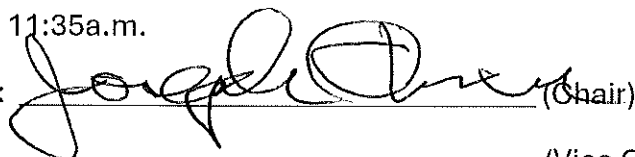
Jen Blaharski – Northville Township noted that the landfill is intrinsically part of this conversation and has an impact on the broader community. Expressed frustration that this has not been center to the Committee's discussions.

Chair Ohren responded that the Committee started 16 months ago talking about the reduction of waste and that this is not separate from the landfill discussion. Stressed that all goals and actions are designed to reduce the amount of waste going to landfill.

Meeting adjournment

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

Approved by:

 (Chair)

____ (Vice Chair)