

Recommendations from the Measurement Subcommittee:

Proposed Motion Language: The Committee include in its report to the General Assembly the findings and recommendations adopted by the Measurement Subcommittee.

Summary of the Issue: A consistent statewide effort to gather data to quantify and report on materials both disposed into and diverted from landfills is critical to maximizing the impact of the state's materials management efforts. To that end, the Measurement Subcommittee recommends the General Assembly approve, on an annual basis, **necessary funds** to enable the Illinois Environmental Protection Agency (IEPA) to solicit, gather and maintain data that will enable higher levels of diversion. The agency shall need to review current data collection processes and make the necessary changes that enable data collection from the various stakeholders to support materials management programs. This data shall be utilized to inform related activities such as grant awards and public-private partnerships to establish recovery technologies, end-use markets, and communications programs to encourage recovery of materials that may otherwise become waste and return those materials to the economic mainstream.

Subcommittee Findings

1. Barring composting, there lacks a consistent statewide framework to collect data and report on the types and quantities of materials diverted from disposal.
2. Most counties within the state do not collect data on waste diversion or recycling from sources that could include individual municipalities, private waste haulers, or facilities that provide waste and recycling services within their region.
3. The statewide characterization studies completed in 2008 and 2014 serve as the only comprehensive and statewide data available to track recovery potentials and diversion data.
4. There lacks consistent measures and terminologies for evaluating or measuring the amount of material recovery or diversion or the potential for recovery or diversion of materials from disposal. The timing of data gathering and differences in terminology that identifies both materials and recovery or diversion vary across the state. This creates a challenge in aggregating data for evaluation, because the time period for the data may vary and the definition of materials diverted may vary.
5. There is a need for a standard methodology and schedule to measure both diversion and disposal quantities and composition and identify commonly recovered items and potentially recoverable items remaining in the disposed material stream.

Subcommittee Recommendations

Based on our findings the subcommittee recommends the following:

1. **Diversion data:** IEPA, working with the *recommended* Materials Management Market Development Committee, should utilize a standard form to collect data from facilities that receive diverted materials. The form, at a minimum, should collect data on material types and quantities received and processed, tonnages diverted after processing, contamination rates, and challenges faced. This data should be reported annually in the IEPA's annual landfill capacity report, and

such report should be renamed to reflect that it is the Annual Materials Management Report.

2. **Community data:** IEPA should utilize a standard form to collect data from all counties statewide on current diversion practices, performance, and progress. IEPA may consider seeking input from statewide organizations that regularly engage with Illinois counties on waste and recycling matters to formalize the standard form and promote its completion and submittal. The form, at a minimum, should collect data on current diversion programs, drop-off locations, and challenges faced in the county and relied upon by the county. This data should be reported annually along with the Annual Materials Management Report.
3. **Solid Waste Characterization:** IEPA should conduct a statewide solid waste characterization study every five years, beginning in 2022. The study should include at a minimum analysis of the amount and composition of municipal solid waste disposed and diverted in Illinois by county.
4. **Shouldn't there be an additional recommendation here that states how to standardize the method / formula / included activities to be utilized in calculating generation, diversion, and disposal? If not here, where will this be identified?**