

Illinois Statewide Recycling Needs Assessment Advisory Council Meeting Minutes

Monday, March 9, 2026, 12:00 pm CT

WebEx Webinar

1. Welcome: Roll Call

- a. Attendees: John Pausma, Tomas Vujovic, Aaron Harmon, Pete Varney, Mark Weintraub, Mike DiMucci, Adam Spaulding, Teresa Kernc, Brad Cole, Christina Seibert, Cole Stollard, Alec Laird, Seema Keshav, Frank Pettis, Donovan Griffith, Elizabeth Sheaffer, Madeline Norris, Machele Henderson, Patricia Bonaguro
- b. Not in attendance: Lisa Disbrow, Nicole Willett, Joshua Connell, Becky Tracy, Andrea Densham, Darnell Tingle, Taylor Loeber, Carol Patterson,
- c. A quorum was present.
- d. Illinois EPA staff attending: Vishnu Srinivasaraghavan, Alyssa Greer
- e. Open seats on the Advisory Council include one representative of each: a county with a population of 50,000-1,000,000, a municipality with a population less than 1,000,000, and a retailer.

2. Meeting Minutes

- a. February 9 meeting minutes were reviewed. Motion by Brad Cole, second by Mark Weintraub; all in favor, minutes were approved.

3. Illinois EPA Updates

- a. Advisory Council members were reminded to submit their annual training certifications for harassment, ethics, and related trainings required to be completed by all appointees to State advisory roles.

4. Consideration for Packaging EPR Policy by Material Type

- a. A presentation from Kate Bailey, Association of Plastic Recyclers (APR) was provided. The presentation included:
 - i. Introduction to APR and its members
 - ii. Discussion of steps in the plastic recycling process, with emphasis on APR members' role in reclaiming (processing / recycling) recovered plastic into pellets, flake, or other forms for use in manufacturing
 - iii. APR positions regarding packaging design standards, collection (including EPR and bottle deposit laws), and minimum recycled content standards in manufacturing to support and improve plastic recycling
 - iv. APR Design Guide for Plastics Recyclability to increase recyclability and quality of recycled content secured
 - v. How packaging EPR will improve plastics recycling, including priorities for legislation to include such as harmonization with other states; timelines, goals, and fees that support design changes and system

improvements; and complementary policies such as mandatory recycled content

- vi. Responses to common questions about plastics recycling
- b. Questions from Advisory Council members clarified elements of the APR presentation and highlighted misconceptions and concerns about plastics recycling.
- c. Links to source documents from Greenpeace regarding failures of plastic recycling ([Circular Claims Fall Flat Again](#)) and the health concerns associated with plastics ([Forever Toxic: The Science on Health Threats from Plastic Recycling](#)) were shared by Seema Keshav supporting her comments and questions.

5. Packaging EPR Implementation Updates in States with Adopted Legislation

- a. Christina Seibert shared information regarding the lawsuit filed by the National Association of Wholesaler-Distributors (NAW) against Oregon's packaging EPR program and the preliminary injunction blocking enforcement of the law against NAW's members granted by the US District Court for Oregon. More information will be shared as it becomes available and after the trial in July.

6. Questions and Comments from Council Members

- a. None

7. Public Comment Period

- a. Public comment was solicited from attendees; no comments were received

8. Next Meeting

- a. April 13, 12-1:30 pm CT via WebEx

9. Adjournment

- a. The meeting adjourned at 1:05 pm CT; motion by Brad Cole, second by Nicole Willett.