

Illinois Statewide Recycling Needs Assessment Advisory Council Meeting Minutes

Wednesday, July 1, 2026, 10:00 am CT

WebEx Webinar

1. Welcome: Roll Call

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

2. Meeting Minutes

- a. June 8 meeting minutes were reviewed. Motion by Brad Cole, second by Machele Henderson; all in favor, minutes were approved.

3. Illinois EPA Updates

- a. The draft Needs Assessment and Appendix 2.0 (Survey Data) files have been sent to the Advisory Council members on July 1; Appendix 7.0 (Waste Characterization Study) will be sent.
- b. Members of the public can request a copy of the report by emailing Vishnu at vishnu.srinivasaraghavan2@illinois.gov. Information will be added to the website regarding public access and a disclaimer that public comments are not required to be responded to by statute.

4. Needs Assessment Report Orientation (Eunomia)

- a. Eunomia provided an overview of the draft Needs Assessment report structure and data sources (citations, endnotes, and detailed data),
- b. Information sought from the Advisory Council includes:
 - i. Errors and omissions
 - ii. Data refinement and gap filling
 - iii. Definitions and terminology
 - iv. Clarity and understanding
- c. Questions from Advisory Council members clarified Eunomia's overview:

- i. For the Red/Amber/Green data completeness ratings, there is a lot of “amber” (partial completeness) rating – is that typical? – There is discussion of this in Section 1.3.3 regarding how this compares to other states.
- ii. If there are comments or questions that are time-critical to reviewing the report, those should be shared with all Advisory Council members and Eunomia for efficiency in responses.

5. Advisory Council Next Steps for Needs Assessment Review and Comment

- a. Final comments to IEPA are due by August 30.
- b. The Advisory Council will meet July 13 and July 27 to discuss comments, likely working through data inputs, current state, then modeling. More information will be provided prior to the July 13 meeting to facilitate structure of those discussions.
- c. Eunomia will attend the August 10 Advisory Council meeting to answer questions to facilitate our finalization of comments.
- d. Comments will be finalized at the August 24 Advisory Council meeting.

6. Questions and Comments from Council Members

- a. None

7. Public Comment Period

- a. Walter Willis (Solid Waste Agency of Lake County) – Does the report include current recycling performance and costs in addition to incremental costs for future programs? And did the data collection from haulers include detailed information on current services? – Information on current programs and costs is in Sections 4.3.4 and 4.3.5. Hauler information from the surveys was anonymized by IEPA region – not county or municipal – level. There is some information from the municipality level from the municipal survey. Cost data is based on all information available including the hauler survey, municipal survey, and waste agency data. Explanations to understand contents of all tables and data are provided in the report, and if they are unclear that comment should be provided.

8. Next Meeting

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

9. Adjournment

- a. The meeting adjourned at 11:00 am CT; motion by John Pausma, second by Joshua Connell.