

Illinois Statewide Recycling Needs Assessment Advisory Council Meeting Minutes

Monday, July 27, 2026, 12:00 pm CT

WebEx Webinar

1. Welcome: Roll Call

- a.** Attendees: John Pausma, Pete Varney, Lisa Disbrow, Joshua Connell, Mark Weintraub, Adam Spaulding, Teresa Kernc, Brad Cole, Christina Seibert, Cole Stollard, Andrea Densham, Frank Pettis, Elizabeth Sheaffer, Madeline Norris, Taylor Loeber, Carol Patterson, Machele Henderson, Patricia Bonaguro
- b.** Not in attendance: Tomas Vujovic, Aaron Harmon, Nicole Willett, Mike DiMucci, Becky Tracy, Mercy Davison, Alec Laird, Lisa Linnell, Seema Keshav, Darnell Tingle, Donovan Griffith
- c.** A quorum was present.
- d.** Illinois EPA staff attending: Vishnu Srinivasaraghavan, Cassandra Clark
- e.** 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.** July 13 meeting minutes were reviewed. Motion by Mark Weintraub, second by Josua Connell; all in favor, minutes were approved.

3. Illinois EPA Updates

- a.** The Agency is reviewing the report concurrent with the Advisory Council's review, and preliminary comments have been shared with Eunomia on certain deficiencies from both Agency review and Advisory Council comments. IEPA is waiting for additional information and timelines from Eunomia to address those deficiencies
- b.** What happens if revisions and additional information for the draft report are not available within the Advisory Council's 60-day feedback period? – IEPA believes there will be overlap with Agency and Advisory Council comments, and IEPA can take ownership of Advisory Council feedback and present to Eunomia as their own outside of the statutory period.
- c.** The Advisory Council expressed an expectation that data will be provided and available by the time of the next meeting on August 10 to facilitate further review and comment on the model and findings of the report.

4. Needs Assessment Report Discussion

- a.** Comments and questions to discuss with Eunomia were discussed and identified:
 - i.** The need for a useful compilation of data to understand how findings and conclusions were drawn and better formulate questions on those elements; without an understanding of the data, we are not able to comment on other parts of the analysis

- ii. Modeling for the future state assumes weekly curbside recycling collection and we should discuss why bi-weekly collection is insufficient as it is lower cost and achieves similar performance
 - iii. Volume-based pricing as a trigger for increased performance and the lack of documentation of the performance expected
 - iv. Language access data and how it was compiled or what sources were used, considering this information was not requested to be provided in the municipal surveys
- b. An organized set of high-frequency and/or high-priority questions and comments will be sent to Eunomia in advance of the August 10 meeting based on comments discussed by the Advisory Council and entered into our shared review document.

5. Questions and Comments from Council Members

- a. None

6. Public Comment Period

- a. Jordan Fengel (Carton Council) – The draft needs assessment report describes end markets for cartons are limited, but reality of access and markets is much more positive. Specific data was shared regarding access and end markets for different bale specifications. Carton Council can share more market data if wanted.
- b. Walter Willis (Solid Waste Agency of Lake County) – Table 4-52 shows exceeding goals for certain materials (e.g., fiber increasing to 56% in the 35% scenario) or not reaching the goal (e.g., plastics increasing to 38% in the 50% scenario). How cost components are contributed to the total costs for each scenario in Table 4-55 needs to be better understood to determine whether any less-intense levers can be pursued to reduce future cost projections.

7. Next Meeting

- a. August 10, 12-1:30pm CT via WebEx

8. Adjournment

- a. The meeting adjourned at 12:40 pm CT; motion by Brad Cole, second by Lisa Disbrow.