

# Illinois Statewide Recycling Needs Assessment Advisory Council Meeting Minutes

*Wednesday, April 3, 2024, 9:00 am CT*

WebEx Webinar

## 1. Welcome: Roll Call

- a. Attendees: John Pausma, Tomas Vujovic, Aaron Harmon, Daphne Hulse, Lisa Disbrow, Joshua Connell, Sadzi Oliva, Denise Macias, Marta Keane, Anthony Tindall, Brad Cole, Christina Seibert, Cole Stollard, Liz Kunkle, Seema Keshav, Darnell Tingle, Madeline Norris, Neil Menezes, Carol Patterson, Brian Holtz
- b. Not in attendance: Nicole Willett, Becky Tracy, Kristina LoRusso, Rod Kleckler, Alec Laird, Bill Dolak, Donovan Griffith, Elizabeth Sheaffer, John Rost
- c. A quorum was present.
- d. Illinois EPA staff attending: Sunil Suthar, Valerie Davis, Allison Fry, Matthew Lapsley

## 2. Review Needs Assessment Draft Scope of Work / Comments

- a. Members reviewed the draft scope of work provided by IEPA with extensive discussion. Principal discussion items included:
  - Need to distinguish between work scopes for the recycling needs assessment required under the law and the broader waste characterization study proposed through the IEPA's USEPA SWIFR Grant
  - Should identify data that is currently available, including from the Materials Management Advisory Council report (2021), 2008/2015 waste characterization studies, etc.
  - Will IEPA's scope include a sorting-level waste characterization study?
  - Available data to respond to certain scope items is limited. For example, producers cannot report on unit counts (weights are most typical and available). The consultant should be clear on where they are getting data and what methodologies and definitions are being used.
  - Downstream technologies are not always visible to track quantity of material going to individual markets, but the consultant should be able to identify generally available markets in the region for different materials. End market availability will impact goal-setting and future policy for specific materials.
  - PCR use is going to be challenging to provide (but required in statute). Brands are variable in their use of PCR so each brand would need to provide input. Also, PCR use varies between suppliers to the brands, and it is difficult to report at the state level because suppliers fluctuate. To inform expectations in future policy for PCR use, the potential for incorporation of PCR in each packaging type and by material may be more appropriate, with limitations due to technology, regulation, etc. noted by the consultant.
  - We should consider guidance to the consultant on statutory requirements to narrow them to the type of information that we can actually use in our recommendations.

- Cost data needs to be broken down by management activity type (recycling / composting / disposal).
  - Litter is not necessarily a cost that will be reflected, as it is more of a result of behavior than impacted by infrastructure.
- b. Scope review stopped at cost items (item 12) in scope of work document; several additional items remain that require substantive discussion.

### **3. Illinois EPA Updates**

- a. USEPA grant timelines will drive portions of the study schedule based on the funding source for the needs assessment.
- b. IEPA expects to issue the RFP in the next few weeks pending feedback from the Advisory Council. This may change due to the pending amendment (SB3165).

### **4. Questions from Council Members**

- a. How many members of the Advisory Council can meet or discuss the work of the Advisory Council without violating the Open Meetings Act? - Up to 7 members of the Advisory Council can have discussion on issues related to work of the Advisory Council. Members are encouraged to have conversation with others on the Advisory Council within these limits to consolidate comments, connect with those with other subject matter expertise, etc.
- b. Procedural rules will be introduced at a future meeting.

### **5. Public Comment Period**

- a. Andrea Densham offered several comments, including: interest in waste characterization data having continuity and comparability with other states and work being done under EPR laws; knowing about materials flows and end market availability is important for modeling and future decisions; there needs to be an understanding of what current real costs are for each management activity to figure out impact on systems as we increase recycling / composting.
- b. Walter Willis provided comments in the meeting chat regarding the need for members of the public to be notified of future meetings and whether there is an option for IEPA to provide notifications. He also noted that the scopes of work for the needs assessment and characterization study should be separated.

### **6. Next Meeting**

- a. The meeting will be continued to a date during the week of April 8. A Doodle poll will be circulated to select the meeting date and time.

### **7. Adjournment**

- a. Meeting ended at 10:25 am Central, with continuation to be scheduled.