

Illinois Statewide Recycling Needs Assessment Advisory Council Meeting Minutes

Thursday, April 11, 2024, 9:00 am CT

WebEx Webinar

1. Welcome: Roll Call

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

2. Illinois EPA Updates

- a. Comments from the Advisory Council are to be provided by end of day on Monday April 15.
- b. IEPA cannot post the draft scope of work on its website to avoid compromising the procurement process. It can only be shared with the Advisory Council members because they have signed a confidentiality agreement with IEPA.

3. Review Needs Assessment Draft Scope of Work / Comments

- a. Changes to the organization of the scope document since the previous version were reviewed:
 - Rearranged to segregate the needs assessment specified in statute (Component 1) from the waste characterization under the USEPA SWIFR grant (Component 2). The Advisory Council is not reviewing Component 2 scope as it is not part of our role; send comments, if any, to Sunil.
 - Statute language has been enumerated, with suggestions, clarifications, and/or interpretations suggested for the consultants' consideration in bullets and italicized.
 - Language was added to address the schedule impact if SB3165 is enacted.
 - The definition of covered entities was added.
- b. Clarification was sought on the advisory nature of the comments provided by the Advisory Council on the scope of work. IEPA clarified that they want input from everyone on the scope of work and values that input, it will be reviewed by IEPA staff and evaluated for inclusion, and procurement staff will have additional input. There is no guarantee that Advisory Council comments will be incorporated and are advisory only.

- c. Members continued their review of the scope of work from the April 3 meeting; discussion items included:
 - Whether to consider a higher threshold for curbside recycling collection than a population of 1,500. It was noted that 751 out of about 1,200 municipalities statewide have populations less than 1,500. It was suggested that the consultant map all municipalities and distinguish those with >1,500 population and those <1,500 population with a 15-mile radius in which a drop-off would be needed.
 - Consider scenarios with reduction targets in addition to recycling targets to identify costs and investments when packaging is reduced. Analysis of reduction efforts in this instance would be a formulaic exercise and doesn't explain how reductions will be achieved or whether they are practical to achieve. Brands are frequently looking at ways to reduce packaging without compromising products, which results in reduction gains, but that is a different impact than the infrastructure needed to meet recycling targets.
 - Overlay processing and end market facilities with EJ community locations.
- d. Limited discussion on Component 2 structure identified the following comments:
 - IEPA should clarify whether a physical sorting study is expected to be part of the waste characterization study.
 - IEPA should think about how information and data will be shared between consultant teams if the study is split to two separate contracts where there is overlap in scopes.
- e. The schedule for finalization of comments is:
 - Christina will finalize the redline and circulate to the Advisory Council on Friday.
 - Final Advisory Council comments are due to Christina by 10am Monday.
 - Advisory Council members should send individual comments to IEPA if they are not addressed in the consolidated comments.

4. Questions from Council Members

- a. None

5. Public Comment Period

- a. Walter Willis inquired about several items including: IEPA's procurement schedule and consultant notifications (response: IEPA intends to comply with dates in the law, and the procurement will be posted in BidBuy; consultants should register there to be notified); potential to award separate contracts for the needs assessment and waste characterization studies to optimize capabilities of different firms (response: intent is to award one contract); whether it will be a qualifications-based selection or bid (response: procurement has not made this determination); if the \$750,000 grant funding from USEPA will cover the studies or what other funding sources are available (response: IEPA will use other funds if needed to cover project costs).

- b.** Jordan Parker requested clarification on why it would be difficult to study impacts of different reduction targets. Advisory Council members indicated that an assumption of across-the-board reduction would not consider whether the reduction target is realistic to achieve, so it just distributes costs across a lesser tonnage of material. It was restated that there is a difference in impact also because recovery rates are achieved with investments in back-end infrastructure by local governments and MRFs for example, while reduction rates are achieved with changes in front-end design by producers.

6. Next Meeting

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

7. Adjournment

- a.** The meeting adjourned at 10:20am CT.