

Illinois Statewide Recycling Needs Assessment Advisory Council Meeting Minutes

Monday, June 10, 2024, 12:00 pm CT

WebEx Webinar

1. Welcome: Roll Call

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

2. Meeting Minutes

- a. March 11 meeting minutes were reviewed. Motion by Lisa Disbrow, second by Elizabeth Sheaffer; all in favor, March 11 minutes were approved.
- b. Minutes from April 3, April 11, and June 10 meetings will be sent to the Advisory Council members in advance of the next meeting to provide opportunity for review.

3. Illinois EPA Updates

- a. The draft RFP was finalized by Bureau of Land staff and has been forwarded to the State Procurement Office as of May 31 for review.
- b. It is currently expected that two separate RFPs will be issued for the needs assessment required by law and the characterization study planned under the USEPA SWIFR grant.
- c. Cassandra Metz will be supporting work of the Advisory Council in addition to Sunil.

4. Colorado DPHE Presentation on Colorado's Producer Responsibility Program for Statewide Recycling

- a. Wolf Kray, CDPHE Materials Management Unit Leader, provided a presentation with an overview of Colorado's law, their needs assessment process, and lessons learned. Topics covered and included in the meeting recording were:
 - Purpose and goals of SB22-1355
 - Producer definition, covered materials, and covered entities
 - Services included in the law, including reimbursement / funding for collection / transportation, processing, education, infrastructure investment
 - Costs covered; reimbursement rate is being determined

- Funding; CDPHE has a “loan” from the state General Fund until the PRO starts collecting fees, covering costs for 1 FTE currently with plan to add a second FTE in 2025
 - CDPHE duties and authorities
 - Review of implementation timeline
 - Needs assessment requirements, successes and challenges, and scenario recommendation
 - Advisory Board roles and responsibilities
- b.** Questions from Advisory Council members were posed to Wolf addressing:
- Compostable packaging – Producers fund the program; cost of collection is not reimbursable but cost to manage at composting facilities is covered.
 - Program cost – The cost of the program is estimated to be \$210 million in 2030 increasing to \$250 million in 2035. These are annual infrastructure and operations expenses; the needs assessment includes a breakdown between infrastructure investment and operating costs.
 - CDPHE costs – Staff and consultant (PSI) costs in 2023 and 2024 have been \$100-\$120,000/year and are projected to be in the \$200,000s/year in 2025 and 2026. CAA is expected to reimburse these costs after they start to be funded by producers.
 - Goals beyond 2035 – The program plan will specify how goals will be met. The needs assessment will be repeated every 5 years and the program plan will be reviewed annually, including setting new goals in the future.
 - Compliance / penalty if goals are not met – There are enforcement mechanisms for CDPHE, but the preference will be to suggest changes to the program plan from CDPHE and the Advisory Board to work towards a plan with realistic goals.
 - Producer identification – Producers must register with CDPHE by October 2024 and join the PRO by July 2025.
 - Who owns infrastructure funded by PRO / producers – This is still being debated in rulemaking.
 - Current recycling rates vs goal rates – Current estimates for packaging and paper are around 25% capture with a goal to get to 58% by 2035. Current recycling rates are about 16% based on state-reported data.
 - PRO infrastructure development – There is no preclusion on the PRO or producers developing their own infrastructure. The PRO must reimburse existing infrastructure that are managing the covered materials. It is assumed that the PRO will be working with service providers to build out additional infrastructure.
 - Reimbursement rates for new infrastructure – The needs assessment found that there isn’t anywhere in the state that a new full-scale MRF is needed because existing facilities have excess capacity, the challenge is in how to transport material from generators to processors.
 - Packaging reduction targets – There are requirements for source reduction and how to improve reuse and refill. The targets are to be proposed in the program plan. Reuse incentives are to be developed in the program plan also.

- c. Information on Colorado’s process and implementation progress are available at <https://cdphe.colorado.gov/hm/epr-program>

5. Questions from Council Members

- a. SB3165 extends several dates for the needs assessment but does not change the dates deliverables from the Advisory Council are due. Dates extended include contracting with the needs assessment consultant to January 1, 2025; draft needs assessment to Advisory Council by May 1, 2026; and final needs assessment posted by IEPA by November 30, 2026.
- b. We need a standard approach to compare bills in each state. This will be developed and discussed during the next meeting.

6. Public Comment Period

- a. Andrea Densham commented on the need for Illinois to consider how investment and costs in compostables collection and processing are handled and asked how the decisions were made in Colorado; Wolf indicated that the focus and concern was on the impacts of contamination at processing facilities which led to that cost focus. Andrea also referred to end market development as a focus, which Wolf discussed further with respect to Colorado exporting much of its material out of state.
- b. Walter Willis questioned how reimbursement will work from the PRO to service providers and local governments. Wolf indicated they are working through this now and expect it to be a formula-driven method with many variables. This is the most pressing issue they are wanting to work on currently because of its complexity and interest from stakeholders. Statute requires 100% reimbursement, and this will be challenging to define through a formulaic approach. Reimbursement for service providers may be based on tons delivered to the MRF to address challenges with high amount of subscription service.

7. Next Meeting

- a. September 9, 12-1:30 pm CT via WebEx

8. Adjournment

- a. The meeting adjourned at 1:19 pm CT; motion by Brad Cole, second by Joshua Connell.