

## **Illinois Statewide Recycling Needs Assessment Advisory Council Meeting Minutes**

*Monday, July 14, 2025, 12:00 pm CT*

WebEx Webinar

### **1. Welcome: Roll Call**

- a.** Attendees: John Pausma, Daphne Hulse, Lisa Disbrow, Nicole Willett, Joshua Connell, Sadzi Oliva, Mike DiMucci, Marta Keane, Kevin Schnoes, Brad Cole, Christina Seibert, Cole Stollard, Alec Laird, Andrea Densham, Seema Keshav, Frank Pettis, Donovan Griffith, Elizabeth Sheaffer, Madeline Norris, Carol Patterson, Machele Henderson
- b.** Not in attendance: Tomas Vujovic, Aaron Harmon, Becky Tracy, Kristina LoRusso, Rod Kleckler, Darnell Tingle, John Rost
- c.** A quorum was present.
- d.** Illinois EPA staff attending: Vishnu Srinivasaraghavan, Cassandra Clark, Victoria Slayton
- e.** IEPA needs assessment consultant and CPA staff attending: Sarah Edwards & Winn Cowman (Eunomia); Matthew Loula (GLA); Brandon Reed & John Manilla (Crowe)
- f.** Open seats on the Advisory Council include one representative of each: a retailer; a producer of consumer products.

### **2. Meeting Minutes**

- a.** June 9 meeting minutes were reviewed. Motion by Andrea Densham, second by Elizabeth Sheaffer; all in favor, minutes were approved.

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

- a.** IEPA is coordinating with Eunomia and Crowe to begin work on the project objectives and formalizing schedule. Coordination and interaction with the Advisory Council is part of the discussion.
- b.** New representatives for SRNAAC: Kevin Schnoes (Cook County) has replaced Anthony Tindall as the representative for a county with a population of more than 1 million. Open seats remain for a retailer and a producer of consumer products.
- c.** Ethics and harassment / discrimination trainings: Notifications of required trainings were previously provided to all Advisory Council members via email. Members can contact Cassandra Clark ([cassandra.clark@illinois.gov](mailto:cassandra.clark@illinois.gov)) to confirm they have completed all training requirements.

### **4. Consultant Introductions**

- a.** Christina Seibert provided an overview of the introductions to be provided by Eunomia and Crowe, indicating that the firms are currently coordinating how they

will work together to collect and present data for the needs assessment and to the Advisory Council and will not yet have a full answer to how they will be completing this project. They will present to the Advisory Council again in future meetings.

- b. Eunomia Research & Consulting team members introduced their staff, experience, partner / team companies, and scope of work as it relates to the needs assessment.
  - How will the needs assessment handle fluidity of data (markets, capacity, EJ screening tools and definitions, etc.)? – Eunomia indicated they will be clear at what point in time the data is provided / reflective.
  - How will all 1,300 municipalities in Illinois be surveyed? How is contact information going to be obtained? – Eunomia will be doing an electronic survey first and will follow up with various outreach methods and secondary research efforts. They will share a list of contacts soon for members of the Advisory Council to provide input to how best to approach each sector. Contacts will include elected officials, municipal managers, and public works directors and will seek guidance to the best contact; they often don't reach out to elected officials, except in rural areas where there may not be other staff able to be identified. Brad Cole noted that "rural" communities constitute half or more of the municipalities in Illinois (many with populations less than 1,000 people), and connecting with them can be difficult.
  - Will the waste characterization include other ways of collecting data other than surveys? – Eunomia explained that MSW Consultants will be doing waste sorting at a number of Illinois landfills and/or transfer stations to determine percentage composition of the waste stream and what may be able to be recovered. They will not be doing cart or bin inspections or tagging, only sorting after it is aggregated to a facility.
- c. Crowe LLP team members introduced their experience including with IEPA and in the area of recycling studies, role in this project, and current work in developing their scope of work and coordination with Eunomia.

## **5. Prioritization / Organization of EPR Elements for Future Advisory Council Considerations**

- a. Christina Seibert identified a preliminary organization of key topics for future discussion and areas in which recommendations will likely be developed for future packaging EPR policy, which included:
  - Scope and definitions: covered materials; covered sectors; definition of producer / responsible party hierarchy; other key definitions (e.g., recycling, responsible end markets, environmental impact)
  - Operational considerations: roles of PRO, IEPA, Advisory Council; collection / convenience standards; performance goals; funding – how should fees be set, what should they cover
  - Implementation coordination: EPR implementation schedule; harmonization with legislated EPR programs for other products in Illinois; rulemaking

- b. Discussion of elements and understanding the interconnected nature of the elements will begin before the needs assessment is completed to be prepared to develop recommendations in the final 5 months of work of the Advisory Council. These discussions will also clarify the elements that will be impacted by the findings of the needs assessment and those that may be explored prior to finalizing the needs assessment.
- c. Future meetings will include discussion in more detail of what each element encompasses, how other states have addressed them, and what information is needed to make a recommendation for Illinois.
- d. A survey will be sent to Advisory Council members to identify the elements / areas members are willing to volunteer to research and report on to facilitate future Advisory Council discussions.
  - Several members indicated they will want to be part of all items and will not be prepared to make any recommendations until there is more information available from the needs assessment.
- e. Brad Cole noted that the final report, due December 1, 2026, will be coming when a new General Assembly will be being sworn in, so having a sound and well-researched report will be important to inform the new General Assembly.

## **6. Questions and Comments from Council Members**

- a. There were no additional questions from Council members.

## **7. Public Comment Period**

- a. Public comment was solicited from attendees, with one commenter providing the following:
  - Will the needs assessment include collection of producer data to identify the types and quantities of packaging being put into the market? – Eunomia responded they will be using a global database to inform producer data and reviewing data from PRO reports and registrations in other states who are implementing packaging EPR policy currently.
  - Can IEPA post the scope of work, cost, and/or contract with Eunomia on the Statewide Recycling Needs Assessment website? – IEPA will investigate this.

## **8. Next Meeting**

- a. August 11, 12-1:30 pm CT via WebEx.
- b. Meetings will continue to be planned monthly.

## **9. Adjournment**

- a. The meeting adjourned at 1:00pm CT; motion by Brad Cole, second by Marta Keane.