

Illinois Statewide Recycling Needs Assessment Advisory Council Meeting Minutes

Monday, February 9, 2026, 12:00 pm CT

WebEx Webinar

1. Welcome: Roll Call

- a.** Attendees: John Pausma, Tomas Vujovic, Aaron Harmon, Pete Varney, Lisa Disbrow, Nicole Willett, Joshua Connell, Mike DiMucci, Adam Spaulding, Brad Cole, Christina Seibert, Cole Stollard, Alec Laird, Andrea Densham, Seema Keshav, Frank Pettis, Donovan Griffith, Elizabeth Sheaffer, Madeline Norris, Patricia Bonaguro
- b.** Not in attendance: Mark Weintraub, Becky Tracy, Darnell Tingle, Taylor Loeber, Carol Patterson, Machele Henderson
- c.** A quorum was present.
- d.** Illinois EPA staff attending: Vishnu Srinivasaraghavan
- e.** Open seats on the Advisory Council include one representative of each a county with a population of 50,000-1,000,000 and a retailer and two representatives of a municipality with a population less than 1,000,000.

2. Meeting Minutes

- a.** January 12 meeting minutes were reviewed. Motion by Brad Cole, second by Joshua Connell; all in favor, minutes were approved.

3. Illinois EPA Updates

- a.** Agency staff indicated there is follow-up underway with recyclers and haulers who have yet to execute their NDAs to continue the data collection process.

4. Needs Assessment Data Collection Update and Discussion

- a.** Eunomia was not in attendance but provided a slide deck with updated local government data collection status and approach to addressing data gaps. The slides were reviewed by Christina Seibert, with the following comments and questions provided by the Advisory Council to be shared with Eunomia:
 - 1. Responses by number of households raise some questions about the accuracy of information shown in the map and how survey responses are being managed – for example, Solid Waste Agency of Lake County provided data but only is shown with 10-25% of households responded; DuPage County is believed to have provided data but only is shown with 25-50% of households.
 - 2. Secondary research does not equal a survey response, because secondary research may not be as accurate or current as a survey response.

3. For surveys that have more than 20 questions answered, has there been any discretion to which questions that includes as a minimum response, or is it simply 20 of any type?
 4. City of Chicago was questioned as being included in the responses (after the meeting, the City confirmed with me that they had responded, please clarify that their data is included in the household counts). This boosts the household count significantly and should be clearly noted where appropriate for any potential overweighting of findings or impacts to the analysis.
 5. What specifically did the survey request regarding reuse data (e.g., reuse providers, dishwashing facilities, etc.)? How is this information being gathered if not through the survey?
 6. The facility and hauler surveys both include questions about commercial tonnage and commercial customers. Why is this being requested, given the scope of the needs assessment does not include commercial entities?
 7. Will the presentation of raw data indicate which set of survey questions (the full original survey, or a later shortened survey) were responded to? How can the responses be compared if the same set of questions are not being asked?
 8. The Advisory Council requests to receive the raw municipal and county data in advance of receiving the draft needs assessment report. Any sharing of the data should be sent to IEPA and Christina for distribution to the AC roster, not shared individually with members.
- b. Responses to Advisory Council questions will be requested from Eunomia and distributed by email to Advisory Council members in advance of the next meeting.

5. Questions and Comments from Council Members

- a. None

6. Public Comment Period

- a. A member of the public asked, with respect to the Eunomia data collection process: Will (or can) hauler data be aggregated by rural vs urban to provide more discrete information about services and costs? This question will be shared with Eunomia in addition to the Advisory Council members' questions.

7. Next Meeting

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

8. Adjournment

- a. The meeting adjourned at 12:47 pm CT; motion by Brad Cole, second by Nicole Willett.