

Illinois Statewide Recycling Needs Assessment Advisory Council Meeting Minutes

Monday, August 24, 2026, 12:00 pm CT

WebEx Webinar

1. Welcome: Roll Call

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

2. Meeting Minutes

- a.** August 10 meeting minutes were not completed; review and approval was deferred until the next meeting.

3. Illinois EPA Updates

- a.** Agency review of the needs assessment is ongoing, and they will be considering comments from the Advisory Council for inclusion as well.
- b.** Questions to IEPA:
 - i.** Is Eunomia working to implement the approach suggested by the Advisory Council, or has IEPA directed them to do more work on this? – Discussions are ongoing, and the opportunity for the Advisory Council to provide additional feedback through IEPA continues beyond the August 31 deadline for comments.
 - ii.** Has IEPA received any information / responses to the questions from the Advisory Council submitted for the August 10 meeting? – IEPA will follow up with Eunomia on this.

4. Needs Assessment Report Discussion

- a.** Advisory Council members noted that Eunomia's report may not be available in a timely fashion to use in our discussions and development of recommendations, which limits the deliverables we can bring forward.
- b.** Comments will be completed by Friday, August 28 for submittal to IEPA, on the assumption that no new information will be provided by then. A statement needs to

be included that the review comments are limited due to insufficiency of data in the report.

- c. Comments from individual members, where provided, will be attached to the summary feedback memo to include all comments with full attribution to the particular member or industry segment.
- d. Individual feedback should be provided to Christina by noon Thursday. The final draft will be sent to the Advisory Council by Christina by Thursday night, with review and final comments to be provided by Friday at noon. The final version will be sent to IEPA and Eunomia, and copied to all Advisory Council members, by close of business Friday.
- e. The draft feedback memo was reviewed, which is structured with overall impressions and disclaimers, followed by comments regarding each required element of the needs assessment from the statute.

5. Questions and Comments from Council Members

- a. None

6. Public Comment Period

- a. Walter Willis (Solid Waste Agency of Lake County) – IEPA is encouraged to have the additional scope and approach completed that the Advisory Council has developed, and Eunomia is likely not the best firm to do that based on the work completed so far. Comment was also made that most states have adopted packaging EPR policy before completing the needs assessment, so the Advisory Council should not feel obligated to be held up with the lack of information from the needs assessment to discuss the policy.
- b. Kimby Davis (BPI) – Eunomia mentioned at the Illinois Circularity Conference that another report section addressing non-packaging materials, possibly including compostable packaging, is being provided to IEPA; is that being shared with the Advisory Council and will you be reviewing it? – Response was provided that it is not in the Advisory Council’s responsibilities to review the non-packaging materials portion of the work being completed by Eunomia, but it could be referred to if there are portions pertinent to packaging. IEPA will confirm whether the non-packaging materials report can be shared with the public.

7. Next Meeting

- a. September 14, 12-1:30pm CT via WebEx

8. Adjournment

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