

Illinois Statewide Recycling Needs Assessment Advisory Council Meeting Minutes

Monday, September 8, 2025, 12:00 pm CT

WebEx Webinar

1. Welcome: Roll Call

- a. Attendees: John Pausma, Tomas Vujovic, Lisa Disbrow, Nicole Willett, Joshua Connell, Kevin Schnoes, Brad Cole, Christina Seibert, Cole Stollard, Alec Laird, Andrea Densham, Seema Keshav, Frank Pettis, Elizabeth Sheaffer, Madeline Norris, Taylor Loeber, Carol Patterson, Patricia Bonaguro
- b. Not in attendance: Aaron Harmon, Daphne Hulse, Mike DiMucci, Becky Tracy, Marta Keane, Kristina LoRusso, Rod Kleckler, Darnell Tingle, Donovan Griffith, Machele Henderson
- c. A quorum was present.
- d. Illinois EPA staff attending: Vishnu Srinivasaraghavan, Cassandra Clark, Jacki Cooperider
- e. IEPA needs assessment consultant and CPA staff attending: Winn Cowman & Kaitlin Reese (Eunomia); Phillip Kowalski (GLA); Brandon Reed, John Manilla & Mendi Julien (Crowe)
- f. Open seats on the Advisory Council include one representative of each: a retailer; a recycling drop-off facility operator.

2. Meeting Minutes

- a. July 14 meeting minutes were reviewed. Motion by Brad Cole, second by Christina Seibert; all in favor, minutes were approved.

3. Illinois EPA Updates

- a. No updates were provided by IEPA.

4. Needs Assessment Updates

- a. Eunomia presented an overview of the full project scope, information on their data collection steps and approach, and data confidentiality components.
- b. Eunomia's scope includes packaging and paper products in addition to other components of the waste stream; their discussion primarily focused on the packaging and paper products as that is the focus for the Advisory Council.
- c. Data collection is focusing on three audiences: 1) local governments, 2) processing facilities, and 3) haulers.
- d. Data collection is targeted to be completed by the end of the year.
- e. For waste hauler and processing facilities, the survey will be administered through the CPA (Crowe) with a preference to identify a single point of contact to coordinate with at each company. Non-disclosure agreements (NDAs) will be pursued prior to deploying the survey. Eunomia and Crowe solicited input from the Advisory Council

- about how to connect with haulers and processing facilities, with NWRA being identified as a primary contact. Lisa Disbrow offered to serve as the initial point of contact for NWRA. Concerns about Survey Monkey data collection being confidential were raised. Concerns about double-counting of data and imports/exports across state lines were also raised, which the local government survey will help to address.
- f. For local governments, the survey link will be distributed by email to municipalities, counties, and waste agencies. Eunomia is working with IML to assist in distributing it also.
 - g. Crowe reviewed data handling and confidentiality steps, including executing NDAs, setting controls on data entry and access, securing data transfer and storage, anonymizing and aggregating data, and securely transmitting aggregated data to the project team.
 - h. Crowe's internal standards will ensure that the data for this project is accessible only to the project team for this project. Team members have worked on recycling-related projects in other states but are bound to keeping the project data within the project only. Survey Monkey data security is being confirmed to ensure that the data collection tool ultimately used provides necessary data confidentiality. Other data collection and transmission methods can be used to meet the comfort of respondents, such as secure transfer systems.
 - i. Crowe described how they will review and analyze the data for any need for follow-up, clarification, and adequacy, including relying on experienced internal staff who are familiar with cost analyses and recycling operations and baseline / bounding data from the Eunomia / Geo-Logic team.
 - j. Concerns were raised about how to confidently measure recycling rates due to areas with multiple haulers offering subscription service, mixing of commercial and residential recyclables, retailer recycling, and other logistical differences. Municipal surveys will help address a portion of that. Reviewing IEPA permit data is also supplementing the data collection process.
 - k. Response rates will be monitored and reported to Eunomia, and Crowe will use the information available to determine whether and how to extrapolate data. Representative sampling will be considered and compared to expected information provided by the Eunomia team.
 - l. The local government survey is expected to be distributed the week of September 15. The hauler and facility survey schedules are being finalized and a future update will be provided; most / all communication on this will be through and from Crowe.
 - m. MSW Consultants is also a subcontractor to Eunomia who is completing the waste characterization component of the project scope of work, including waste sorting across all state regions. Eunomia clarified their role and scope with respect to the project in total. MSW Consultants is reaching out to landfills and transfer stations to schedule sorting activities.

5. Questions and Comments from Council Members

- a. Open positions on the Advisory Council were confirmed, with noted openings being a retailer and a drop-off recycling facility operator.

6. Public Comment Period

- a. Public comment was solicited from attendees; no comments were received.

7. Next Meeting

- a. November 10, 12-1:30 pm CT via WebEx with presentation from [AMERIPEN](#)
- b. A meeting cancellation for October 13 will be sent.
- c. Meetings will continue to be planned monthly.

8. Adjournment

- a. The meeting adjourned at 1:13pm CT; motion by Lisa Disbrow, second by Joshua Connell.