

**IONIA COUNTY
MATERIALS MANAGEMENT PLANNING COMMITTEE
Meeting Agenda**

Thursday, December 19, 2024

10:00 am

**County Administration Building Commissioner's Board Room – 3rd Floor
101 West Main Street
Ionia, Michigan**

1. Call to Order
2. Roll Call
3. Public Comments
4. Agenda Approval
5. Approval of October Minutes

Old Business

1. None

New Business

1. Description of Recycling Drop-off Sites: Bill Haagsma
2. Introduce Goals Discussion
 - a. Reference: Monthly packet
 - i. Includes goal proposal, SWOT, Washtenaw example
3. Recycling: SWOT Analysis
 - a. Reference: Section 2 - ICD Proposal and EGLE Grant
 - b. Reference: Section 9 - County Profile

Adjournment

Additions to Materials Management Binder:

Placement:

SWOT Recycling Worksheet – Section 2

Materials Management Planning Committee (MMPC)**10/24/24 Minutes****10:00 a.m.****100 W Main Street****Ionia, MI 48846****County Board Room**

- Call to order at 10:04
- Present: Melissa Eldridge (Ionia Conservation District), John Feuerstein (Otisco Township), Michael Lamphere (At Large), Steve Blayer (Granger), Dan Tietema (Organicycle), Kristie Walls (At Large), Doug Hyland (Village of Muir), Gary Pitsch (Pitsch Sanitary Landfill), Dan Schoonmaker (Michigan Sustainable Business Forum), Chris Jensen (Portland Township), Jack Shattuck (Ionia County), Don Johnson (Waste Management).
- Absent: Lynelle Wilson (Chamber of Commerce), Don Johnson (Waste Management)
- Public Comment:
 - N/A
- Agenda Approval
 - Motion to approve agenda made by Jensen. Seconded by Lamphere. Motion carried.
- Approval of September Minutes
 - Motion to approve minutes made by Feuerstein. Seconded by Shattuck. Motion carried.

Old Business

1. Approval of Committee Bylaws
 - Addition to bylaws:
 - i. 2.2: "The county committee shall typically meet on the fourth Thursday of each month, excluding November and December. November meeting will be determined by the committee. The December meeting will be held on the third Thursday of the month. If any regularly scheduled meeting falls on one of the legal county holidays (as established by committee policy), the committee will meet on the next business day that is not a holiday. If there is no business to discuss, the chair has discretion to cancel the meeting.
 - ii. Committee discussed policies regarding virtual attendance. Motion to edit bylaws 4.3: "Virtual participation in Materials Management Planning Committee meetings will be available with the condition that members in virtual attendance may not vote. Additionally, virtual members may not count towards a quorum." Made by Pitsch. Seconded by Tietema. Motion carries. Tietema reminded the Committee that there should be a 24 hour notice on virtual attendance.
 - iii. Schoonmaker requested that if there is no business to discuss then the chair may decide to post-pone the meeting.
 - iv. Motion to approve bylaws as revised made by Pitsch. Seconded by Hyland. Motion carries.

2. Approval of Work Program

- Eldridge reminded Committee that the Work Program is a fluid document. See Work Program for details. Committee discussed the need to address management of closed landfills in the new plan, noting that the Pitsch Sanitary Landfill is slated to close within the decade. Motion to approve Work Program and submit to EGLE made by Shattuck. Seconded by Schoonmaker. Motion carries.

New Business

1. Report: “Economic Impact Potential and Characterization of Municipal Solid Waste in Michigan” (Dan Schoonmaker – Michigan Sustainable Business Forum)
 - <https://wmsbf.org/circular-economy/#sustainablematerials>
 - See report for details.
- Shattuck motioned to adjourn, Jensen second. Motion carries unanimously.
 - Adjourn at 12:07 a.m.

☐

Dan Schoonmaker to provide additional insight regarding MSBF Report upon request.

☐

Amended bylaws.

☐

Invite Bill Haagsma to December meeting as expert.

Materials Management Plan

Managed Material

Recyclables

Solid Waste

Organics

HHW

Medical/Other

Goal

Reduce
Generation

Increase
Diversion

Equitable
Regulation

Regional
Cooperation

Strategy

Objectives

Resources

Education

Implementation

SECTION TWO: MATERIALS MANAGEMENT GOALS

Goals:

Include measurable, objective, and specific goals for the planning area for solid waste diversion from disposal areas, including, but not limited to, the municipal solid waste recycling rate goal (30 percent recycling rate by 2029; ultimately reaching a 45 percent recycling rate), the benchmark recycling standards, and the material utilization and reduction activities identified by the MMP.

Include an implementation strategy for the county to demonstrate progress toward or meet the materials management goals by the time of the 5-year MMP review. The implementation strategy shall include, but is not limited to, the following:

- How progress will be made to reduce the amount of **organic material** being disposed of, through food waste reduction, composting, and anaerobic digestion.
- How progress will be made to reduce the amount of **recyclable materials** being disposed of, through increased recycling, including expanding convenient access, and recycling at single and multifamily dwellings, businesses, and institutions.
- An MMP may include management plans for debris from environmental damage, for debris from disasters, or for **other materials**, such as construction or demolition waste, not otherwise required to be covered by an MMP. A management plan for debris from disasters in an MMP may include recommendations for incorporation of disaster debris management plans into municipal, county, or regional emergency management plans.
- A description of how the minimum **access** requirements (i.e. “benchmark recycling standards”) will be met. Specify a recommended minimum level of recycling service that incorporates the **access** requirements of the benchmark recycling standards.
Note: The county or a municipality within the planning area may, through an appropriate enforceable mechanism, require haulers operating in its jurisdiction to provide the recommended level or a different minimum level of recycling service.
- A description of the **resources needed** for meeting the materials management goals and how the development of necessary materials utilization facilities and activities will be promoted.
- Describe the **education and outreach** programs necessary for residents and businesses in the planning area to meet the objectives.
- A **timetable** for implementation.

MCL Section 324.11578(1)(a), (b); 324.11504(38); 324.11502(6)

Goal 1

- **Description:** Reduce the overall amount of municipal solid waste (MSW) generated in Ionia County by 15% by 2030 and 25% by 2040.
- **Implementation Strategy:**
 - **Objective 1:** Develop and/or support comprehensive programs aimed at reducing waste generation, such as source reduction, pollution prevention, environmental management systems, and other efforts that support sustainable materials management practices.
 - **Objective 2:** Investigate and evaluated economic, regulatory, and educational approaches to motivating citizens and businesses to reduce waste generation, such as pay-as-you-throw variable pricing systems and bans on disposal of specific materials.
 - **Objective 3:** Establish realistic and measurable goals for annual evaluation and investigate and implement measurement systems as needed.
 - **Objective 4:** Educate citizens and businesses on source reduction benefits and techniques, especially those targeted at creating less landfilled waste, reducing organic and household hazardous wastes at the source.
 - **Objective 5:** Establish annual goals to reduce the overall amount of municipal solid waste generated per capita in Ionia County.
- **Resources Needed:**
- **Education and Outreach Programs:**
- **Implementation Timetable:**

Goal 2

- **Description:** Increase municipal solid waste diversion rates from current levels (13%) to 30% by 2030 and 40% by 2040, with a future target of 100%.
- **Implementation Strategy:**
 - **Objective 1:** Rethink, Reuse, Resale
 - Develop and/or support programs that promote the initial reduction of, reuse, donation, and resale of used products.
 - Promote and educate about rethinking, reusage, and resale opportunities.
 - **Objective 2:** Recycling
 - Develop and/or support local recycling programs and incentives that meet or exceed the Benchmark Recycling Standards and provide convenient, equitable, and accessible recycling opportunities for all citizens.
 - Encourage increased recycling within the commercial/industrial and institutional sectors and multi-family housing units.
 - Market Development
 - Work with government agencies and businesses to develop markets for recycled materials and organics.

Recyclables

- Pursue market development for special materials, including durable goods and electronics.
 - Pursue cooperative programs for recycled-content purchasing.
 - Encourage development of recycling-based manufacturing through local, regional, and state government economic development programs.
- **Objective 3: Organics Management**
 - Develop and/or support comprehensive programs aimed at home composting and yard waste reduction.
 - Investigate and encourage the composting or other appropriate management of other organics including food and yard waste for residential, commercial, and agricultural sectors and be able to quantify the amount of diverted organic waste.
- **Objective 4: Household Hazardous Waste Management**
 - Continue to pursue recycling and disposal alternatives for household hazardous waste.
- **Objective 5: Special Material Handling**
 - Continue to pursue recycling and disposal alternatives for problematic materials such as medical waste (household and commercial), conditionally exempt small quantity generator waste, scrap tires, and others.
- **Objective 6: Policy**
 - Encourage the development and local enforcement of policies, ordinances, and regulations that support sustainable materials management and environmentally safe disposal at the County and local levels.
- **Objective 7: Access and Convenience**
 - Investigate access and convenience in Ionia County as it relates to services available for the reduction, diversion, and disposal of MSW.
 - Ensure convenience and accessibility for any programs and services developed.
- **Objective 8: Establish realistic and measurable goals for annual evaluation and investigate and implement measurement systems as needed.**
- **Resources Needed:**
- **Education and Outreach Programs:**
- **Implementation Timetable:**

Goal 3

- **Description:** Ensure the safe, lawful, and efficient management of municipal solid waste.
- **Implementation Strategy:**
 - **Objective 1:** Demonstrate and assure at least 10 years of capacity for non-recoverable refuse waste to meet the County's need using appropriate facilities inside and/or outside of the County.

Recyclables

- **Objective 2:** Ensure the safe and environmentally sound collection, transportation, processing, on-site storage, and disposal of solid waste refuse and materials for diversion.
- **Objective 3:** Encourage proper handling of problematic materials such as household hazardous waste, unregulated business waste, and household generated medical waste.
- **Objective 4:** Pursue programs aimed at decreasing illegal dumping.
- **Objective 5:** Encourage the development of local ordinances and regulations for the collection of solid waste to take place in an efficient, safe, and timely manner.
- **Objective 6:** Maintain regular communication with the appropriate regulatory agencies which enforce the safe and lawful management of solid waste, to remain current with regulations and conditions to support and/or facilitate solutions when necessary.
- **Objective 7:** Collaborate with local and County agencies, industry, and non-profit organizations to minimize the impacts of sustainable solid waste management on local stakeholders and the public.
- **Resources Needed:**
- **Education and Outreach Programs:**
- **Implementation Timetable:**

Goal 4

- **Description:** Operate collaboratively within the County and regionally outside of the County for a comprehensive sustainable materials management strategy.
- **Implementation Strategy:**
 - **Objective 1:** Ionia Conservation District will assume the leadership role in the implementation of the goals and objectives of the Materials Management Plan.
 - The County shall create and facilitate targeted committees to implement the goals and objectives of the Plan.
 - County staff, Ionia Conservation District, local Public Works departments, and other relevant appointed parties will monitor, analyze, and recommend appropriate funding, educational, and regulatory actions to effectively implement the goals and objectives of the Plan, including direct County action, coordination of intergovernmental partnership opportunities, and local government support.
 - **Objective 2:** Enlist the support of all local units of government and other agencies to implement the Plan.
 - **Objective 3:** Continue to foster strong working relationships between governmental agencies, within the County and outside of the County.
 - **Objective 4:** Continue to build strong partnerships between the public, private, and non-profit sectors.

- **Objective 5:** Facilitate the development of regional, cooperative services and programs to be implemented through the Plan's selected waste management alternatives.
- **Objective 6:** Monitor and contribute to state and federal legislative developments relating to MSW.
- **Objective 7:** Support development of state or regional goals for MSW diversion and strive to meet or exceed goals where possible.
- **Objective 8:** Diversify and expand the capabilities of the current Countywide funding system for waste prevention and recycling program development.
- **Objective 9:** Investigate and advise municipalities on alternative funding mechanisms for local recovery programs.
- **Objective 10:** Establish realistic and measurable goals for annual evaluation and investigate and implement measurement systems as needed.
- **Resources Needed:**
- **Education and Outreach Programs:**
- **Implementation Timetable:**

EVALUATION OF RECYCLING

The following provides additional information regarding implementation and evaluation of various components of the Selected System.

In order to evaluate the current system and identify needs for future programming, the Solid Waste Planning Committee conducted a "SWOT" process - identifying strengths, weaknesses, opportunities, and threats of the current solid waste management system. This process spanned the course of several meetings, a summary of which follows:

SWOT DISCUSSION TOPICS

Washtenaw County Solid Waste Planning Committee | Summary/Compilation of All Sessions

The following specific areas were discussed:

1. Solid Waste Collection & Disposal*Strengths:*

- Lots of regional landfill capacity
- Very accessible and low costs
- Very few landfills
- Competitive environment for service providers

Weaknesses:

- No clear incentive programs for waste diversion
- Reluctance by municipalities to switch to more efficient single hauler contracts
- Too frequent collection of solid waste
- Lack of data to understand effectiveness of clean-up days, drop-off station diversion
- Cheap disposal challenges waste diversion efforts
- Too many trucks on the road; impact on infrastructure
- Public opposition to landfill siting and operations

Opportunities:

- Organics collection
- Better data collection and metrics related to diversion costs and benefits
- Expanding landfill will keep prices low with regional competition
- Get recyclables out of trash
- Find a way to "require" recycling from various trash haulers

Threats:

- Commodity prices
- Landfills are too cheap
- Lobby to bury organics

2. Residential Recycling (Drop-Off & Curbside)

Strengths:

- Availability of single stream, curbside services, and use of carts
- Comprehensive programs accept numerous materials between curbside and drop-off programs
- Urban and suburban single-family units receive good service
- All single-family and multi-family units in Ann Arbor have recycling
- City of Chelsea's "pay as you throw" trash service encourages recycling
- Current programs reduce dependence on landfill

Weaknesses:

- Materials accepted are not uniform across the entire County
- Poor measurement of diversion by recycling
- Competing messages from coordinating public and private groups
- Lack of partnerships in County
- Contamination in recycling stream
- Lack of education to residents
- Lack of funding and financing for programs
- Lack of legislation and state support
- Different levels and no consistency of services across the County
- Costs for curbside service in rural areas is more expensive compared to urban/suburban service areas

Opportunities:

- Residents are willing to do the right thing
- Options for bulky waste and other materials not collected at curbside
- Opportunity for food waste diversion
- More education that is county wide
- More consistent messages and services
- Participation incentives for residents
- Construction and Demolition materials
- Instate markets for materials like plastic and paper
- Options for reporting and tracking data
- Opportunities for partnerships
- Online information more accessible
- Governor's recycling support

Threats:

- End markets
- Commodity prices
- Cheap landfill rates
- Lack of funding
- Lack of willingness to introduce taxes to support services
- Need to change mindsets, attitudes, and behaviors of all stakeholders

3. Commercial Recycling

Strengths:

- Ordinances to mandate recycling (similar to Ann Arbor) is a strong driver
- If done correctly, program can lower costs for the business
- County's Waste Knot business recognition program
- Services are available from service providers

Weaknesses:

- No County ordinance in place
- Limited resources to support commercial recycling effort from data, staffing, and funding
- Lack of incentives to entice businesses
- Challenges within businesses – employee turnover, costs, absentee site managers, contracts for janitor services do not include recycling or education
- Commercial recycling program
- More challenges for small businesses
- Understanding of voluntary versus required programs

Opportunities:

- Opportunities for collaboration
- Pilot programs with County, Recycle Ann Arbor, WISD food waste and recycling
- Work to improve regional opportunities and participation and recovery in Ann Arbor
- Develop resources and support such as posters and education materials, partnering with county sanitarians to hand out materials, and local case studies or voluntary certifications

Threats:

- End markets
- High contamination
- Long term and short term costs are high
- Lack of municipal support
- Accessibility – are services available?
- Space constraints for recycling

4. Yard Waste/Food Waste/Composting

Strengths:

- City of Ann Arbor collection diverts a lot of leaf waste from particular places
- Ann Arbor compost site has capacity for growth and is well managed
- City of Chelsea is also making efforts in compost
- Yard waste infrastructure is strong
- Keeps methane out of the landfill
- Food waste is gaining interest from residential and commercial sectors
- Ann Arbor currently has a residential food waste diversion program
- Food waste programs in UM residence halls

Weaknesses:

- Limited access to yard waste services
- Lack of infrastructure for food waste collection and processing
- Food waste currently not allowed in stream
- Commercial programs are limited or do not have access
- County is lagging behind in yard waste services
- Ann Arbor could be a model

Opportunities:

- Markets for finished yard waste compost: MDOT, landscapers, residential/homeowners
- Options for food waste in residential stream and special events and outdoor festivals
- Service providers can get on board
- New technologies for food waste are available such as biodigesters
- Food waste is large portion of the waste stream (and large weight)
- Momentum and interest in the community, such as Farm to School projects

Threats:

- Improper management of compost facilities that lead to odors, complaints
- Similar concerns around residential collection (odors)
- Competing interests with landfills
- Infrastructure for food waste composting is lacking

5. Construction & Demolition (C&D) Waste*Strengths:*

- Access for recovery through Recycle Ann Arbor's Drop Off Station, Reuse center and C&D facility
- No C&D landfills in the County
- C&D recycling can add points towards LEED certification process

Weaknesses:

- No expectation, requirement or incentive for diverting C&D
- Limited awareness to the value of C&D diversion
- Requires a lot of capital to start and run a C&D facility
- Contamination from hazardous materials like lead
- LEED points are very minimal
- Lack of information to include in contracts

Opportunities:

- County could adopt an ordinance to require minimum level of recovery on jobs of a certain size
- More C&D infrastructure
- Expand current options at drop off station, and other locations
- Training and certification of contractors and building operators
- Large amount of material available to be recovered
- Conduct a feasibility study within the county

Threats:

- Cheap landfill rates
- Costs to recover C&D are high
- Lack of understanding of the benefits
- It is a hard business to operate and make work

6. County Coordinated Programs*Strengths:*

- Large variety of materials accepted
- Community clean up days are well attended and is convenient for most users
- Cost per user continues to decrease
- Vital function for some communities
- Great program

- Radio and cable programs are excellent
- Public-private partnerships
- County website information

Weaknesses:

- Long wait times at community events
- Clean up days operating costs are expensive
- Saturday volunteers are key to success at Zeeb Road
- Limited access
- More hours or operation on Saturday could reduce wait times

Opportunities:

- Pilot Custodian Recycling Certification
- Create template posters and brochures on key issues/programs in multiple languages to assist with flattening cardboard boxes
- Require communities that receive any funding or support from County to include a free language translator program on its website
- Review costs and benefits of community clean up versus other service delivery models
- Opportunities with schools on recycling education and outreach
- Outsource service to make more accessible
- Have two sites in the county added for more convenience
- More hours or operation on Saturdays to reduce wasted time

Threats:

- Lack of funding for maintaining current initiatives or adding new ones
- More diversion could equate to more costs in a down market

The Solid Waste Planning Committee also summarized the proper components of a solid waste management system to be successful. The rating system for each component was determined as high, moderate, or low and is described below.

- High: indicates that the component is strong for Washtenaw County. For example, under "Collection", with 67% of the population covered by regular collection services, collection is considered high.
- Moderate: indicates that the component could use some improvement. For example, under "Policy", there are policies in place, but they are limited, indicating that more could be implemented or those in place could be strengthened or expanded upon.
- Low: indicates that the component is not satisfactory, or is not controlled by the County. For example, under "End Markets", there are not any end markets located in the County (so a low rating), and the strength of end markets is not something the County has direct control over.

Programs should attempt to achieve "high" rankings in at least 4/6 of the categories to ensure a successful program because no single component is more important than others; rather, it is the relationship across these factors working together that produce the best results for programs. The following table is a review of Washtenaw County's program aligned with these components.

Table 25. Key Components Evaluation Summary

Key Component	Details	Rating
Collection	67% of county population are covered by contracted or city provided services.	High
Processing	In-county - City MRF, WWRA Out of county - ReCommunity	High
End Markets	Current markets are not ideal; Glass is challenge; Not necessarily something County can control	Low
Education & Engagement	From Community Profiles, four communities provided information about providing education/outreach to residents. City of Ann Arbor - \$3.06 per household; Pittsfield Twp - \$0.02 per household; City of Saline - Qtrly residential newsletter; Superior Twp - \$0.30 per household, paid by hauler. Public survey feedback and public comment indicate the residents are not always aware of County programs, when asked.	Low/Moderate
Supporting Policy	State Policies: Yard Waste Ban Local Policies: City of AA Commercial recycling ordinance; Pay (or Save) as You Throw (PAYT)	Moderate/Low
Public -Private Partnerships	WCCSWM, County programs such as Pharmaceutical Take-back, Boat Shrink Wrap program	Moderate/High

THE SELECTED SOLID WASTE MANAGEMENT SYSTEM

The Selected Solid Waste Management System (“Selected System”) must be capable of being developed and operated in compliance with state laws and rules pertaining to the protection of public health and the environment considering the available land in the county and the technical feasibility of, and economic costs associated with, the system. The selected system must be consistent with and utilize population, waste generation, and other planning information.

Washtenaw County has selected a comprehensive approach to managing the County’s solid waste and recoverable materials, as identified on pages 55-56. The Selected System addresses the Plan’s purpose to protect the air, land, water, and environment and promote the health, safety, welfare, and quality of life for the citizens of Washtenaw County. The Selected System developed will support proper management of waste and promote appropriate opportunities to divert materials from disposal through beneficial activities such as reuse, source reduction, recycling, composting, and other sustainable materials management practices. The Selected System shall be implemented in a cost-effective, environmentally sound, and publicly acceptable manner through programs, policies, partnerships, public engagement and education efforts that serve the county’s residents, businesses, agencies, and institutions. The Selected System builds on the existing infrastructure throughout the County, and requires the implementation of new initiatives.

GOALS AND OBJECTIVES

GOAL ONE: Create, implement, manage, and monitor an aggressive program to incrementally reduce the overall amount of municipal solid waste (MSW) generated per capita in Washtenaw County by 5% in the year 2022 and 10% by the year 2027, with a target of working towards zero waste.

Objective 1: Develop and/or support comprehensive programs aimed at reducing waste generation, such as source reduction, pollution prevention, environmental management systems, and other efforts that support sustainable materials management practices.

Objective 2: Investigate and evaluate economic, regulatory, and educational approaches to motivating citizens and businesses to reduce waste generation, such as pay-as-you-throw variable pricing systems and bans on disposal of specific materials.

Objective 3: Establish realistic and measurable goals for annual evaluation and investigate and implement measurement systems as needed.

Objective 4: Educate citizens and businesses on source reduction benefits and techniques, especially those targeted at creating less landfilled waste, reducing organic and household hazardous wastes at the source.

Objective 5: Establish annual goals to reduce the overall amount of municipal solid waste generated per capita in Washtenaw County.

Objective 6: Conduct annual review to measure progress made towards goals.

GOAL TWO: Create, implement, manage, and monitor an aggressive program to increase municipal solid waste diversion rates from current levels to 38% in 2022 and 43% in 2027, with a target of 100% diversion.

Objective 1: Reuse, Resale

- A. Develop and/or support programs that promote the reuse, donation, and resale of used products.
- B. Promote and educate about reuse and resale opportunities.

Objective 2: Recycling

- A. Develop and/or support local recycling programs and incentives that provide convenient and accessible recycling opportunities for all citizens.
- B. Encourage increased recycling within the commercial/industrial and institutional sectors and multi-family housing units.
- C. Market development
 - 1. Work with government agencies and businesses to develop markets for recycled materials and organics.
 - 2. Pursue market development for special materials, including durable goods and electronics.
 - 3. Pursue cooperative programs for recycled-content purchasing.
 - 4. Encourage development of recycling-based manufacturing through local, regional, and state government economic development programs.

Objective 3: Organics Management

- A. Develop and/or support comprehensive programs aimed at home composting initiatives and yard waste reduction.
- B. Investigate and encourage the composting or other appropriate management of other organics including food and yard waste for residential and commercial sectors.

Objective 4: Special Material Handling

- A. Continue to pursue recycling and disposal alternatives for problematic materials such as household hazardous waste, conditionally exempt small quantity generator waste, construction and demolition waste, and household generated medical waste.

Objective 5: Policy

- A. Encourage the development of policies, ordinances, and regulations that support sustainable materials management at the County and local levels.

Objective 6: Access and Convenience

- A. Investigate access and convenience in Washtenaw County as it relates to services available for the reduction, diversion, and disposal of MSW.
- B. Ensure convenience and accessibility for any programs and services developed.

Objective 7: Establish realistic and measurable goals for annual evaluation and investigate and implement measurement systems as needed.

GOAL THREE: Develop, support, and monitor comprehensive education, outreach, and feedback programs to achieve the Goals of this Plan.

Objective 1: Educate residents, businesses, schools, and institutions on appropriate handling and preparation of solid waste, including reuse, recycling, organics, and waste reduction.

Objective 2: Promote public education and awareness about key issues including solid waste reduction, reuse, diversion (recycling and composting), and disposal, and environmentally preferable purchasing.

Objective 3: Collaborate with private, public, and non-profit service providers and local units of government to enhance communication and education to residents, employees, and employers located within the County.

Objective 4: Establish regular opportunities for public feedback and participation in achieving Plan goals.

Objective 5: Establish realistic and measurable goals for annual evaluation and investigate and implement measurement systems as needed.

GOAL FOUR: Ensure the safe, lawful, and efficient management of MSW.

Objective 1: Demonstrate and assure at least 10 years of capacity for non-recoverable refuse waste to meet the County's need using appropriate facilities inside and outside of the County.

Objective 2: Ensure the safe and environmentally sound collection, transportation, processing, on-site storage, and disposal of solid waste refuse and materials for diversion.

Objective 3: Encourage proper handling of problematic materials such as household hazardous waste, unregulated business waste, and household generated medical waste.

Objective 4: Pursue programs aimed at decreasing illegal dumping.

Objective 5: Encourage the development of local ordinances and regulations for the collection of solid waste to take place in an efficient, safe, and timely manner.

Objective 6: Maintain regular communication with the appropriate regulatory agencies which enforce the safe and lawful management of solid waste, to remain current with regulations and conditions to support and/or facilitate solutions when necessary.

Objective 7: Collaborate with local and County agencies, industry, and non-profit organizations to minimize the impacts of sustainable solid waste management on local stakeholders and the public.

GOAL FIVE: Operate collaboratively within the County and regionally outside of the County for a comprehensive sustainable materials management strategy.

Objective 1: Washtenaw County will assume the leadership role in the implementation of the goals and objectives of the Solid Waste Management Plan.

- A. The County shall create and facilitate targeted committees to implement the goals and objectives of the Plan.
- B. County staff and the Board of Public Works will monitor, analyze, and recommend appropriate funding, educational, and regulatory actions to effectively implement the goals and objectives of the Plan, including direct County action, coordination of intergovernmental partnership opportunities, and local government support.

Objective 2: Enlist the support of all local units of government and other agencies to implement the Plan.

Objective 3: Continue to foster strong working relationships between governmental agencies, within the County and outside of the County.

Objective 4: Continue to build strong partnerships between the public, private, and non-profit sectors.

Objective 5: Facilitate the development of regional, cooperative services and programs to be implemented through the Plan's selected waste management alternatives.

Objective 6: Monitor and contribute to state and federal legislative developments relating to MSW.

Objective 7: Support development of state or regional goals for MSW diversion and strive to meet or exceed goals where possible.

Objective 8: Diversify and expand the capabilities of the current Countywide funding system for waste prevention and recycling program development.

Objective 9: Investigate and advise municipalities on alternative funding mechanisms for local recovery programs.

Objective 10: Establish realistic and measurable goals for annual evaluation and investigate and implement measurement systems as needed.

SELECTED SYSTEM COMPONENTS

GUIDING PRINCIPLES

The Selected System is built on the following principles that provided the foundation for both the Selected System and the development of the Plan Goals and Objectives. The principles were identified through the evaluation process of the current system and the results from the public feedback survey. The two sources of input reflected one another in the following areas. The principles presented below are not listed in any specific order.

Access and Convenience

Programs and services that support proper disposal of waste and diversion of recoverable materials must be accessible and convenient for County residents, businesses, agencies, and institutions to utilize.

More Diversion and Recovery, Less Disposal

Additional programs and services will increase the diversion of recoverable materials, and may require additional infrastructure, funding, and outreach. Increasing diversion opportunities will contribute to a reduced need for disposal and preserve capacity at existing disposal facilities available to the County.

Education and Outreach

Education and outreach around available programs and services are necessary to ensure participation. Education and outreach can also contribute to an increase in participation as well as illustrating the impacts that programs and services make.

Data and Measurement

Measurement systems and processes will be investigated and implemented as needed to establish realistic and measurable goals for regular evaluation for successes, challenges, improvements, and opportunities.

Funding

Adequate funding is required to support the Selected System. Page 117 provides a complete list of available funding options to support programs and services. Using a variety of available methods as well as developing an adequate reserve of funds will support programs and services in challenging times.

Coordination and Collaboration

Coordination and collaboration provide opportunities to expand while managing costs. Working together can have a greater impact than an individual community pursuing programs on their own. This also applies within the County and outside of the County, where regional efforts and collaboration should occur to benefit as many users as possible.

COMPONENTS OF THE PLAN

The Objectives of the Plan are central to the Selected System, and prescribe the necessary components for the Selected System to be implemented. The Objectives presented here have been reorganized under the Guiding Principles and redundancies removed.

Access and Convenience

- Investigate access and convenience in Washtenaw County as it relates to services available for the reduction, diversion, and disposal of MSW.
- Ensure convenience and accessibility for any programs and services developed.

More Diversion and Recovery, Less Disposal

- Develop and/or support comprehensive programs aimed at reducing waste generation, such as source reduction, pollution prevention, environmental management systems, and other efforts that support sustainable materials management practices.
- Develop and/or support programs that promote the reuse, donation, and resale of used products.
- Develop and/or support local recycling programs and incentives that provide convenient and accessible recycling opportunities for all residents.
- Facilitate increased recycling within the commercial/industrial and institutional sectors and multi-family housing units.
- Collaborate with government agencies and businesses to develop markets for recycled materials and organics.
- Pursue market development for special materials, including durable goods and electronics.
- Pursue cooperative programs for recycled-content purchasing.
- Promote development of recycling-based manufacturing through local, regional and state government economic development programs.
- Develop and/or support comprehensive programs aimed at home composting initiatives and yard waste reduction.
- Investigate and encourage the composting or other appropriate management of other organics including food and yard waste for residential and commercial sectors.
- Continue to pursue recycling and disposal alternatives for problematic materials such as household hazardous waste, conditionally exempt small quantity generator waste, construction and demolition waste and household generated medical waste.

- Facilitate the development of policies, ordinances, and regulations that support sustainable materials management at the county, local, and state levels.

Data and Measurement

- Establish annual goals to reduce the overall amount of Municipal Solid Waste generated per capita in Washtenaw County.
- Conduct annual reviews to measure progress made towards goals.
- Establish realistic and measurable goals for annual evaluation and investigate and implement measurement systems as needed.
- Utilize systems made available from the state for data collection.

Education and Outreach

- Educate residents, businesses, schools, and institutions on appropriate handling and preparation of solid waste, including refuse, recycling, organics, and waste reduction.
- Promote public education and awareness about key issues including solid waste reduction, reuse, diversion (recycling and composting), and disposal, and environmentally preferable purchasing.
- Promote and educate about reuse and resale opportunities.
- Educate residents and businesses on source reduction benefits and techniques, especially those targeted at creating less landfilled waste, reducing organic and household hazardous wastes at the source.
- Collaborate with private, public, and non-profit service providers and local units of government to enhance communication and education to residents, employees, and employers located within the county.
- Establish regular opportunities for public feedback and participation in achieving Plan Goals.

Funding

- Investigate and strongly encourage implementation of economic, regulatory, and educational approaches to motivate residents and businesses to reduce waste generation, such as pay-as-you-throw variable pricing systems and other disposal restrictions.
- Diversify and expand the capabilities of the current Countywide funding system for waste prevention and recycling program development.
- Investigate and advise municipalities on alternative funding mechanisms for local recovery programs.

Collaboration

- Continue to foster strong working relationships between governmental agencies, within the County and outside of the County.
- Continue to build strong partnerships between the public, private, and non-profit sectors.
- Facilitate the development of regional, cooperative services and programs to be implemented through the Plan's selected waste management alternatives.
- Collaborate with local and County agencies, industry, and non-profit organizations to minimize the impacts of sustainable solid waste management on local stakeholders and the public.

Coordination

- Washtenaw County will assume the leadership role in the implementation of the Goals and Objectives of the Solid Waste Management Plan.
- The County shall create and facilitate targeted committees to implement the Goals and Objectives of the Plan.
- County staff and the Board of Public Works will monitor, analyze, and recommend appropriate funding, educational, and regulatory actions to effectively implement the Goals and Objectives of the Plan, including direct County action, coordination of intergovernmental partnership opportunities, and local government support.
- Enlist the support of all local units of government and other agencies to implement the Plan.
- Monitor and contribute to state and federal legislative developments relating to MSW.

- Support development of state or regional goals for MSW diversion and strive to meet or exceed goals where possible.
- Demonstrate and assure at least 10 years of capacity for non-recoverable refuse waste to meet the County's need using appropriate facilities inside and outside of the County.
- Ensure the safe and environmentally sound collection, transportation, processing, on-site storage, and disposal of solid waste refuse and materials for diversion.
- Educate and promote proper handling of problematic materials such as household hazardous waste, unregulated business waste, and household generated medical waste.
- Pursue programs aimed at decreasing illegal dumping.
- Facilitate and support the development of local ordinances and regulations for the collection of solid waste to take place in an efficient, safe, and timely manner.
- Maintain regular communication with the appropriate regulatory agencies which enforce the safe and lawful management of solid waste in order to remain current with regulations and conditions and support and/or facilitate solutions when necessary.

Informal survey conducted by Ionia
Conservation District between 2/24 and 9/24

Are you a resident of Ionia County?	Do you identify as an urban or rural resident of Ionia County?	How do you dispose of your food scraps?	If you do not throw your food scraps in the garbage, how many gallon buckets per week do you have per year? (Best guess)	Would you use a recycling drop-off facility if it was within ten miles of your residence?	What waste services would you like to see in Ionia County in the future?
Yes	Rural (living outside town/city limits)	Feed to Animals, Apply to Land/Compost	4	Yes	
Yes	Rural (living outside town/city limits)	Apply to Land/Compost	3	Yes	Recycling!!!! (And high speed internet ^.^)
Yes	Rural (living outside town/city limits)	Feed to Animals, Apply to Land/Compost	0.5	No	I like the twice a year hazardous waste and that I can drop off batteries and fluorescent bulbs.
Yes	Rural (living outside town/city limits)	Feed to Animals, Apply to Land/Compost	2	Yes	
Yes	Rural (living outside town/city limits)	Feed to Animals, Apply to Land/Compost		Yes	
Yes	Rural (living outside town/city limits)	Garbage, Feed to Animals, Apply to Land/Compost	3	Yes	I think citizen recycling training would be very beneficial because a lot of people do not know how to properly recycle things. They do not rinse containers out, remove labels, or make sure something is actually recyclable before tossing it into their bin.
Yes	Rural (living outside town/city limits)	Feed to Animals, Apply to Land/Compost	1	Yes	comprehensive recycling would be great.
Yes	Rural (living outside town/city limits)	Garbage		Yes	Recycling for all recyclables
Yes	Rural (living outside town/city limits)	Apply to Land/Compost	0.5	Yes	Recycling because granger eliminated it.
Yes	Rural (living outside town/city limits)	Garbage, Feed to Animals, Apply to Land/Compost	15	Yes	
Yes	Rural (living outside town/city limits)	Apply to Land/Compost	2	Yes	Recycling
Yes	Rural (living outside town/city limits)	Garbage	5	Yes	Recycling is needed in Otisco Township
Yes	Rural (living outside town/city limits)	Garbage, Feed to Animals	1	Yes	
Yes	Rural (living outside town/city limits)	Garbage		Yes	Glass, plastic, cardboard,
Yes	Rural (living outside town/city limits)	Feed to Animals, Apply to Land/Compost	1	Yes	Recycling site
Yes	Rural (living outside town/city limits)	Garbage, Feed to Animals		Yes	Recycling, I am in Lyons Township and we do not have recycling!
Yes	Rural (living outside town/city limits)	Apply to Land/Compost	0.5	Yes	Metal, plastic and styrofoam collection for recycling.

Yes	Rural (living outside town/city limits)	Garbage		Yes	Recycling
Yes	Rural (living outside town/city limits)	Apply to Land/Compost		Yes	
Yes	Rural (living outside town/city limits)	Garbage, Feed to Animals, Apply to Land/Compost	0.5	Yes	Batteries, tires, oil, all types of recycling near my home. Nowhere to recycle household batteries for free in Ionia county
Yes	Rural (living outside town/city limits)	Apply to Land/Compost		Yes	
Yes	Rural (living outside town/city limits)	Garbage, Feed to Animals, Apply to Land/Compost		Yes	Recycling for the county. We live one mile outside city limits and can't get it with trash service. I'd love to see even a monthly drop off or something similar. I know there were issues in the past with people leaving trash and furniture in the sites. A spring/fall junk clean up for the whole area would be nice too. Something that people outside city limits could participate in.
Yes	Rural (living outside town/city limits)	Garbage, Feed to Animals	Less than 1/2 bucket	Yes	General household waste
Yes	Rural (living outside town/city limits)	Garbage		Yes	
Yes	Rural (living outside town/city limits)	Garbage, Apply to Land/Compost	1	Yes	Recycling for out of city folks. I drive to Fowler or Lansing
No	Rural (living outside town/city limits)	Feed to Animals, Apply to Land/Compost	2 per week = 100 per year. I don't save food scraps when I'm gone on vacation silly.	No	What smart-alek response can I have here???
Yes	Urban (living within town/city limits)	Garbage, Compost	1 per week 50 per year?	Currently have curbside recycling	
Yes	Urban (living within town/city limits)	Garbage		10 miles is a bit far	
Yes	Rural (living outside town/city limits)	Garbage		Yes	Any type of recycling would be great. I currently drive to Kent County to recycle plastic, glass, paper, cardboard, boxboard, metal. Been doing this for maybe 15 years.

Yes	Rural (living outside town/city limits)	Feed to Animals, Apply to Land/Compost		Yes	
Yes	Rural (living outside town/city limits)	Apply to Land/Compost	? 2 X 52	Yes	More hazardous waste dates/Saranac to give fall leaf bags to farm composters instead of dump. Discontinued after 2021,
Yes	Rural (living outside town/city limits)	Apply to Land/Compost		Yes	Recycle and returnable in same place
	Rural (living outside town/city limits)	Feed to Animals	2 buckets a week / 100 gallons a year	Yes	Recycling that receives the uncommon plastics
Yes	Rural (living outside town/city limits)	Garbage	One	No	
Yes	Urban (living within town/city limits)	Garbage	One gallon per week	Yes	?
Yes	Rural (living outside town/city limits)	Apply to Land/Compost		1 Yes	Recycle center for electronics and plastics
Yes	Rural (living outside town/city limits)	Garbage		No	
Yes	Rural (living outside town/city limits)	Apply to Land/Compost	0.5-1 gallon bucket per week	Yes	
Yes	Rural (living outside town/city limits)	Garbage, Feed to Animals	Less than 1 gallon per week	Depends on my needs	Recycling
Yes	Rural (living outside town/city limits)	Feed to Animals, Apply to Land/Compost	Half gallon a week	No	Recycling
Yes	Rural (living outside town/city limits)	Feed to Animals, Apply to Land/Compost		12 Yes	Local drop off of trash for those of us that recycle and/or only accumulate 1-2 bags of trash per month. Renting dumpsters through waste companies is too much for 1-2 bags per month.
No	Rural (living outside town/city limits)	Apply to Land/Compost		1 Yes	Recycling
Yes	Rural (living outside town/city limits)	Garbage, Feed to Animals		Yes	
Yes	Urban (living within town/city limits)	Garbage		No	
Yes	Urban (living within town/city limits)	Apply to Land/Compost	Half gallon	No, our recycling is picked up weekly	
Yes	Urban (living within town/city limits)	Garbage, Feed to Animals, Apply to Land/Compost		2-Jan Yes	Recycling - We currently drive to Rockford.
Yes	Urban (living within town/city limits)	Apply to Land/Compost	Less than 1 gallon per week	Yes	Toxic waste and electronics collection in Lake Odessa
No	outside of Ionia	Apply to Land/Compost		43 Yes	NS
Yes	Rural (living outside town/city limits)	Garbage, Apply to Land/Compost		No	

Recyclables

No		Apply to Land/Compost	2-Jan	Yes	Unsure of what is available now
Yes	Rural (living outside town/city limits)	Feed to Animals		Yes	Plastic glass metal
Yes	Rural (living outside town/city limits)	Apply to Land/Compost	1 per week	We have a large compost for worms.(to feed ducks & rooster)	I would love to have a glass, and plastic recycling center somewhere close.
Yes	Rural (living outside town/city limits)	Garbage, Apply to Land/Compost	One gallon	No	. Enjoy tire recycle drive , old appliances pickup
Yes	Rural (living outside town/city limits)	Feed to Animals, Apply to Land/Compost	25	Yes	Recycling for plastic, cardboard, paper, aluminum, other metals
Yes	Rural (living outside town/city limits)	Garbage		Yes	Recycling
Yes	Urban (living within town/city limits)	Garbage, Apply to Land/Compost	NA	Yes	More yard waste
Yes	Rural (living outside town/city limits)	Garbage, Feed to Animals, Apply to Land/Compost	4	Yes	Glass plastic cardboard recycle
Yes	Suburban	Garbage, Apply to Land/Compost		Yes	Recycling
No	Rural (living outside town/city limits)	Garbage		Yes	Household hazardous waste
Yes	Rural (living outside town/city limits)	Feed to Animals, Apply to Land/Compost, Disposal	1	Yes	Styraphome
Yes	Rural (living outside town/city limits)	Garbage, Feed to Animals	25	Yes	
Yes	Urban (living within town/city limits)	Garbage, trap varmints		possibly	dead batteries, scrap,
Yes	Urban (living within town/city limits)	Apply to Land/Compost	2 gal/week	We have curbside pickup for most recycling	
Yes	Rural (living outside town/city limits)	Garbage, Feed to Animals		Yes	Yard waste such as tree branches, recycling for cardboard, etc
Yes	Rural (living outside town/city limits)	Apply to Land/Compost	1/2 gallon	Yes	Recycling and hazardous waste drop off
No	Rural (living outside town/city limits)	Feed to Animals	5 gallons	Yes	Community recycling
Yes	Urban (living within town/city limits)	I DO NOT HAVE SCRAPS BROUGHT UP CLEAN YOUR PLATE	1 GALLON	USE AS COMPOSE	COMPOSE
Yes	Rural (living outside town/city limits)	Garbage		Yes	Recycling
Yes	Urban (living within town/city limits)	Garbage, Feed to Animals, Apply to Land/Compost	not even 1 gallon	Yes	Recycling
No	neither	Feed to Animals		No	

Yes	Rural (living outside town/city limits)	Apply to Land/Compost	50	Yes	Recycling would be awesome!
Yes	Urban	Garbage, Feed to Animals	1	Yes	Recycling
Yes	Rural (living outside town/city limits)	Apply to Land/Compost			
Yes	Rural (living outside town/city limits)	Garbage		Yes	
Yes	Rural (living outside town/city limits)	Feed to Animals		Yes	Everything!
Yes	Rural (living outside town/city limits)	Feed to Animals	1	Yes	
Yes	Rural (living outside town/city limits)	Garbage		Yes	
Yes	Rural (living outside town/city limits)	Garbage	5	Yes	

Ionia County Materials Management Planning SWOT Analysis

Please share with public at any and all opportunities

Return to 431 Swartz Court, Ste. #300, Ionia, MI 48846 – address to Ionia Conservation District

Or email to ioniacd@gmail.com

In order to evaluate the current system and identify needs for future programming, the Materials Management Planning Committee is conducting a “SWOT” process – identifying strengths, weaknesses, opportunities, and threats of the current solid waste management system. This process will span the length of this topic’s discussion and will be repeated for each topic.

Strengths:

1. _____

2. _____

Weaknesses:

1. _____

2. _____

Opportunities:

1. _____

2. _____

Threats:

1. _____

2. _____
