



Ionia Conservation District

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Dear municipal leaders of Ionia County,

We are pleased to provide you with an update on the progress of the Materials Management Planning process. Your continued participation and input have been invaluable in shaping the direction of this initiative. In February, EGLE approved the Work Program for the committee, providing us with a defined plan for the next three years of discussions. The past three months of meetings have included:

1. **Conventional Recyclables Discussion** – We are nearing completion of our discussions on conventional recyclables. Please continue to collect information through the SWOT surveys, as this data is crucial in finalizing our recommendations. Please see the new survey attached that specifically addresses solid waste issues.
2. **Solid Waste Discussion Initiation** – We are beginning discussions on solid waste management in May. This will include a review of existing solid waste infrastructure, identification of necessary ordinance updates, and exploration of strategies to reduce waste across our communities.
3. **Recycling Guide Development** – We are actively building a Recycling Guide to inform residents on proper disposal methods. A draft of this guide is available online at ioniacd.org/recycling-guide. Furthermore, we are also working on a physical Recycling Guide that will be distributed to all municipalities for dissemination to residents as needed. If there is something missing from either of these, please let us know.

Over the next three years of planning, we will continue to engage with Ionia County to determine its goals in the Planning Process, inviting key stakeholders to present and be part of discussions relevant to them. In addition to the SWOT surveys, a public forum will be held in person this summer to further discuss and refine our approach. We will keep you updated with details on that as we plan it. Once again, if there is a topic that you find relevant to your municipality and you do not feel adequately represented, please feel free to reach out and let us know.

We appreciate your dedication to improving materials management in our communities. Please continue to provide feedback and share any insights that will guide our efforts. If you are interested in any of the information that we are including outside of public input, the county website has a collection of resources the committee assembled for guidance.

Thank you for your continued valuable input.

Sincerely,

Melissa Eldridge

Ionia Conservation District

Ionia County Designated Planning Agency