

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

Thursday, August 27, 2026

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. Meeting Minutes Approval

Old Business

1. Data Report
 - a. The Village of Muir Recycling Site tonnage collected to-date:
 - i. Cardboard – 20.79 tons
 - ii. Single Stream – 22.26 tons
2. Updates:
 - a. Portland Recycling Site
3. Organics Section Draft
 - a. Discussion on updates to the edited Organic Waste Section.
 - b. ACTION ITEM: Motion to approve the new draft of the Organic Waste Section.

New Business

1. Disaster Waste Introduction.

Next Meeting: Thursday, September 24th, 10:00am

Adjournment

Additions to Materials Management Binder:

- If approved: Organics Section

MATERIALS MANAGEMENT PLANNING COMMITTEE

Meeting Minutes

Thursday, July 23rd, 2026

10:00 am

County Administration Building Commissioner's Board Room – 3rd Floor

101 West Main Street

Ionia, Michigan

Call to Order: 10:01 am

Present: John Feuerstein (Otisco Twp), Dan Schoonmaker (Michigan Sustainable Business Forum), Dan Tietema (Organicycle), Doug Hyland (Village of Muir), Don Johnson (Waste Management), Steven Blayer (Granger), Melissa Eldridge (Ionia Conservation District), Tonya Tepin (Ionia Conservation District) Lynell Wilson (Ionia Chamber of Commerce), Gary Pitsch (Pitsch Enterprises).

Absent: Chris Jensen (Portland Township) , Jack Shattuck (Ionia County).

Guest Present: DJ Droste (EGLE Recycling Specialist)

Public Comments: n/a

Agenda Approval: Motion to approve agenda made by Feuerstein supported by Pitsch.

Approval of June Minutes motion by Hyland, supported by Johnson.

Old Business

1. Data Report:
 - a. Ionia County Medical and Pharmaceutical Wastes Surveys' Results
2. Updates
 - a. A-frame signage to be added to Village of Muir Recycling Site.
 - b. Portland Township is moving forward with site construction building bids.
 - c. Discussion continues with Lake Odessa regarding potential site locations.

New Business

1. Action Item: motion to approve initial draft of the "Medical and Pharmaceutical Waste" section of the Ionia County Materials Management Plan made by Hyland, supported by Blayer. Moved

Adjournment: motion made by Pitsch Supported by Feuerstein. 11:06 am.

Additions to Materials Management Binder:

I. Medical and Pharmaceutical Waste Plan draft

Next Meeting: August 27th, 2026, 10:00am 101 West Main St, Ionia County
Administrative Building – Commissioners’ Board Room, 3rd Floor.

THE ORGANICS PLAN

SECTION TWO: MATERIALS MANAGEMENT GOALS

Goal 1 (a) Increase municipal solid waste diversion rates from current levels (10%) to 30% by 2030 and 40% by 2040.

- **Implementation Strategy:** Develop and/or support local materials management programs and incentives that meet or exceed the Benchmark Standards and provide convenient, equitable, and accessible waste disposal opportunities for all citizens.
 - **1-3: Organics**
 - Policy Goals
 - Develop Organics Management systems that are socioeconomically and environmentally friendly
 - Promote alternative organics disposal methods for businesses.
 - Develop and/or support comprehensive programs aimed at home composting and yard waste reduction.
 - Investigate and encourage the composting or other sustainable 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. (b-iii)
 - Explore governmental and private sector opportunities that can sustainably divert organic waste and engage in those opportunities where funding or partnerships are available.
 - Ensure educational materials are dynamic: altering materials to be socially effective in the changing community.
 - Attempt to divert at least 5% of household food waste by 2030.
 - Resources Needed
 - Diversify and expand the capabilities of the current Countywide funding system for waste prevention and organics program development.
 - Pursue grants and funding opportunities to support public education and access to compost sites.
 - Build partnerships for long-term education that covers composting organic waste.
 - Expand current municipal yard waste/compost sites.
 - Encourage and support the development of community gardens with accessible compost piles
 - Develop readily accessible educational composting materials for promotion at municipal buildings.
 - Education and Outreach

- Partner with local schools, businesses, and institutions to educate the public on appropriate handling and preparation of organic waste.
- Ensure clear, consistent, and efficient communication regarding all organic waste streams and diversion opportunities within the county through various means, including but not limited to a Recycling Guide (Appendix D).
- Biennially seek public input regarding organic wastes disposal efforts to determine efficiency of educational programs.
- Increase public engagement by providing educational programs, advertising educational guides, and promoting healthy organic disposal across popular media platforms.
- Aid municipalities in maintaining and expanding municipal yard waste and composting sites.
- Increase public accessibility to local composting sites.
- Implementation Timetable
 - Begin developing partnerships at time of MMP implementation to educate the public on composting methods and benefits.
 - Continuous: Maintain and update an accessible Recycling Guide.
 - Continuous: Collaborate with private, public, and non-profit service providers and local units of government to enhance communication with residents, employees, and employers located within the County, encouraging end-market organics development.
 - Annually assess new and current avenues or partnerships to increase organic waste diversion rates.
- Measurables
 - Collect ongoing survey data regarding organic waste production among rural and urban county residents and assess the different needs of each community.
 - Analyze the most efficient means of educating the public by taking surveys and gathering data following the use of various educational/informational tools.
 - Monitor, sample Ionia County landfilled solid waste outputs every five years, analyzing and recording the organic waste composition.
 - Analyze Ionia County organic/food waste collection mechanisms and how they can be improved.
 - Measure trends in organic waste diversion in years prior to and after implementing stronger public waste education and readily accessible composting sites.

Goal 2 (r) Ensure the safe, lawful, and efficient management of municipal solid waste disposal.

- **Implementation Strategy:** 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.
 - **2-3: Organics**
 - Policy Goals
 - Implement policies that encourage large food waste producers to dispose of their organic waste in a more sustainable manner.
 - Require methods of capturing potential runoff around municipal composting sites.
 - Promote legislation that makes environmentally friendly waste disposal methods more financially mindful over environmentally detrimental methods.
 - Create protections for community members who are pursuing alternative organic waste disposal.
 - Build guidelines for community composting regulations.
 - Develop legislation that bans age discrimination in food portion sizes at institutions within Ionia County.
 - Resources Needed
 - Obtain legal and municipal partnerships to develop strong ordinances for increasing sustainable production of food in commercial/large food producer operations.
 - Determine locations for a centralized, accessible composting site.
 - Assist public entities obtain educational materials about composting, helping to make composting education more accessible to the public.
 - Build secure relationships with local organic waste producing businesses.
 - Develop financially reasonable transportation options for food waste and compost.
 - Assist in creating legal connections for municipalities who want to develop new waste management legislation regarding organic wastes.
 - Education and Outreach
 - Guide municipalities in developing systems that lessen or prevent excessive nutrient runoff into nearby bodies of water.
 - Assist municipalities in reviewing their organic waste legislation or regulations.
 - Host programs that encourage organic waste diversion among local youth.

- Implement composting and food preservation programs in local prison systems.
- Educate local organic waste producing businesses on the effects organics waste diversion methods can have on their business.
- Implementation Timetable
 - Immediately, the Materials Management Plan DPA will produce educational materials that express the environmental differences between traditional waste disposal and sustainable waste disposal regarding organics.
 - From 2030 through 2035, Ionia County will encourage Ionia County Municipalities to review their dumping and solid waste legislation/ordinances.
 - By 2030, assess Ionia County yard-waste sites for community accessibility and use assets and pitfalls.
 - By 2030, report constructive community feedback on organic waste collection and disposal needs to each municipality.
- Measurables
 - Monitor compost/yard waste sites for signs of major runoff into nearby water bodies.
 - Collect municipal yard waste site data from biannual yard waste collection volume inputs.
 - Record community input from surveys and forums.

Goal 3 (s) Operate collaboratively within the County and regionally outside of the County for a comprehensive sustainable materials management strategy.

- **Implementation Strategy:** Maintain dedicated personnel to develop and maintain partnerships or contracts with local and state-wide industries, schools, and governmental entities regarding organic waste.
 - **3-3: Organics**
 - Strategy Goals
 - Obtain a consultant to guide upgrades to new, large composting sites in Ionia County.
 - Appoint personnel to foster relationships between restaurants and local producers/nurseries to increase the amount of food waste being composted.
 - Support the growth of composting facilities and household composting resources within Ionia County.
 - Support the development or growth of food banks and food rescues within Ionia County.
 - Actively look for new ways to economically move large amounts of food waste.

- Foster relationships with sustainable organic waste disposal businesses or agencies outside of the county where in-county disposal is not efficient.
- Assist municipalities in efforts to fund better equipment for compost/yard waste site maintenance.
- Develop a culture within local schools that lowers the amount of food waste being landfilled while still promoting healthy eating habits.
- Encourage the use of compostable packaging products at large, local events.
- Increase composting rates from local facilities such as manufacturers, corrections buildings, the Commission on Aging, etc.
- Facilitate partnerships aimed at agricultural organic waste reduction and reuse through sustainable agricultural methods and anaerobic digesters. (b-i)
- Resources Needed
 - Establish Municipal contracts that form compost site siting requirements to meet the demands of Ionia Municipality population changes and associated organic waste diversion demands.
 - Maintain relationships with organic waste experts, requesting guidance as needed.
 - Develop partnerships that provide space for organic waste collection.
 - Assist in partner collaborations for developing organic waste transport solutions.
 - Provide resources to upgrade nutritional education and organic waste disposal methods within county school systems.
 - Maintain dedicated personnel to develop and maintain partnerships or contracts with local industries, schools, and governmental entities regarding organic waste.
- Education and Outreach
 - Develop positive promotional materials surrounding composting.
 - Support local programs that educate residents how to compost appropriately.
 - Foster communications between local businesses and agricultural establishments to promote local organics disposal.
- Implementation Timetable
 - In 2030, introduce educational composting materials to local prison system garden programming.

- Immediately begin encouraging food sharing and organics bins at local schools by hosting in-school food waste programs.
- By 2035, Ensure food waste bins are accessible at all municipal buildings.
- By 2035, assist municipalities in obtaining compost site permits that allow them to accept food waste.
- Measurables
 - Continuously record the amount of organic waste-related partnerships that are formed through county assistance.
 - Measure the mass of organic waste being diverted from school cafeterias.
 - Gain qualitative feedback from public members, including prisoners, regarding local composting programs.