

SW MI Materials Management Planning Committee Agenda

January 7, 2025

1:00 p.m.

Location: Pokagon Band Community Center

27043 Potawatomi Trail Dowagiac, MI 49047

- 1. Call to Order & Roll Call** Kalli Marshall, VBCD, Chair
- 2. Approval of Agenda**
- 3. Approval of December 15, 2025 Minutes**
- 4. Old Business**
 - Working Groups Update Kalli Marshall, VBCD, Chair
 - Recycling Goals Consolidation Kalli Marshall, VBCD, Chair
- 5. Hearings**
 - None.
- 6. New Business**
 - Officer Elections
 - Organics Goals Assignments and Resources Kalli Marshall, VBCD, Chair
- 7. Public Comment**
- 8. Miscellaneous**
- 9. Adjournment**

The next Materials Management Planning Committee Meeting will be held on February 4,
2026 at 1:00 p.m.



Minutes

SW MI Materials Management Planning Committee

Monday, December 15, 2025, at 1:00 p.m.

Location: Pokagon Band Community Center

27043 Potawatomi Trail Dowagiac, MI 49047

Role	Member	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
Solid Waste Facility Operator	Bob Kras	IP	A	IP	IP	E	IP	IP	E	IP	IP	IP	IP
Hauler	Christopher Phillips (Vice-Chair)	IP	E	IP	IP	A	IP	E	IP	IP	IP	IP	E
Materials Recovery Facility Operator	Donovan Kelley		IP	E	IP	A	E	E	IP	E	IP	IP	A
Composting Facility Operator	Adam Brent								IP	IP	IP	IP	IP
Waste Diversion, Reuse, Reduction Facility Operator	Sheila Bergen				IP	IP	IP	IP	A	IP	A	IP	E
Environmental Interest Group	Kalli Marshall (Chair)	IP	IP	IP	IP	IP	IP	IP	IP	IP	IP	IP	IP
Elected Township Official	David Kuhn	IP	IP	IP	IP	IP	IP	IP	IP	E	IP	IP	IP
Elected City/Village Official	Deah Muth	IP	IP	V	IP	V	IP	E	IP	E	E	IP	E
Business that generates Managed Materials	Al Pscholka	IP	IP	E	E	A	E	IP	A	A	E	IP	A
Regional Planning Agency	John Egelhaaf	IP	IP	IP	IP	IP	IP	IP	IP	IP	IP	IP	IP
Sovereign Nation	Jennifer Kanine	IP	IP	IP	V	A	IP	IP	IP	IP	IP	IP	IP
Berrien County													
Elected County or Municipal Official	Dave Vollrath	IP	IP	IP	IP	IP	IP	IP	IP	IP	IP	IP	IP
Business that Generates Managed Materials	Jeff Doroh	IP	IP	IP	E	A	IP	IP	E	IP	V	IP	A
Cass County													
Elected County or Municipal Official	Roseann Marchetti (Secretery)	IP	IP	E	IP	IP	IP	IP	IP	IP	IP	E	E
Business that Generates Managed Materials	Amy Huser	IP	IP	IP	IP	E	IP	IP	IP	IP	IP	IP	IP
Van Buren County													
Elected County or Municipal Official	Kurt Doroh							IP	IP	A	IP	E	V
Business that Generates Managed Materials													
IP - Present in Person; V - Participating remotely; E- Excused absence; A - Unexcused absence; A blank spot means the position is vacant													

Public Present

Adams, Jill
Field, Jaysen
Plathe, Justin
Lisa Ransler (V)
Graves, Genevieve (V)
Chubb, Deb (V)
Mandy Wallace (V)

1. Call to Order & Roll Call

Chair Kalli Marshall called the meeting to order at 1:04 p.m. Role call was taken, and it was established that a quorum was present.

2. Approval of Agenda

Dave Vollrath moved to **“ACCEPT THE AGENDA.”** John Egelhaaf seconded the motion, which carried unanimously.

3. Approval of November 17, 2025 Minutes

Bob Kras moved to **“APPROVE NOVEMBER 17, 2025 MINUTES.”** David Kuhn seconded the motion, which carried unanimously.

4. Old Business

Working Groups Update

Schrag presented the recommendations for members for the Policy and Education Working Groups. Schrag stated that candidates were chosen based on their ability to attend in person meetings, whether they had previously been selected to serve on the specific working group, which county they reside in or represent, and their background. She said four of the five policy working groups' recommendations had previously been selected for the policy working group. Two people from the education working group had previously been selected.

Dave Vollrath made a motion to **“APPROVE OF THE RECOMMENDED APPOINTMENTS FOR THE WORKING GROUPS.”** Bob Kras seconded the motion, which carried unanimously.

Public Survey Update

Schrag gave the committee an update on the public survey for materials management planning, which has gathered 730 responses thus far. The majority of the responses are from Berrien County residents, and many respondents are over the age of 50. Schrag mentioned that reaching the younger generation should be a priority. The survey closes at the end of January 2026.

5. Hearings

None.

6. New Business

Policy Prioritization

Schrag presented a Slido that allowed members to rank topics that the policy working group will need to discuss. This will be used to help the working group prioritize what they discuss first. The top result was researching funding mechanisms for recycling programs, followed by enforcement mechanisms for the plan, and template ordinances for single-hauler contracts.

Recycling Goals Assignments and Resources

Schrag presented a handout received from an attorney, Robert Charles Davis, during a webinar hosted by RRS. In the handout, it speaks about how the local units of government are critical in the implementation of the plan due to their authority for ordinances.

The committee then went through the action items in the recycling goals to discuss responsible parties and resources needed to achieve the goals. Some action items will be revisited at a future date, and some action items will likely be combined to reduce repetitions. Preliminary results of this activity can be found below.

7. Public Comment

None.

8. Miscellaneous

2026 Meeting Schedule

Schrag said that the MMPC survey results showed that the first Wednesday of the month in the afternoon was the most suitable time for the MMPC meetings. She presented a list of scheduled meetings for 2026 based on these results. John Egelhaaf made a motion to “accept the meeting schedule for 2026.” Dave Vollrath seconded the motion, which carried unanimously.

9. Adjournment

Dave Vollrath moved to adjourn the meeting. Bob Kras supported the motion. Chair Marshall declared the meeting adjourned at 2:55 pm. The next meeting will be held on January 7, 2025 at 1:00 p.m.

Submitted by:

Bekah Schrag

December 20, 2025

Goal	Objective	Action	Responsible Parties	Resources Needed	Notes	Potential Partners
Goal 1: Divert Materials From Landfills Through Diversion Improvements and Market Development	Objective 1.1 Improve Diversion of Hard-to-Recycle and Hazardous Materials	Implement at least one collection event annually within each County that accepts tires, HHW, batteries,	Counties	Partnerships, Funding, Staffing	Public-private Partnership	Development Agencies, SWMPC, MSU
		Add four comprehensive drop-off sites per county (HHW, mattresses, foam, tires, Partner with Gazette, TerraCycle, Goodwill, Habitat ReStore, and others to expand diversion.	Counties, LUGs	Funding, Staffing, Real Estate,		
			Counties, Businesses	Partnerships, Staffing, Funding		
	Objective 1.2 Expand Glass Recycling Opportunities	Research feasibility of diverting glass for alternative uses (e.g., sand for lakefront projects).	MMPC	Staffing, State Resources, Counties, Funding		
		If feasible, establish or incentivize a glass recycling facility in the tri-county area.	Public/Private Partnerships	Funding, Partnerships, Staffing		
	Objective 1.3 Foster Local Markets and Economic Development	Partner with local economic development agencies to attract companies to the region that utilize recycled materials.	Counties, LUGs	Staffing, Funding		EGLE Libraries, Conservation Districts,
		Promote Michigan's Materials Marketplace and NextCycle program for innovation.	Counties	Materials, Staffing Funding		
		Encourage existing businesses within the region to use recycled materials as feedstock.	Counties	Education & Outreach, Staffing, Funding		
		Encourage community-level buying (e.g., cardboard) for resale rather than relying solely on MRFs.			Revisit with MMPC	

Goal 2: Build a Culture of Recycling and Waste Reduction Through Education, Engagement, and Outreach	Objective 2.1 Increase Public Awareness of Recycling Opportunities	Develop a regional education campaign on what, where, and how to recycle and reduce waste.	Counties	Marketing Firm, Staffing, Funding	LUGs, EGLE
		Launch outreach through billboards, media, and digital channels to advertise recycling	Counties	Marketing Firm, Staffing, Funding	LUGs, EGLE,
		Build and maintain a digital presence (e.g., “Southwest Michigan Recycles” social media,	Counties	Marketing Firm, Staffing, Funding	LUGs, EGLE,
		Hold public events to share programs, goals, and successes.	Counties	Marketing Firm, Staffing, Funding	LUGs, Businesses, Clubs & Organizations, Schools
		Encourage community-wide visibility by sharing progress updates and goals in multiple formats	Counties, LUGs,	Staffing, Funding	Community Colleges
	Objective 2.2 Strengthen Recycling Education in Schools and Businesses	Establish a school recycling coordinator position for each district to lead recycling education and outreach in schools.	Counties, ISDs,	Materials, Staffing, Funding	Michigan Green Schools Economic Development Agencies, Materials, Economic Development Agencies,
		Provide toolkits for schools and businesses to implement recycling education programs.	Counties, ISDs,	Infrastructure, Staffing, Funding,	
		Engage grocery stores and businesses as partners to share recycling information and host	Counties	Materials, Staffing, Funding	
		Encourage retailers to recycle the products they sell and provide clear recycling instructions to customers.	Counties	Infrastructure, Staffing, Funding	

	Objective 2.3 Promote Retailer Responsibility and Consumer Choices	Educate consumers on waste reduction initiatives, including single-use packaging; promote	Counties	Materials, Staffing, Funding, Marketing Firms,	ISDs, Community Colleges
		Highlight examples of retailers and businesses who successfully promote recycling and waste	Counties	Staffing, Funding , Certification Program	EGLE,
		Educate the public on hazardous materials and the need to keep them out of landfills	Counties, Haulers	Staffing, Funding	
	Objective 2.4 Improve Effectiveness of Outreach and Messaging	Utilize AI content filtration technology to deliver targeted, audience-specific recycling messages	Counties, LUGs	Staffing, Funding	Haulers,
		Develop campaigns that explain why recycling works and address myths to improve participation and	Counties	Materials, Staffing, Funding	
		Create outreach strategies for rural, urban, and hard-to-reach populations	Counties	Materials, Staffing, Funding	
	Objective 3.1 Expand Curbside Recycling Services, Ensuring	By 2026: Ensure 90% of single-family dwellings in urban areas have curbside service (min. twice/month).	LUGs, Counties,	Template contracts/ordinances/ agreements, GIS, Staffing, Funding	Haulers,
		By 2028: Ensure 90% of single-family dwellings in municipalities >5,000 residents have curbside service.			Haulers,

Goal 3: Expand and Improve Recycling Infrastructure and Access	Services, Ensuring Minimum Requirements are Met.	Minimum Requirements for all curbside recycling services: consistent materials accepted (plastics, cans, cardboard, paper, cartons, glass), recycling is picked up at least twice per month, education regarding acceptable materials is provided often.	LUGs, Counties,	Template contracts/ordinances/agreements, GIS, Staffing, Funding	Revist with MMPC	LUGs, SWMPC, Community Colleges, Logistics Companies, Business Collaboratives/ Partners,
		Develop strategies to reduce contamination alongside volume increases, ensuring recyclables are	Counties	Materials, Staffing, Funding		
	Objective 3.2 Ensure Equitable Drop-Off Access, Ensuring Minimum Requirements are Met.	By 2032: Counties < 100,000 residents → 1 site per 10,000 residents without curbside. Counties ≥ 100,000 residents → 1 site per 50,000 residents without curbside. Minimum Requirements: Sites must offer collection of plastics, cans, cardboard, paper, cartons, glass; the site must be open to the public for at least 24	Counties,	Real Estate, Infrastructure, GIS, Staffing, Funding		
		Develop drop -offs within ~10 miles for every household.				
		Use GIS mapping to optimize facility placement; explore schools and grocery stores as additional collection points.	Counties,	Staffing, Funding		
		Encourage business-government partnerships to share infrastructure costs.	Counties, Economic Development	Staffing, Funding		

	Objective 3.3 Modernize Recycling Transportation and Logistics	Transition municipal waste fleets to electric/clean-fuel trucks, and promote the transition for private			MMPC LMC,
		Develop coordinated logistics with haulers to ensure adequate equipment, hours, and materials	Counties, Haulers	Staffing, Funding	
		Provide educational materials when expanding services to reduce likelihood of higher contamination	Counties	Materials, Staffing, Funding	
Goal 4: Implement Policies and Funding Mechanisms to Support Recycling	Objective 4.1 Make Recycling Cost- Effective and Transparent	Encourage single-hauler contracts in cities/villages to provide universal recycling access at consistent costs.	Counties, LUGs	Template contracts/ordinances/agreements, Staffing, Funding	Haulers,
		Investigate models to make recycling cheaper than disposal, including subsidies, fee	Counties, State, MMPC	Legal expertise, Staffing, Funding	
	Objective 4.2 Advance Waste Reduction Through Policy and Incentives	Enact a county ordinance that requires haulers to obtain a license to operate within the county, and require haulers offer curbside recycling access to any household	Counties	Online license application, Staffing, Funding	
		Explore ordinances or voluntary agreements that require retailers and businesses to support waste	Counties, LUGs, MMPC	University Research, Staffing, Funding	
		Support Extended Producer Responsibility legislation to incentivize producers to use easier-to-recycle packaging and help fund recycling programs throughout the	Counties, Elected Officials	University Research, Staffing, Funding	

	incentives	Enact a county resolution requiring all county-sponsored functions to use recyclable and compostable materials when possible, and require the function to provide	Counties	Infrastructure, Staffing, Funding
		Enact a county resolution requiring all county buildings purchase recyclable or compostable materials when possible, and ensure all county buildings have	Counties	Infrastructure, Staffing, Funding

Goal	Objective	Action	Responsible Parties	Resources Needed	Potential Partners
Goal 1: Prevent Food Waste Through Education, Planned Purchasing, and Supporting Existing Food Diversion Organizations	Objective 1.1: Encourage smart consumer behavior at the household level	Promote meal planning before grocery shopping to decrease household food waste		Education Flyers, social media posts	
		Educate households on best practices for food preservation including freezing, dehydrating, prepping, canning, and storage		Staff, commercial kitchen	
	Objective 1.2: Support food waste prevention in institutions, businesses, and producers	Advocate for improved supply chain planning in schools and hospitals		Staff, State-provided best practices	
		Promote the reuse of leftover menu items creatively in food service		Staff, funding to support other organizations	
		Provide or Support more freezer and refrigeration capacity to preserve surplus food through reuse programs, grants, and partnerships.		Grants, Partnerships, Staffing	
		Collaborate with food producers, manufacturers and distributors to improve forecasting and inventory management		Staff, Experts,	
		Incentivize secondary markets for imperfect or surplus produce			
	Objective 1.3: Integrate food waste	Develop programs to teach kids about food waste and the importance of reduction			
		Promote food waste competitions in schools			

	reduction into school curriculum and student habits	Promote Share Tables using the State of Michigan Department of Education guidance			
		Encourage participation in 10 Cents a Meal and Michigan Green Schools initiatives			
Goal 2: Divert Edible Food Waste and Organics from Landfills according to the EPA Wasted Food Scale	Objective 2.1: Strengthen food donation and redistribution systems	Connect farmers, restaurants, and grocery stores with food pantries, shelters, and soup kitchens			
		Provide funding or rebates for businesses that redistribute edible food			
		Promote donation to schools, seniors, fire stations			
		Raise awareness of the protections granted through the Bill Emerson Good Samaritan Food Donation Act			
		Encourage donations to farmers with livestock when food becomes inedible			
	Objective 2.2: Establish and expand organics	Initiate and encourage the development of composting sites, digesters or other facilities that accept food scraps			
		Develop food scrap recycling drop off programs for communities over 5,000 residents using best practices			

	expand organics infrastructure and programs	Develop mixed organics (yard waste and food scraps) curbside programs for communities that have demonstrated interest			
		Provide drop-off yard waste programs for every household in the region			
	Objective 2.3: Pilot and scale composting programs	Support pilot programs that convert food waste into compost for local use			
		Engage FFA and 4H clubs in composting efforts			
		Provide residential backyard composting tools and resources			
	Goal 3: Build Public Awareness and Education on Food	Objective 3.1: Deliver consistent, empathetic, and transparent education	Adopt a region-wide color/shape/signage food waste reduction scheme		
Collaborate with municipalities, Conservation Districts, Parks Departments, institutions, businesses, etc. to increase education on food scrap diversion					
Engage local media and social media platforms to bolster education programs and expand reach					
		Add existing information, best practices & food waste reduction efforts to the County website			

Waste	Objective 3.2: Foster a culture of responsibility and change social norms relating to food waste	Create strategies to reduce waste and collect food scraps at County events and properties			
		Normalize food scrap recycling and food donation behavior in schools, restaurants, and households through public, visible commitments to diverting food scraps			
		Recognize and promote businesses who adopt food waste reduction practices			
		Encourage municipalities to participate in the Michigan Green Communities Initiative		Staffing	
Goal 4: Develop Infrastructure and Policy for Organics Diversion Solutions	Objective 4.1: Identify and promote food scrap recycling policies	Provide and promote ordinances that ensure a reduction in food scraps going to the landfill.			
		Support policies for donation and food scrap recycling at public institutions			
	Objective 4.2: Encourage entrepreneurial and public investment in food scrap recycling	Fund or support startups and expanding food scrap recycling businesses			
		Support and encourage the Nextcycle program			
	Objective 5.1: Map and promote	Create an online, comprehensive and interactive map of food and yard waste sites in Cass, Berrien, and Van Buren Counties with hours of operation. Ensure it stays up dto date.			

Goal 5: Connect and Support Local and Regional Solutions	existing local resources	Provide details on which materials each location accepts and do's and don'ts for collection			
		Include a layer on the map for food scrap diversion locations including food pantries			
	Objective 5.2: Encourage collaboration and knowledge-sharing	Support awareness campaigns for food pantries on social media, newsletters, news sources, and word-of-mouth			
		Collaborate with other counties with similar goals and initiatives		Staffing	
		Share best practices from other communities for municipalities looking to enhance food waste reduction efforts		Staffing	
		Share resources from MSU Extension, Conservation Districts, and Health Depts		Staffing	