



Albemarle County Solid Waste Alternatives Advisory Committee
Meeting Minutes



Thursday, December 11, 2025, 4-5:30 pm
County Office Building, 401 McIntire Rd
Room 246

Present: Peggy Gilges, Mike Kruse, Kaleigh Reno, Betsey Soulsby, Lee Kondor, Christine Hirsh-Putnam, Jane Colony Mills, Zack Landsman

Absent: Kendall Dix

Liaisons: Jamie Powers, Isabella O'Brien, Jim Andrews, Bea LaPisto-Kirtley,

Guests: Chuck Delanoy, David Rhoades, Jerry Simmons

Call to order: 4:00 pm

Established a Quorum

Welcomed & acknowledged guests

Reviewed the agenda and approved

Reviewed November Minutes and approved

Announcements:

- State of VA having won a SWIFR grant to draft new state SWM plan
 - Comment period ends 12.19
 - SWAAC members could comment as individuals
 - (Peggy sending info to comment - Anne Johnson from Resource Recycling led the draft and was the former chair of the SWAAC)
 - Lots of high priority legislation - looking to fill data gaps
 - First time updating the plan since 1979
 - Looking to increase minimum recycling rate
- Bottle bill
 - Group called VA bottle bill pushing for bill to be adopted in the state

Action Items/Followup/New Business (60 minutes):

- SWAAC Charge- Review
 - Revised Chapter needs to be posted on the website
- Review SWAAC accomplishments in 2025 (paste in Christine's overview slide)

- Formal written recommendation to Board of supervisors
- Feedback to staff
- Policy research and info gathering
- Work Plan:
 - Recycling Requirements (Zack, Mike, Kendall)
 - Mike's November presentation on meeting with city council
 - Link to our overview doc with meeting notes: [SWAAC Albemarle Curbside Recycling](#)
 - City council March presentation on waste revenue and expenses
 - Link to slides and presentation: <https://charlottesvilleva.portal.civicclerk.com/event/2282/media>
 - Christine collected data from GFL and other haulers on prices for trash hauling and recycling services
 - Need HOA prices to compare with city of Charlottesville prices
 - Glenwood station - 50 condominium = \$400 a month for dumpster service, Recycling is ~\$100 a month (dumpster service)
 - Charlottesville city does not supply recycling for condos, apartment buildings
 - Jane - \$108 a quarter for a neighborhood recycling+trash rate (\$27)
 - JC disposal says "Trash and recycling" on each cart but does not recycle
 - Overview of GFL What can be recycled site - emphasis on language where "sometimes recycled" and "usually recycled" (important for hauler requirements)
 - Compare to Republic Services Website - clear infographic of what is accepted (does not say where it goes)
 - **Can we divide regions of albemarle for companies** to bid on specific regions to increase accessibility for bid diversity in services to encourage local companies a shot while allowing competition
 - What do we want:
 - More transparency
 - Incentivize less trash
 - Want to help people get recycling (in similar manner to Charlottesville)
 - Automated driving pickup vs by hand
 - By hand is more time but allows for more limitations in contamination
 - Automated is quicker but does not allow for easy observation of if the sticker/decal or recycling/trash is correct. Also difficult with variable bin sizes
 - How to get everyone in the mindset of - trash and recycling are available and you get used to it
 - **Could** you have the haulers use the automated system for most days and sub in a by-hand randomly to survey/check compliance?
 - Moving forward on communicating our recommendations

- **Asking Jeff Dumars** (facilities and environmental services) as to what questions we should be anticipating
- Invite to a meeting for a working session
- Information
 - Include as much financial information as possible
 - Want to show that
 - Can this save people (HOAs) money and improve service?
- Allison represents all CACs (Lee reaching out) for them to meet monthly and have them all in January - may take a couple months
 - **Need to list** out what asks each CAC
- What is the urban ring - development area for the county under the AC44 documents
- Recommendation to the board: should it be only the development area?
 - Good place to start because expanding beyond this, it gets cloudy in what the region definition is
 - Includes Crozet, Rivanna Village, circle around Cville and up 29
- If contract comes together:
 - Data collection
 - And hauler requirements
- For climate action group
 - Can we have a project focused on a specific watershed
 - How can anti-litter connect with the regional watersheds that they are a part of -> what rivers it leads to
 - For hauler consolidation can we use the watershed sectors as a compounding definition in how to define regions of Albemarle for contracts - Rivanna watershed map regions
- *Jamie could start the conversation with Jeff (in being the liaison) to see what information he needs to bring back to the committee as an outline of what we need to present*
- Hauler franchising (Peggy and Christine)
- Recycling education (Betsey and Christine)
 - Specific collection programs for items of interest
 - Vape collection with lithium ion batteries included
 -
- Organics (Kaleigh and Jane)
 - Dropoff expansion in Richmond
 - (went with purple for color > away from greens or brown)
- Waste to Energy (Lee)
 - On Republic Services site, the items that are not accepted are generally accepted

- Study referenced of regions that have waste->energy have higher recycling rates
 - Programs for specific item recovery
 - How can items of high-value/high-risk be removed from our waste stream similar to lightbulbs, batteries, etc.
 - Updating county info and county options
 - Vape collection
 - Device collection

RSWA News (10 minutes):

- Pumpkin collection upped 700-1000lbs more than last year
- Advertising seen for oyster shells

County Report Out (10 minutes):

- Climate Program Update
 - Tomorrow kicking off final 3 interviews - offer out hopefully before the 24th
 - Kickoff meeting last week with city, county, uva, and phil (RWCA)
 - Lay groundwork for how this will work and stakeholders
 - Bringing in
 - Composting folks
 - Larger haulers
 - School involved
 - Equity, inclusion, education, and engagement involved
 - Inviting outside participants at strategic points:
 - SWAAC, food banks, landscaping companies, restaurants, grocers, food producers, ag, community gardens, garden clubs, neighborhood association leaders, property managers, urban forestry, etc.
 - Goal: diverting organic materials from landfills
 - Overarching plan: setting goals as an extended team
 - Map out current system: how it works + who's involved
 - Look for leverage points (near and far term)
 - Strategic plan (set of a few options for team to consider)
 - by end of June

Old Business:

Set January Agenda (1/8)

- Take a fresh look at the work plan
- Breaking down the big project
 - Hauling requirements
 - Data goals/requirements

- Pricing research for county
- Region of interest and roll-out plans
- Example municipalities for reference
- Needed education
- Great opportunity for someone to step forward and lead the group
- Lee will do January minutes, Jane for February

Adjourned at 5:19 pm

Next meeting: January 8, 2025