

Illinois Statewide Recycling Needs Assessment Advisory Council Updates

Christina Seibert

Executive Director, SWANCC

Statewide Recycling Needs
Assessment Advisory Council Chair



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A Brief History of Packaging EPR in Illinois

- Packaging and paper products EPR bill elements formulated with local government, environmental groups, IEPA, retail association
- Bill drafted by PSI and core local government team (SWALCO, SWANCC, DuPage County, City of Chicago)
- Individual stakeholder meetings for feedback from trade associations, MRFs/haulers, local government groups, state and national industry groups
- Bill introduced in Senate (SB1555, Sen. Koehler) and House (HB2874, Rep. Avelar)
- Passed House and Senate committees, but needed to make progress in stakeholder negotiations
- Amended to the Statewide Recycling Needs Assessment Study and passed (415 ILCS 180/)

Fall 2021 –
Spring 2022

Summer /
Winter 2022

Winter /
Spring 2023

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Advisory Council Members – 30 Total

Hauler / MRF / Composter

- 4 seats – MRFs (no more than 2 in Chicago metro)
- 3 seats – haulers / hauler association
- 1 seat – recycling drop-off
- 1 seat - composter

Local Government

- 3 seats – counties (by population)
- 3 seats – municipalities (by population)
- 1 seat – municipal association
- 1 seat – municipal joint action agency

Environmental

- 2 seats – environmental organizations
- 2 seats – EJ advocacy orgs / communities

Retailer

- 2 seats – retailer / retailer association

Manufacturer

- 1 seat – manufacturer using postconsumer material
- 1 seat – manufacturer using virgin material
- 1 seat – manufacturer association

Producer

- 4 seats – consumer products producers / associations

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Advisory Council Organization / Processes

Advisory Council Organization

- Individuals nominated to IEPA for appointment by January 1, 2024
- Members elected Chair and Vice Chair by majority vote
- Meeting schedule proposed by Chair and approved by members (quarterly at minimum by statute)
- All meetings subject to Open Meetings Act requirements with publicly posted agenda

Advisory Council Processes

- All meetings to date virtual to maximize participation
- Simple majority for all actions / recommendations
- Likely to form committees to allocate responsibilities as work advances

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Roles and Responsibilities: Advisory Council

Needs Assessment oversight and review

- ✓ Comment on Needs Assessment scope of work and consultant solicitation process
- Assist in data collection (2025 through early 2026)
- Review and comment on draft Needs Assessment
 - Draft due by June 30, 2026
 - 60 days to provide comments to IEPA (latest due date August 29, 2026)

Future EPR policy recommendations

- Research packaging EPR policy and implementation in other states
- By December 1, 2026, prepare report to General Assembly and Governor with recommendations for future EPR program

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Key Questions the Statewide Recycling Needs Assessment Will Help to Answer

Costs / Ownership

- Who pays for the program?
- What does it cost – both the producer, and the consumer?
- Who owns recycling assets – will current MRFs become stranded assets?
- Who owns the recovered material?

Infrastructure

- How much packaging is out there to manage?
- Where can certain packaging materials be recycled – CAN they be recycled?
- How much infrastructure do we need?

Stakeholder Questions

Performance Standards / Goals

- How much packaging should be recovered – what is “success”?
- How much should be converted to reusables, or reduced / eliminated?

Monitoring / Reporting

- Who will monitor performance, and how?
- What happens if producers aren’t doing enough – and what is “enough”?

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Impact of Needs Assessment Outputs

Current packaging sold / generated and management methods by material type

→ ***Current recycling, reuse, and composting rates***

Current access to recycling collection on county-by-county basis and availability of processing infrastructure for all material types

→ ***Gaps in service and infrastructure***

Current costs of collection and processing

→ ***Project program costs and capital investments to reach 35%, 50%, and 65% recycling rates by end of 2035***

Current education / awareness of residents re: proper end-of-life management and contamination

→ ***Education needs, including multilingual needs***

Location of current programs and infrastructure with respect to EJ communities

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Advisory Council Activity to Date

11 meetings to-date

- Reviewed and commented on draft needs assessment scope of work
- Updates from states implementing packaging EPR programs – Colorado and Oregon
- Input from the only Producer Responsibility Organization (PRO) approved in the US – Circular Action Alliance (CAA)
- Presentations from Eunomia's consultant team completing the Needs Assessment, primarily focused on near-term data collection
- Supporting / responding to data requests
- Initial discussions on the approach to future Advisory Council research and recommendation activities



View meeting recordings, schedule, agendas, and progress:
<https://epa.illinois.gov/topics/waste-management/materials-management/srnaac.html>



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Questions?

Christina Seibert

Executive Director, Solid Waste Agency of Northern Cook County (SWANCC)
Chair, Statewide Recycling Needs Assessment Advisory Council

(847) 724-9205 | christina@swancc.org