



# City of Madison

City of Madison  
Madison, WI 53703  
www.cityofmadison.com

## Meeting Minutes - Approved SOLID WASTE ADVISORY COMMITTEE

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Thursday, November 5, 2015

4:45 PM

1501 W. Badger Rd.

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### CALL TO ORDER / ROLL CALL

- Present:** 6 - Colton H. Schara; Lakshmi Sridharan; Dan Melton; Jaclyn D. Lawton;  
Steven C. Ingham and Timothy D. Baker
- Excused:** 3 - Zach Wood; Paul Abramson and Brian C. Driscoll

### APPROVAL OF MINUTES

A motion was made by Melton, seconded by Sridharan, to Approve the Minutes. The motion passed by voice vote/other.

### PUBLIC COMMENT

None

None

### DISCLOSURES AND RECUSALS

None

### NEW BUSINESS

Workers Compensation Costs

Dreckmann distributed data that showed the decrease in worker's compensation costs since the adoption of automated collection in 2005 and 2007.

### DISCUSSION ITEMS

Mattress and Box Spring Recycling Update

Dreckmann briefed the committee on the possibilities for moving forward with this project in 2016. The Board of Estimates did approve funding for the project in 2016.

[35078](#)

A committee discussion on issues related to recycling in public places and at special events. The discussion will also cover issues related to recovering organics at special events.

..Body

As part of the City of Madison's commitment to zero waste, the Solid Waste Advisory Committee will be discussing the status of recycling in public places such as the State Street Mall, City parks and bus shelters, and street corners. The Committee will also be looking at the recycling at special events and at issues surrounding the recovery of organics from special events. The Committee will look at how we got to our current situation, barriers to improvement and try to develop a plan to increase recovery of materials and prepare to recover more organics as we move closer to an organics program.

#### **Notes from 8/7/14**

The committee discussed issues surrounding recycling in public places and away from home. Parks does not require recycling for all of its permits. Recycling is required with events that have Street Use permits. The Concerts on the Square program is unique. They have volunteers that direct concert goers to the proper container for their material.

Areas for the committee to look at include convenience stores and gas stations, public spaces like street corners and especially parks, shopping malls. Many different areas of responsibility. Streets, Parks, and Building Inspection are all involved in one way or another. Staff will work to get representatives from Parks and BI to attend future meetings.

Streets may wish to consider doing an audit of street corner litter containers to find out what is in them and where the greatest concentration of recyclables in the trash occurs. Corners/bus stops are hampered by lack of space for two containers. Recycling and refuse containers need to be side by side or very close to each other for it to work.

#### **Notes from 9/4/14**

The committee did not have time to take up this item.

#### **Notes from 3/5/2015**

Concerning SWAC request to address increasing the recycling in parks.

Charlie Romines provides update.

Description of current recycling program for Mall Concourse & General Parks.

Mall Concourse (State St.): 7 day trash collections with seasonal variability. Recycling is collected 6-7 days per week. Material is typically 50/50 trash/recycling in the recycling containers. The recycling material volume tends to be higher on State St than in General Parks.

Collection of recycling material in General Parks occurs during mowing season.” Collections are use based and frequency varies from park to park. At a minimum there is a weekly recycling collection.

Special events are required to submit a Refuse/Recycling plan as part of permitting process. Permits are approved by the Park Commission. There is no enforcement mechanism for complying with the recycling component of the submission. There seems to be no problem with compliance, but there is no real data on outcomes.

Concerts on the Square is the best model for a special event that enhances recycling compliance due to volunteer input.

Parks has 3 garbage trucks for trash and borrows 2 trucks from Streets for recycling collection. The initial program for recycling collection was a \$5000 pilot program for seasonal employees to perform the collection. The pilot either ended or was folded into the Parks budget. Not sure but the collection continues. Recycling collection occurs at major parks, park structures and some athletic fields based on usage. There is a lot of contamination in park recycling containers, which a look the same as the trash containers but have signage.

Parks staff are engaged in recycling efforts and interested in the programs success.

Parks has budget for new containers for recycling in 2016. These will look different than the trash containers. This should increase utilization. They will be distributed according to park usage.

Parks provides recycling containers for Concerts on the Square. Not sure how this arrangement began. These containers can be made available to other city agencies but not to the general public. Other Special Events use clear streams available from the Streets Division. Streets will increase promotion of clear stream availability for Special Events.

General discussion concerning ways to increase recycling in parks. Parks Staff would like to increase frequency of recycling collection. Implementation of additional programs for increasing recycling in parks may not be the highest priority of parks management at this time due to the priority of other concerns.

Using a carrot/stick model for Special Events & shelter rentals may not be viable within the current cost structure.

Additional discussion on State St recycling. Better in general than in parks. Could a volunteer model work on State St? Could additional revenue be generated, i.e.

advertising on trash cans, etc?

Resident/Neighborhood Associations could adopt parks for increased recycling by purchasing additional carts and rolling carts to the curb on the scheduled recycling day. This already occurs at Orton Park and could be expanded to other parks. Funds could be available through Community Development Grants and Neighborhood Association funds. Carts in the program should be decaled or identified in some way.

Discussion on possible funding for study on recycling in parks. Probably not a budgetary priority at parks right now. Council policy analyst could be consulted or council could budget for a consultant for a broader study.

Increase guidance with application materials for shelter rentals and Special Event permit. Parks should inform applicants of the availability of clear streams through the Streets Division.

Recycling issue could be addressed to the Parks Long Range Planning Committee.

November, 2015

The Committee discussed this issue at length at the November 5th meeting. Staff informed the Committee that no new funds will be in the 2016 budget. The Committee recommended that staff insure that all permits for park shelter and picnic reservation include recycling information and instructions on how to get recycling containers from both Streets and Parks. Staff will work with Ald Eskrich about plans for Monroe Street reconstruction.

**The Committee discussed some options for staff to explore in 2016.**

37890

[A Committee discussion of the Streets Division's efforts to establish a program for the recovery of source separated organics]

2011:

The Streets Division is planning a pilot collection program for collecting household organics from a select group of households. The number of households will be determined by the funding available in the 2011 Operating Budget. The funding will also determine the start date.

The goal is to have at least 500 households in two different refuse collection district, one east and one west.

Material collected will include food waste, pet waste, contaminated paper, waxed cardboard and possibly diapers.

In addition to the collection pilot, the program will also include a mail survey of 1000 Madison households and a later internet survey.

The 2012 City Operating Budget includes funding for a feasibility study on an anaerobic digester. The intent is to hire an experienced consultant to conduct the study.;

The Engineering Division conducted a wetlands mapping survey of potential digester sites located near the Dane County Landfill. Other City owned parcels may also be considered for a digester. Those sites are yet to be determined.

City staff is also looking at the various technologies that could be employed for a digester.

2012:

For the first six months of the pilot program we collected 13.8 pounds per household per week. That would translate into 21-25,000 tons of material per year, which is more than our waste sort indicated was in the waste stream. Staff believes that the volunteers are very committed to the program which accounts for the higher than anticipated diversion.

Data was collected from our volunteers for Mater B, the plastic resin producer that provided us with bags for the first six months of the program. They were quite pleased with the response and the information will be presented at a Bio Cycle conference in Portland, OR in April

March, 2012:

City staff has determined that the best location for a digester will be near the Rodefeld landfill. Staff will begin discussions with Dane County on how best to locate the facility and develop a plan for facility sharing where feasible.

Staff has narrowed down possible consultants to four and will be conducting interviews. We hope to be able to report on a selection at the April 5th Solid Waste Advisory Committee meeting.

The plan is to expand the pilot program by adding 100 households on the west side in late spring. We currently have 300 households plus the Madison Children's Museum on the east side routes and 185 households on the west side.

2014

The Streets Division has received funds in the budget to expand the pilot project by adding 1,600 households and 25 to 30 commercial establishments to the budget. The plan is to do the expansion in July. Recruitment will begin in May.

May, 2014

The pilot expansion program has been put on hold. The digester at UW Oshkosh has been informed by the composter Zilgas, that there is too much non compostable plastic material in the digestate when it comes from the digester. The Wisconsin DNR also has issues with the presence of pet waste in the material coming from Madison. The pet waste issue can be overcome easily. The contamination requires the Streets Division to screen the material. We will be testing several screens to see what might work.

August, 2014

It was determined that a screen adequate for our purposes would cost \$120,000. At this time there is no funding in the budget for the screen. A decision was made as part of the capital budget process to postpone the digester construction by one year to 2017. Based upon this decision and the lack of funds for the screen, the Streets Division has determined that the pilot will come to an end in September.

September, 2014

The Council has voted to allow the Streets Division to use \$120,000 from the Sustainability Fund for the purchase of a screen. The Streets Division will continue the pilot program while conducting more screen testing. The expansion of the pilot to commercial facilities will go forward ASAP. The expansion to the 1,600 households has been put on hold because it will not be possible to get the households recruited and carts distributed before the start of leaf collection. At that time, the Division will not have staff to take on the distribution of carts for the start up of the expansion. The household expansion will be put on hold until spring, 2015.

March 2015

After discussing options with the staff at the Oshkosh digester it was determined that screening would not address the concerns of the composter so a screen was not purchased.

July, 2015

Staff has received approval to take the material to the digester in Middleton. This digester was built in cooperation with Dane County and is owned by the Gunderson Clinic in LaCrosse and operated by Dynamic Systems Management. A decision was made to stop calling the program a pilot. It is now the Madison Organics Program.

October, 2015

Staff is proceeding with adding the first 500 HH's to the program. The new

HH's will be on the near west side and will be what we are referring to as the "mandatory" group. Residents on the route will not volunteer. We are including all households on the route unless they opt out.

November, 2015

The expansion is proceeding. The HH's in the new area have been notified and public meetings will be held 11/14 and 11/16 to discuss the expansion with the affected residents. The Committee will be taking a tour of the Middleton facility in lieu of it's regular December meeting.

2016

February: Collection in expansion area is ongoing. Area includes 500 HHs, and 11 businesses. Soon will include West High School and the Preschool for the Arts. On February 29 there will be a community meeting at Sequoya Library to update neighborhood in the first expansion area how program has worked. A second presentation held on Saturday, March 12 will be viewable online at <http://tinyurl.com/organicscheckup> (edit: 2/28/16) <http://www.cityofmadison.com/streets/organicscheckup>. Further expansion plans are continuing.

**Dreckmann briefed the Committee on the progress in expanding the collection program this winter. Plan is to add 500 right away and another 1,500 before spring, weather permitting.**

#### **ADJOURNMENT**

**A motion was made by Schara, seconded by Lawton, to Adjourn. The motion passed by voice vote/other.**