

Notes
WISCONSIN COUNCIL ON RECYCLING

Friday, June 6, 2025

Dynamic Lifecycle Innovations, N5550 Dynamic Way, Onalaska, WI and via Teams

<p>Council Members Present: John Anderson, David Keeling, Marty Oxman, David Pellitteri, Mark Walter, Jerry DeMers, Jarrod Holter</p> <p>DNR: Jennifer Semrau, Ruth O'Donnell, Sarah Murray, Michael Schmit, Aiden Culver, Dustin Sholly, Anna Quanbeck, Xiayou Lowery, Adeline Hinkle</p> <p>Public: Susan Schuller, Recycling Connections; Antoinette Smith, Resource Recycling; Chad Doverspike, Brown County; Lisa James and Drew Cochrane, Pellitteri Waste Systems; Brandon Knudtson, Hilltopper Refuse and Recycling; Allison Birr, Waupaca County; Amanda Haffele and Abby Lichtscheidl, Portage County; Austin Lesmeister, Xcel Energy; Angela Remus and Kyle Cloutier, Dynamic Lifecycle Innovations.</p> <p>Note- due to the call-in/virtual ability to join the meeting, some participants may not be properly identified above; omissions or errors are not intentional.</p>	
Tour: Xcel Energy, 200 Bainbridge St, La Crosse	Select council members and guests toured Xcel Energy (Waste-To-Energy or WTE facility). No action was taken by the council.
Call to Order	Meeting called to order at 11:16 a.m.
Introductions and Announcements	Council members and DNR staff liaison to council introduced themselves.
Approval of Minutes (Mar. 2025)	Motion made by Jarrod Holter and seconded by John Anderson to approve the minutes of Mar. 7, 2025. Motion carried (7-0).
Overview of Xcel Energy	<p>Austin Lesmeister, Xcel Energy shared an overview map of the Xcel Energy site, which operates 24 hours, 5 days a week. The turbines only need to operate 15-20 hours/year during high demand on the grind. Xcel has a contract with La Crosse County for waste processing, ~73,000 tons/year with ~66% to refuse derived fuel (RDF). Rejects and ash go to the La Crosse County landfill. In 2024, 84,000 tons of municipal solid waste (MSW) from La Crosse County was converted 75% to RDF, which was a record year. The facility recovers ferrous (~2,100 tons) and non-ferrous (aluminum, ~372 tons); Alter Metals has the contract and shares revenue with county and the plant. MSW combustor subject to air rules and continuous emissions monitoring.</p> <p>Q: What is the temperature of the water effluent? A: Five degrees higher after.</p>
DNR/Legislative Updates	<p>Jennifer Semrau, DNR informed the council of various DNR staffing updates:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 4 Summer Interns (1 hydrogeologist, 3 in Business Services and IT) • Posting for Solid Waste Engineer soon • Upcoming recruitments- E-cycle Coordinator, Complaints Coordinator, Recycling and Solid Waste Reporting Specialist <p>J. Semrau, DNR informed the council of various Waste and Materials Management (WMM) program updates:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Annual report season

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Material Recovery Facility (MRF) due Mar. 30 (all submitted on time) ○ Responsible Unit (RU) due Apr. 30 (4 going on probation) ○ QA/QC <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Recycling in Action month (promoted in May). Encourages MRFs to open their doors to the public to demonstrate how recycling is processed and to show that recycling is ‘real’ (material is not all landfilled). ● Landfill tonnage report online soon. ● Coal Combustion Residual (CCR) landfill program approval—have comments back from U.S. EPA; will also be applying for another round of funding (can’t use on staff until our program is approved). ● Awarded just over \$300,000 in E-Cycle Wisconsin electronics collection grants for projects through 2026. ● Continuing to closely monitor federal funding; no changes so far. ● Joint Finance Committee removed “Revitalize Wisconsin” (abandoned waste removal funding) and food waste characterization study from state budget. <p>J. Semrau, DNR informed the council of grant updates:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Solid Waste Infrastructure for Recycling (SWIFR) Grant (from US EPA, ~\$550,000)- work continuing. No change in appropriation. ● Battery Grant (from U. S. Department of Energy (DOE, ~\$1.6M)- no updates if project will proceed. <p>J. Semrau, DNR informed the council of various legislative/rulemaking updates:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Recycling rule: has completed the legislative review process; expected effective date is July 1. Anticipate RU stakeholder meeting in July, MRF Stakeholder meeting in Aug. Working on various documents. Received official code language from Legislative Reference Bureau to review. ● Hazardous Waste rules: completed the legislative review process; rules will take effect over the summer, with rule that adds aerosol cans as universal waste likely effective first (anticipated June 1). ● Landfill rule: review period has ended and no action is being taken by Legislature; effective date is Oct. 1. ● Landfill fee increase info: developing more user-friendly documents outlining landfill fee increases. ● Full rule can be accessed at https://widnr.widen.net/s/jvgchpjvbt/item-4.b.-wa-11-22 (see page 133 of 153 for the new landfill fee table with dates of implementation). ● The rule also adjusts the license fee surcharge paid to the department based upon the number of tons or equivalent volume of solid waste disposed of at each landfill during each quarterly reporting period (currently 15.0 cents/ton): 25.0 cents/ton effective January 1, 2026, 27.0 cents/ton effective January 1, 2031, and 30.0 cents/ton effective January 1, 2036. ● Non-landfill rule: drafting underway; formal comment periods in 2026 but expect some informal stakeholder input opportunities later this year.
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	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> E-cycle rule: scope statement approved by Natural Resources Board in May; in drafting stage.
Food Waste Diversion Update Slides	<p>Ruth O'Donnell, DNR provided the council with a food waste diversion update (link to slides at left). Topics covered included 2023 wasted food/food scraps estimate (over 900,000 tons), updates on the EPA SWIFR grant activities including the food waste management evaluation plan, wasted food data, and updates on outreach, technical assistance and collaboration.</p> <p>Q: Providing waste food to animals, is it recommended to do more? A: Yes, provided it follows Department of Agriculture, Trade and Consumer Protection (DATCP) rules.</p> <p>Q: What is meant by land application? A: Putting wasted food on fields. Important to consider food waste reduction, not just composting.</p>
Battery Legislative Discussion/Potential Action by Council	<p>David Pellitteri, Pellitteri Waste Systems and National Waste and Recycling Association (NWRA) President indicated NWRA has been working with WI Manufacturers and Commerce (WMC) on battery legislation. The legislation would require manufactures of batteries to manage and fund a statewide takeback program for batteries. NWRA and WMC have concluded negotiations and are waiting for bill drafters. Once received it will be reviewed by both parties, then shared more broadly. The new draft will limit the definition of producer/manufacture to protect small retailers. Nebraska just passed a battery extended producer responsibility bill. It was noted there were two recent battery alarms at Xcel Energy.</p>
Overview of Recycled Commodity Markets Slides	<p>Antoinette Smith, Resource Recycling, Inc. provided the council an update on recycled commodity markets (link to slides at left). Fiber, aluminum and plastics were all covered with a look at pricing drivers and economic indicators. Generally, people are saving money, not spending. A. Smith also shared that Wisconsin had the most MRFs participate in Recycling in Action month (in the United States).</p>
Recycling Market Updates	<p>M. Walter, Brown County/Council Chair shared that recycling pricing at the Tri-County MRF dropped about 15% month over month. D. Pellitteri said their experience was the same.</p>
Public Comment	No comments.
Other Business/Next Meeting/Topics/Locations	<p>M. Walter, Brown County/Council Chair suggested having the next meeting (Sept.) in-person in Madison and the December meeting virtual. Potential agenda topics include batteries, fires, vapes.</p>
Introduction to Dynamic Lifecycle Innovations Slides	<p>Angela Remus and Kyle Cloutier, Dynamic Lifecycle Innovations provided an overview of Dynamic Lifecycle Innovations (link to slides at left). Dynamic has every industry certification available and audit their vendors each year.</p> <p>Q: Are solar panels recycled on-site? A: No, sent to other vendors.</p> <p>Q: Does Dynamic do any chemical recycling? A: No.</p> <p>Q: What does Dynamic expect with the Windows 10 October expiration? A: Expect an influx of material. Also expecting a lot of material from phone centers and reduction of landlines.</p>

	<p>Q: What are your challenges? A: Batteries are a big one. All batteries are stored outside (fire risk). Another is plastics – need to make sure material doesn't end up in a non-OECD country (Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development) per their R2 certification.</p> <p>Q: Do you provide community collections? Cost? A: Free to the public.</p>
Adjourn	<p>Motion to adjourn made by David Pellitteri, seconded by John Anderson. Motion carried 7-0. Meeting adjourned at 1:15 p.m.</p>
Tour: Dynamic Lifecycle Innovations	<p>Select council members and guests toured Dynamic Lifecycle Innovations (electronics recycler). No action was taken by the council.</p>