

HAMILTON COUNTY SOLID WASTE POLICY COMMITTEE ZOOM MEETING
Wednesday, September 15, 2021
1:30 p.m.

AGENDA

- 1. Introduction/Opening Comments**
- 2. Policy Committee Chair**
- 3. Clerk's Report/Additions to the Agenda**
 - a. Approval of Minutes – July 21, 2021 – Attachment A
 - b. Additions to the Agenda
- 4. R3Source Revenue Updates/Analysis – Attachment B**
- 5. Policy Committee Items**
 - a. Designation authority
 - b. Creation of new grant program in 2022
- 6. Informational Items**
 - a. Pollution Prevention (P2) Intern Program update
 - b. Biochar project greenhouse gas impact presentation
 - c. Hamilton County Solid Waste Plan Update
 - d. Household Hazardous Waste Drop-Off
 - e. Second quarter performance measures – Attachment C
 - f. Environmental Enforcement Program – Attachment D
- 7. Tentative Future Agenda Items**
- 8. Policy Committee Members' Comments**
- 9. Public Comments**
- 10. Upcoming Policy Committee Meetings**

The next regularly scheduled Policy Committee meeting will be **Wednesday, November 17, 2021, at 1:30 p.m. at Hamilton County Environmental Services, 250 William Howard Taft, 1st Floor, Cincinnati, Ohio 45219.**
- 11. Adjournment (Target Time - 3:00 p.m.)**

**HAMILTON COUNTY SOLID WASTE POLICY COMMITTEE
MANAGER'S MEMORANDUM**

DATE: September 10, 2021
TO: Hamilton County Solid Waste Policy Committee Members
FROM: Michelle Balz, Solid Waste Manager

1. Introduction/Opening Comments

NOTICE: This memo is for the meeting to be held Wednesday, September 15, 2021 at 1:30 p.m. This meeting will be held in person and available to the public virtually using Zoom.

Policy Committee information (Agendas, Manager's Memos, Minutes, etc.) is available on R3Source's website at www.hcdoes.org/357/Policy-Committee.

2. Policy Committee Chair Vote

Policy Committee will discuss and vote on Commissioner Denise Driehaus chairing the committee.

3. Clerk's Report/Additions to the Agenda

A. Approval of Minutes – Minutes from the July 21, 2021 Policy Committee meeting are included as Attachment A.

B. Additions to the Agenda

Please contact Michelle Balz at 513-946-7789 or michelle.balz@hamilton-co.org if you have items to add to the agenda.

4. R3Source Revenue Updates/Analysis

Updates will be provided on current revenue receipts and comparisons with the prior year, as included as Attachment B.

5. Policy Committee Items

A. Designation Authority

Staff provided the Policy Committee with an overview of the designation authority of the Board of County Commissioners.

B. New Grant Program

Because Waste Reduction Innovation Grant proposals have a \$10,000 funding limit, R3Source staff would like to offer a larger grant program in 2022 to accommodate larger projects. R3Source has \$150,000 budgeted for grant programs in 2022. The larger grant would fund projects between \$10,000 and \$30,000 and would differ from the Waste Reduction Innovation Grant in that it will have a due date, making it competitive. Staff would like to set aside up to \$90,000 for this program. Any funds not spent for the larger grant program will go back into the 2022 Waste Reduction Innovation Grant budget.

Staff recommendation: Staff recommends the Policy Committee pass a motion establishing a second

grant program in 2022 targeted to larger budget projects.

6. Informational Items

A. Pollution Prevention (P2) Intern Program Update

Staff will provide a short presentation on the 2021 P2 Internship program results.

B. Biochar Project Greenhouse Gas Impact

Dr. Amy Townsend-Small, Environmental Science professor from the University of Cincinnati will explain how the biochar project could assist in reducing methane emissions.

C. Hamilton County Solid Waste Plan Update

R3Source has contracted with Economic Environmental Solutions International, (EESI) as the Solid Waste Consultant and is in the contracting phase for the Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion consultant. Staff is also working on the industrial survey write up and several sections of Appendix H (Difficult to Manage Waste Streams, Residential Infrastructure, and Financial).

D. Household Hazardous Waste (HHW) Event

R3Source will hold a one-day HHW event on Saturday, October 23rd from 8 am to 1 pm. Residents must register ahead of time for a time to drop off.

E. Second Quarter Performance Measures

Attachment C contains an overview of the performance measures from the second quarter of 2021.

F. Environmental Enforcement Program

Attachment D shows activity of the deputy through August 2021.

7. Tentative Future Agenda Items

8. Policy Committee Members' Comments

9. Public Comments

10. Upcoming R3Source Meetings

The next Policy Committee meeting is scheduled for **Wednesday, November 17, 2021**. This meeting is currently scheduled be held in person at 250 William Howard Taft Road, Cincinnati, Ohio 45219, first floor.

11. Adjournment (Target Time: 3:00 p.m.)

Attachment A

**DRAFT MINUTES OF A REGULAR MEETING OF
HAMILTON COUNTY RECYCLING AND SOLID WASTE DISTRICT
POLICY COMMITTEE**

DATE: July 21, 2021

TIME: 1:30 p.m.

PLACE: Hamilton County Environmental Services
250 William Howard Taft Road
Cincinnati, Ohio 45219

PRESENT: **Policy Committee Members**

Tony DiPuccio, Generator Representative, Chair
Bob Gedert, Public Member, Vice Chair
Karen Hurley, General Interest Member
Sue Magness, Largest Municipality Representative
Raj Rajagopal, Township Representative
Larry Riddle, Rumpke
Lily Ritch, Student Representative

Staff

Michelle Balz, Solid Waste Manager
Gage Bradford, Community Specialist
Mary Copenbaker, Business Outreach Coordinator
Brad Johnson, Director
Ali Khodadad, Operations Manager
Mike Kramer, Assistant Director
Joy Landry, Communications Specialist
Tom Mohr, Digital/Communications Manager
Cher Mohring, Community Outreach Coordinator
Susan Schumacher, Assistant Solid Waste Specialist, Clerk

Others in Attendance

Nee Fong Chin, Prosecutor's Office
Craig Davidson, Hamilton County Public Health
Carrie Davis, Child Advocacy for Jobs & Equity
Katie Evans, Best Way Disposal
Erin Fay, Cincinnati Recycling and Reuse Hub
Oliver Kroner, Office of Environment and Sustainability
Gina Marsh, Chief of Staff for Commissioner Driehaus
Amanda Testerman, Office of Environment and Sustainability

ABSENT: **Policy Committee Members**

Denise Driehaus, County Commissioner
Greg Kesterman, Hamilton County Public Health Representative

1. CALL TO ORDER

Mr. DiPuccio called the meeting to order at 1:33 pm.

2. CLERK'S REPORT

A. Approval of Minutes – May 19, 2021 Policy Committee Meeting

Mr. DiPuccio asked if everyone had a chance to read the minutes and asked if there were any corrections or additions. Hearing none, Mr. DiPuccio entertained a motion to accept the minutes as submitted. Ms. Magness moved to approve the minutes. Mr. Gedert seconded. All in favor and the minutes were approved.

B. Additions to the Agenda

There were no additions to the agenda.

3. DISTRICT REVENUE UPDATES/ANALYSIS

Ms. Balz stated that revenue increased slightly comparing May 2021 to May 2020. Overall, there is a 6,900 ton increase and \$29,000 increase over 2020.

Ms. Balz stated that in-district tonnage has decreased 13,000 over 2020, out-of-state tonnage has decreased over 2020 by 2,600 tons, and out-of-district has increased by about 23,000 tons over 2020. Overall, not a huge shift percentagewise over 2020.

Mr. Gedert asked how in-district tonnage was trending over the years. Ms. Balz stated that from the top of her head, it has gone down over the years. Ms. Balz stated she could verify this by creating a spreadsheet for the Committee.

Mr. Gedert asked how the District's success was measured and asked if it was through the diversion rate. Ms. Balz stated that the diversion rate is one but staff also, depending on the program, tries to come up with a good measurement; whether it be tons, how many people were reached, how many compost bins were sold, etc.

4. POLICY COMMITTEE ITEMS

A. 2022 Budget Recommendation

Ms. Balz stated that the District must submit the budget to the County Commissioners for official approval. The 2022 budget is very similar to the 2021 and it is presented in the same way as past budgets have been presented.

Ms. Balz highlighted a few of the differences:

The 2022 proposed budget amount of approximately \$3.8 million is similar to the 2021 budget. Key differences include:

- **\$46,147.10 increase in Department staffing.** Funds pay for the solid waste portion of an additional full-time Department of Environmental Services Accountant and Social Media Intern as well as an increase in medical benefit costs.
- **\$35,000 for Solid Waste vehicle.** The District needs a larger capacity vehicle and will not purchase in 2021 due to nationwide vehicle shortage.
- **\$25,700 for office improvements.** Funds pay for the solid waste portion of the Department of Environmental Services reception area remodel, installation of electric vehicle charging stations, and office furniture.
- **\$100,000 decrease for Plan Update consultants.** Solid Waste Plan Update consultant costs will come out of the 2021 budget, not 2022.

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- **\$16,386 increase for Yard Trimmings Drop-Off.** Staff anticipates costs for this program will increase in 2022.
- **\$15,000 decrease in awareness.** Staff anticipates costs for awards ceremony and a wasted food event will be less than budgeted for in 2021.
- **\$10,000 increase in Let's Stop Waste.** Staff anticipates launching a larger promotion campaign directed toward commercial businesses and institutions.
- **\$50,000 increase in Waste Reduction Innovation Grant.** This increase boosts the amount of funds available for the Waste Reduction Innovation Grant or makes available funds for another grant program.

Ms. Balz stated that she also wanted to point out that with their being a significant carry-over balance, we would like to incorporate discussions on how to use these funds into the Plan Update discussions over the next year.

Ms. Balz summarized the rest of the budget packet.

A brief question/answer ensued.

Mr. DiPuccio stated that the 2022 budget will be proposed to the Board of County Commissioners and asked for a motion. Ms. Hurley moved; Mr. Hurley seconded. All in favor and the motion was approved.

5. INFORMATONAL ITEMS

A. Recognition of Lily Ritch

Mr. DiPuccio stated that this was Ms. Ritch's, who was the Student Representative, last meeting and held up a framed certificate to show her. Mr. DiPuccio stated that the Committee really appreciated her input as she always got the Committee thinking in a little different way.

Mr. DiPuccio thanked Ms. Ritch and wished her well in her future endeavors. Ms. Ritch thanked the Committee and stated that it has been such a dream. It's brought her and her peers at school and her environmental class closer and she was grateful for the experience. Ms. Ritch thanked the Committee.

B. Cincinnati Recycling and Reuse Hub

Ms. Fay introduced herself and gave a brief presentation about the Cincinnati Recycling and Reuse Hub; history, location, what they accept, funding, etc.

C. Cincinnati Biochar Project

Mr. Kroner introduced himself and gave a presentation about doing a bio-char project in the City of Cincinnati.

D. Child Advocacy for Rights and Equity Presentation

Ms. Davis introduced herself and gave a presentation regarding her opposition that the Hamilton County Solid Waste Management Plan does not include a siting strategy and to stop the Bond Road Rumpke Expansion. Ms. Davis also asked that the Committee pass a motion to have the Director appoint an ad hoc committee to propose possible rules for the Board of County Commissioners that may improve the quality of life and the environment and give residents a voice.

E. Hamilton County Solid Waste Plan Update

Ms. Balz stated that staff is in the process of entering into a contract with a consultant for a few sections of the Plan Update. Ms. Balz stated that staff is reviewing the proposal for the Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion consultant and working on a few sections as stated in the Manager's Memo.

F. Waste Reduction Innovation Grant Overview

Ms. Balz stated that one grant has been approved since the last meeting as included as Attachment D.

G. 2019 Organics Diversion Grant Final Wrap-Up

Ms. Balz stated that Attachment E was the final wrap up of the 2019 Organics Diversion Grant and Ms. Mohring did a great job in the write up.

H. Environmental Enforcement Program

Ms. Balz stated that Attachment F showed activity through June, 2021.

6. FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS

Ms. Magness asked that Bio-Char be a future agenda item since the City will be requesting funds for this program. A brief discussion ensued regarding grant money/seed money for operations.

7. POLICY COMMITTEE MEMBERS' COMMENTS

There were no Policy Committee Member comments.

8. PUBLIC COMMENTS

There were no public comments.

9. UPCOMING DISTRICT MEETINGS

The next Hamilton County Recycling and Solid Waste Policy Committee meeting will be held on Wednesday, September 15, 2021. The meeting will be a hybrid of in person for Committee members/staff and Zoom for others wishing to attend virtually. The meeting will begin at 1:30 p.m. at 250 William Howard Taft Road, 1st Floor, Cincinnati, Ohio 45219. Meeting information will be sent at a later date.

10. ADJOURNMENT (Target Time – 3:00 p.m.)

Mr. DiPuccio asked for a motion to adjourn. Ms. Magness moved; Mr. Gedert seconded. All were in favor and the meeting was adjourned at 3:44 p.m.

Attachment C

**2021 Hamilton County Recycling and Solid Waste District
2nd Quarter Results**

	Performance Measure		2nd Quarter Results		Year to Date Results	
Direct Service Programs						
Yard Trimmings Drop-off	Drop-off visits	24,500	Drop-off visits	3,648	Drop-off visits	3,883
	Tons diverted from landfill	3,000	Tons diverted from landfill	602	Tons diverted from landfill	647
Household Hazardous Waste Drop-Off Program	Households participating	1,600	Households participating	0	Households participating	0
Tire Clean-ups (KCB and OEPA grants)	Tires collected	5,000	Tires collected	4,778	Tires collected	4,997
	Participating communities	15	Participating communities	12	Participating communities	13
Event Recycling	Events using District containers	N/A	Events using District containers	1	Events using District containers	1
	Residents reached	N/A	Residents reached	10,000	Residents reached	10,000
Illegal Dumping Enforcement Program	Citations	70	Citations	18	Citations	37
	Cases Investigated	140	Cases Investigated	21	Cases Investigated	42
Compost Bin Sale - 5/15/21	Bins sold	650	Bins sold	317	Bins sold	317

Grant Programs

Residential Recycling Incentive Program	Provide funding to communities based on tons recycled.	N/A	Funding provided to communities			
Waste Reduction Innovation Grant	Applications received	10	Applications received	2	Applications received	9
Smart Kitchen Initiative	Implement technology or technical assistance in commercial kitchen	5	Kitchens implemented	0	Kitchens implemented	0
Market Development Grants	Tons of manufacturing capacity added		Tons of manufacturing capacity added	0	Tons of manufacturing capacity added	0
	Applicants assisted	1	Applicants assisted	0	Applicants assisted	0
Community Development Grant	Applicants Assisted	1	Applicants assisted	0	Applicants assisted	1
Ohio EPA Recycling Partnership Grant	Households Reached	20,000	Households Reached	11,387	Households Reached	11,387
	Contamination Reduced	30%	Contamination Reduced	22%	Contamination Reduced	22%
Yard Trimmings Infrastructure Grant	Tons diverted	14	Tons diverted	3	Tons diverted	7

Technical Assistance

Pollution Prevention Internships	Interns Placed	1	Interns Placed	2	Interns Placed	2
General Technical Assistance	Website inquiries	350	Website inquiries	94	Website inquiries	202
	Hotline calls received	4,500	Hotline calls received	1,141	Hotline calls received	2,096
Let's Stop Waste	Facilities Assisted	100	Total Facilities Assisted	14	Total Facilities Assisted	35
	Schools	35	Schools	2	Schools	4
	Office/Retail/Institutions	75	Office/Retail/Institutions	11	Office/Retail/Institutions	25
	Bars/Restaurants	5	Bars/Restaurants	1	Bars/Restaurants	4
	Multi-Families	6	Multi-Families	0	Multi-Families	2
	People Reached	20,000	People Reached	2,155	People Reached	4,162
513Green Certification	Organizations Certified	10	Organizations Certified	1	Organizations Certified	3
Waste Audit	Organizations Audited	3	Organizations Audited	2	Organizations Audited	2
Small Scale Community Composting Training	Implement phase two and three of program	N/A		0		

Outreach and Awareness

Social Media	Social media followers	8,500	Social media followers	8,152	Social media followers	8,152
	Compost blog page views	77,200	Compost blog page views	17,185	Compost blog page views	27,588

**2021 Hamilton County Recycling and Solid Waste District
2nd Quarter Results**

Website (unique page views)	Overall visitors to website	250,000	Overall visitors to website	52,770	Overall visitors to website	101,458
	Recycling and Reuse Outlets	22,040	Recycling and Reuse Outlets	4,505	Recycling and Reuse Outlets	8,478
	HHW (D.O, Regular HHW page)	24,506	HHW (D.O, Regular HHW page)	2,991	HHW (D.O, Regular HHW page)	5,576
	TAKE Back Your Home	750	TAKE Back Your Home	305	TAKE Back Your Home	603
Residential Campaign Reduce/Reuse/Recycle	Develop behavior change marketing campaign		Campaign in development	0 0		
Save the Food Campaign	Develop behavior change marketing campaign		Campaign in development	0		0
Public Events	People reached	N/A	People reached	160	People reached	160
	Events attended		Events attended	2	Events attended	2
School Based Programs	Assemblies and classroom	95	Assemblies and classroom	122	Assemblies and classroom	170
	Field trips	0	Field trips	1	Field trips	1
	School events	0	School Events	0	School Events	0
	Students and adults reached	2,100	Students and adults reached	2,453	Students and adults reached	3,367
Adult Seminars/Education	Residents reached	2,100	Residents reached	331	Residents reached	691
	Presentations	35	Presentations	6	Presentations	17
Annual Awards Program	Implement awards program			0		
Community Outreach	Target communities assisted	2	Target communities assisted	1	Target communities assisted	2
	General community meetings	10	General community meetings	4	General community meetings	4
Information Emails	Residents opening email	32,000	Residents opening email	3,407	Residents opening email	10,413
District Newsletter	Stakeholders reached	6,000		0		879
Wasted Food Event	Attendees	NA		0		0

Data Management/Reporting

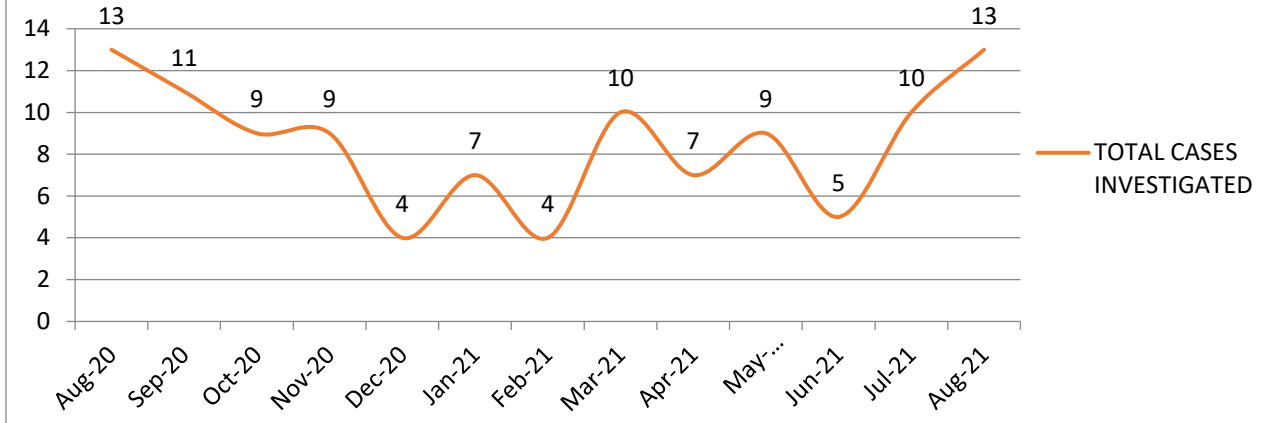
OEPA Annual District Report	Submit complete report to OEPA		Report submitted to OEPA	
	Conduct commercial recycling survey		Survey complete	

Regional and State Leadership

OSWDO	Attend Quarterly Meetings	4	Meetings attended	1	Meetings attended	3
Regional Solid Waste Meetings	Meetings organized and attended	2	Meetings organized and attended	3	Meetings organized and attended	4

Attachment D

2020-2021 Hamilton County Environmental Enforcement Activity



2021 Complaints Received of Illegal Dumping [\(click for interactive version\)](#)

