

Draft SWAAC Meeting Minutes  
Albemarle County Solid Waste Alternatives Advisory Committee  
November 18, 2021

Attendance:

SWAAC: Christine Hirsh-Putnam, Peggy Gilges, Jesse Warren, Margaret Eldridge, Navarre Bartz, Monty Harris, Teri Kent, Victoria Walsh

Liaisons: Liz Palmer, Donna Price, Phil McKalips, Elizabeth Jones

Others Attending: Betsey Soulsby

Absent: Anne Johnson, Sage Bradburn

**Guest Speaker:** UVA's Sustainability Director, Andrea Trimble - [Executive Order 77](#)  
implementation on the UVA campus

- Phase 1a- stop the use of certain single-use plastic food containers by July 21, 2021
- Phase 1b- inventory and phase-out use of all other single-use plastic (not including certain laboratory and medical supplies) by 2025
- Working group formed in March 2021 to develop a plan
- Worked with [Virginia Sustainability in Higher Education \(VASHE\)](#)
- [UVA's Single-use Plastics Reduction Strategy](#)
- Every UVA purchaser and event planner is required to watch a training webinar
- Looked at UVA purchasing platforms to remove single-use plastics making it more difficult for the items to be ordered.
- [Zero Waste Event Guide](#)
- Worked on improving recycling and composting infrastructure. Contamination is a challenge. Using popup stations with student volunteers to guide and educate users. Making use of H2O fill stations near food trucks.
- Extensions and challenging next steps for phase 1: garbage bag liners, plastic water bottles in concessions, 3rd party vendors/local restaurants/caterers, vending machines, and existing inventory
- One of the biggest challenges for both phases is that UVA purchasing is decentralized
- Phase 1b and beyond- UVA is committed to minimizing plastic use and not relying on recycling. The 2030 UVA Sustainability Plan Goals are in place regardless of what happens to EO77 with a new Governor.
- Q & A
  1. How to educate around proper composting? Zero Waste Ambassador Program and training members of Student Council. Composting remains a challenge due to contamination.
  2. A list of restaurants/caterers that comply is available for the County to use for future events. All vendors on the [America to Go](#) platform will have to comply.
  3. Vendors are allowed to add a fee for certain single-use items like utensils allowing the vendors to pass the cost to consumers rather than having to absorb it.
  4. Cost? The use of water fountains and H2O stations can minimize plastics and save money. A focus on single-use container reduction rather than moving to compostables can save money.

5. Signage and training slides can be shared for County use.
6. Steps to encourage the use of reusables like water bottles and cups? Mixed results in how those items are used. Better results when a reusable coffee cup is paired with a discount when used.
7. George Mason University is a good example of [zero waste](#) initiatives

Welcome to new SWAAC members: Victoria Walsh and Sage Bradburn

Victoria Walsh worked as a sustainability consultant with [MBDC](#) for 7 years. Presently the Sustainability Coordinator for IPG ([Intertape Polymer Group](#)). Victoria is interested in material reuse and circular economy. We are excited to have her join SWAAC.

#### Action Items:

- Peggy will contact Lowes about garden pots and fluorescent tube lights. If we can formulate the ask, Monty has a contact in Lowes real estate department he can tap.
- Teri and Anne will discuss preparing a news story about illegal dumping in Albemarle. Pending
- Lance and EJ will share GBB case studies with SWAAC in first quarter of 2022
- Anne will share information about PWPAC meetings.
- Use RSWA's Facebook page to promote glass recycling at RSWA facilities- Phil
- Christine will start to assemble a list of local haulers with contact information and information about where they take waste and recycling.

#### Old Business:

- October SWAAC minutes approved.
- EJ will share future litter clean-up event schedule
- "Quick Reference"/County Recycling, Reuse, HHW Guide has been updated and posted- Cville Lowes is taking plastic garden pots, but not fluorescent tubes.
- Chuck Reigle, Senior Vice-President of Government Affairs and DRS Compliance for TOMRA Systems ASA will join the December meeting
- Jay Zook of GFL will attend our January meeting to talk about their service and answer any questions we may have.
- Update C3 blog post on local recycling- Christine is still working on this.

#### County report, EJ

- The Southern Convenience Center is in the design phase. The compactors have a 9-month lead time so this will delay the opening until December 2022. The price of steel has tripled and equipment prices have doubled, so the SCC in the design phase is over budget due to external price increases.
- Litter Pickup Events: Over the three events there were more than 100 volunteers picking up almost 200 bags of trash. Picked up over 200 lbs of large item trash. Partnered with Rivanna River Alliance (RCA) for the first event. Partnerships are important for the success of these events. The fourth event will happen in the spring with a plan to partner with the City.

- Serena Gruia would like 2-3 “Evergreen” announcements/PSAs that are not time-delineated to put into the Let’s Talk Albemarle podcasts.
- Yancey Community Center event media coverage included CBS report and [Let’s Talk Albemarle podcast](#) along with other social media.
- Liz suggested a podcast on UVA’s EO 77 efforts. Teri is interested in doing a blog post about the litter events. Christine made a plug for ACPS involvement in future litter events. Liz asked that steps be taken to make sure a list of zero waste vendors are available for County events.
- GBB report with case studies should be ready to share with SWAAC in the first quarter of 2022.

#### Planning and Vision Group report

- Next topic to explore is leaf pickup in the County urban ring to address the concern that leaves are ending up in the landfill. Peggy wondered if Panorama Farm pays for the leaves the City delivers to them.

#### Operations Group report

- Glass in Nelson County- Phil talked to Strategic Materials and they are interested in possibly helping to co-fund containers.
- Owens-Illinois has a charitable foundation that could give to local United Way chapters in reciprocity for the glass. RSWA can not receive a donation. Monty has another call with the OI VP of Sustainability to avoid perceived procurement roadblocks.
- School composting- Teri created a poster for the back of the house compost program. Christine thinks there is an opportunity to tap into the Piedmont Master Gardener (PMG) volunteers when the schools are ready to start composting in the cafeteria. PMG provided a program about composting for all the 1st and 3rd graders at Greer in November.
- Monty, Teri, and Christine are working with C3 on promoting composting in the private schools.
- Shirese or someone else at TJPDC will be working on the next Solid Waste Management Plan and has proposed that this plan be worked on incrementally and initiated earlier.
- Next meeting Friday, December 3rd at noon.

#### Education and Outreach Group

- MRC spruce up- weed eating around the edges and picking up the cans under the metal container walkway.
- Seeking more volunteers to work as recycling ambassadors.
- Christine is going to reach out to Ed Brooks about a recycling presentation
- Trex field trip in Winchester. January 14th, 21st or February 4th. Christine will send around a doodle poll.

#### Expanding Amnesty Days Discussion:

- Liz suggested a meeting with Phil, Donna and Liz to look more carefully at the details and report back to SWAAC at a future meeting

Meeting adjourned at 5:30. The next meeting will be held on December 9th.