



Albemarle County Solid Waste Alternatives Advisory Committee

TO: ALBEMARLE COUNTY BOARD OF SUPERVISORS
FROM: ANNE JOHNSON, TEDDY HAMILTON, JESSE WARREN - SWAAC
DATE: 03.03.2020
RE: ANNUAL REPORT

The last report from the SWAAC was in April 2019. Since then, the chair position transitioned from Jesse Warren to Anne Johnson. This has been a very productive nine months for the committee since our last report. Major accomplishments include work performed by the three subcommittees that focus and drive the objectives of the SWAAC. The three committees include:

- 1) Outreach, Communication, and Education Subcommittee - led by Anne Johnson. The work of this committee is to - *Focus on developing Sustainable Materials Management (SMM) and related outreach and educational resources to improve the level of understanding in the Albemarle County Community and increase access to resources on solid waste reduction and diversion, reuse, and recycling as well as litter abatement.*
- 2) County and Rivanna Solid Waste Authority Operations Subcommittee - led by Jesse Warren. The work of this committee is to - *Focus on near term activities related to improving SW and recycling infrastructure, operations and ability to measure performance. Includes City/University coordination, measurement and reporting.*
- 3) Planning and Vision Subcommittee - led by Teddy Hamilton. The work of this committee is to - *Focus on long term planning and related activities needed to improve and prepare Sustainable Materials Management for the future in Albemarle County. Includes planning, permitting, infrastructure, and policy.*

Major accomplishments of the SWAAC include:

- Developed an ordinance revision recommendation for Chapter 13, Solid Waste, to improve the collection of solid waste and recycling data from qualifying haulers in order to comply with state requirements.
- Established a closer relationship with the Thomas Jefferson Planning District (TJPDC). Shirese Franklin is attending monthly SWAAC meetings.
- Developed a recommendation to provide equitable access to waste and recycling services to the rural citizens of Albemarle, achieving a comparable standard to other Virginia communities.
- Amended the charge of the SWAAC to allow for 10-12 committee members, providing **more detail on policy areas of focus, and identifying the Committee availability for review and input on proposed actions that contain a solid waste/SMM component.**
- Developed a Recycling Ambassadors program to work on “Recycling Right” with leadership from RSWA.
- Developed waste and recycling content in coordination with FES for new Albemarle County website.

This following is organized by the activities of each subcommittee. Key issues of the subcommittee represent the opinion of the SWAAC as a whole and are also presented.

Outreach, Communication, and Education Subcommittee

- Handed out reusable bags and America Recycles day pins to patrons at McIntire Recycling Center on America Recycles Day.
- Developed content related to solid waste and recycling for the updated Albemarle County website in coordination with FES. Content included expanded resources to the community about where they can donate or recycle beyond McIntire and IVY MUC.
- Planned outreach for International Composting Awareness Week.

Focus for the next 6 months/year:

1. Coordinate with the Operations Subcommittee and RSWA to Staff the Ambassador Pilot for a short duration (3-6 months.)
 - Solicit volunteers for the Ambassador Pilot. SWAAC Members are encouraged to participate.
 - Identify Objectives for Ambassador Pilot & Program. Objectives for the pilot may be different than the program.
 - Complete training & safety documents for the Pilot.
 - Implement the Pilot and report back to SWAAC with progress/success.
2. Facilitate local outreach effort for International Compost Awareness Week (ICAW) with City of Charlottesville, local composters, and local non-profits. Develop communication campaign with local radio and other outlets to raise awareness of events.
3. Continue to develop and refine solid waste and recycling content for the Albemarle County Website
4. Plan to host a meeting a meeting of local haulers to socialize “Recommended Amendment to Albemarle County Code Chapter 13, *Solid Waste Disposal and Recycling*” contingent upon authorization by BOS and FES.

County and RSWA Operations Subcommittee

- Presented at Virginia Recycling Association Annual Members Meeting 10/30/2019: “Solid Waste and Climate Change”. Panelists included Craig Coker, Susan Elliot, Liz Palmer and Narissa Turner; moderated by Jesse Warren.
- Hosted for the general public (about 30 attendees) for two Climate Monday sessions related to Sustainable Materials Management (SMM). First there was a listening session to discuss SMM at large and possible goals for the community (6/3/2019) as well as a recap to discuss our progress (7/22/2019). These were moderated by Jesse Warren, and featured many SWAAC members as Albemarle County participants & subject matter experts.

Focus for the next 6 months/year:

1. The Operations Subcommittee has laid the preliminary groundwork for establishing an Ambassadors Program at McIntire Recycling Center. After engaging with the public on America Recycles Day, it became apparent that there was demand for this service and volunteers to help improve knowledge and reduce contamination at McIntire Recycling Center. These volunteers need a successful pilot program to demonstrate the value they can bring. The Communications Subcommittee will take on the responsibility for supporting RSWA to rollout the Ambassadors Committee.
2. Prepare a Draft Statement of Work for a consultant to help support Albemarle County Waste Goals.
3. Put together model reporting on available solid waste metrics for the website.

Planning and Vision Subcommittee

- Researched and prepared revisions to Albemarle County Ordinance, “Recommended Amendment to Albemarle County Code Chapter 13, *Solid Waste Disposal and Recycling*”, voted out of the SWAAC to County Legal staff at January 2020 meeting.
- Researched and prepared letter to BOS recommended budgeting for convenience centers starting FY21 and continuing annually until up to 6 centers have been constructed in the County. Voted out of SWAAC to County staff at January 2020 meeting for inclusion in an upcoming BOS meeting packet.
- Submitted revisions of SWAAC Charter to SWAAC. After discussion and further revision by Committee, Charter revision was approved and voted out of Committee by SWAAC to County staff at January 2020 meeting for inclusion in an upcoming BOS meeting packet.

Focus for the next 6 months/year:

1. Evaluating and providing recommendations re: solid waste and policy implications of artificial turf use.
2. Evaluating relevant legislation emanating from 2020 General Assembly Session and reporting back to SWAAC at monthly meetings with noted action items for County implementation; assessing future legislative requests.

3. Continuing to develop convenience center implementation strategy.

4. Review and recommend updates to objectives for Goal 3 of the County’s Environmental Stewardship Sustainability Plan 2013 – 2020: Promote and pursue the reduction of waste that goes to landfill.

Objective 3.1: Decrease the volume of materials generated by the County and sent to landfill by 2% each year for 10 years by adopting the “reduce, reuse and recycle” practice; adopt environmentally preferable purchasing policies as allowed by the Virginia Public Procurement Act.

Objective 3.2: Increase awareness of and opportunities for business and residents to recycle their used goods.

Objective 3.3: Communicate awareness of cost savings opportunities associated with renovation and rehabilitation of existing buildings versus new construction.

5. Evaluate possible residential curbside composting program pilot program for a selected neighborhood.
6. Evaluate Chapter 13 of County Ordinances for further modification re: recycling.