

**ULSTER COUNTY RESOURCE RECOVERY AGENCY
ZERO WASTE COMMITTEE MEETING MINUTES**

August 14, 2025 at 5:15 PM

Meeting End Time: 6:18 PM

The Ulster County Resource Recovery Agency usually holds the ZWC Meetings at the Agency's Main Office, 999 Flatbush Road, Kingston, NY. However, due to a pest issue (i.e. bees) at the Main Office, the ZWC Meeting was held at the Ulster County Town Hall at 1 Enterprise Drive, Lake Katrine, NY.

ROLL CALL

Committee Members

Donna Egan x _____
James Gordon Late
Erica Brown x _____

Agency Staff

Marc Rider x _____
Timothy DeGraff x _____
Angelina Brandt x _____
Tim Weidemann x _____
Nancy Lam x (Remote)

James Gordon arrived at 5:44 PM

Andrew Ghiorse was present at the ZWC Meeting.

Present at the Zero Waste Committee meeting were the following individuals from the public: Manna Jo Greene, Ulster County Legislature.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

PUBLIC COMMENT (recording 2:33-3:18)

Manna Jo Greene, Ulster County Legislature: She stated that she is anxious to see movement in the Zero Waste Plan. She also stated that her experience with the Agency and in the legislature, as well as other various committees is that we are all learning through planning; however she noted she will be very happy once things get done.

APPROVAL OF AGENDA

Erica Brown made a motion to approve the agenda, and it was seconded by Donna Egan. 2 in favor, 0 opposed and 1 absent (GORDON).

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

- Minutes of July 10, 2025, Zero Waste Committee Meeting

Erica Brown made a motion to approve the July 10, 2025 Minutes and it was seconded by Donna Egan. 2 in favor, 0 opposed and 1 absent (GORDON).

COMMUNICATIONS & ANNOUNCEMENTS

- Zero Waste Committee Meeting is scheduled for September 11, 2025 at 5:15pm.

OLD (UNFINISHED) BUSINESS (none)**NEW BUSINESS** (recording 04:25:00)

Tire Recycling Presentations began at 5:21PM:

- "Waste Tire Recycling In New York State" Presentation by Kathleen Prather, Supervisor of Solid Waste Recovery and Medical Waste Section – Albany Central Office of Dept of Environmental Conservation, Division of Materials Management (recording 4:25-25:11)

Kathleen appeared remotely to provide a brief overview of the studies and research that have been conducted on tire recycling and the work she does at DEC. As the Supervisor of Solid Waste Recovery and Medical Waste Section of DEC, she does a lot of work with tire recycling facilities and in beneficial use and recycling of tires. She informed the committee of the brief regulatory history involving waste tire management:

- **2003 Waste Tire Management and Recycling Act** (ECL Art. 27, Title 19) established fund through assessment of \$2.50 levy on every new tire purchased in NYS; It banned landfill disposal of tires in NY; it set up noncompliant waste tire abatement site cleanup program; funded 2006 Tire Markets Study by NYS Dept of Economic Development (Empire State Development); and funded Tire Markets research by SUNY at Buffalo (UB) in 2021-2023 (completed first phase).
- Laws:
 - o 1989 see Subpart 360-13 Waste Tire Storage Facilities
 - o Nov 4, 2017 see Subpart 361-6 Waste Tire Storage Facilities – overhaul of solid waste management regulations
 - o Current Regulations, July 22, 2023 see subpart 361-6 with some revisions.

Kathleen stated that based on UB's research and data, approx. 19 million waste tires are generated every year in NYS (~1 tire per person). In 2018 – 11.2 mil tires; in 2019 went down to 10.6 mil and she proffered that it was due to uncounted exempt tire storage sites (because if you have 1k tires or fewer, you do not have to report); also, there are fewer illegal tire disposal sites. In 2018 and 2019 the largest companies handling tires (more than 70% tires) are:

- HTI Recycling
- Casings, Inc.
- CRM Co. LLC (Crumb rubber manufacturers)

She noted that the metrics she has from UB are what they have, even though the dates of the data seem old. She mentioned a few more metrics (i.e. breakdown of tire types: 80% are passenger tires; 19% are truck; <1% are off-road, loaders, which are hard to recycle). DEC's data shows that there are about 10 permitted waste tire handling and recovery facilities and 20 registered facilities (per 6 NYCRR 361-6). She showed a Waste Tire Transport map, and informed that if a truck is transporting more than 80 tires, the truck needs a permit. She notes the big generators and transportation of waste tires are unsurprisingly: Rochester, Buffalo, Syracuse, Binghamton, Albany, NYC.

She stated beneficial uses of waste tire, such as 1) Crumb Rubber, which is not a solid waste under ECL, 2) small projects like retaining walls, mats 3) farms, 4) use in landfill (tire chips and shreds- fallen out of favor). There has been a decline in using tire waste in fuel due to air regulations because of toxic substance emitting into the air. She stated that DEC and UB have a goal to do what it takes in policy to find sustainable tire waste management options or other markets to recycle tires. UB is interested in looking into converting tires through

pyrolysis but controversial due to emission concerns. Also want to take another look into rubberized asphalt. Baled Tires, she believes are bad uses/ DEC does not want to encourage.

She stated the following goals on the horizon:

- UB will begin Phase 2 of their research this year, which includes a deeper dive into leached chemicals in the environment from tire rubber
- REMADE Institute (Rochester, NY) launched a NYS Waste Tire program earlier this year funded through Empire State Development to fund R&D projects for innovative tire reuse technologies and markets
- Extended Producer Responsibility program for tires, UB strongly recommends, though it would be up to Legislature to take this up

She concluded her presentation by providing reference links and her contact information and said that she e-mailed the slides of her presentation to Tim DeGraff.

She answered a few questions after her presentation:

- Marc Rider asked about the \$2.50 levy established under the ECL- to him that levy is a kind of EPR; what has UB been looking to add to EPR programs for tires? Kathleen's response to the question is that according to UB's policy, it actually contrasts the levy with EPR and does not equate the two; an EPR program for tires would look more like the paint care EPR programs. She stated that she thinks legislature would require industry to pay into a fund to create a stewardship organization, like paint care; then consumers would be able to bring tires to a shop/central location free of charge. She distinguished the program with what occurs currently, which is you pay a fee and the fee goes to DEC to manage the program.
 - Chairperson Donna Egan asked how far we are from a realistic EPR Program for tires? Kathleen responded that it is just a thought because she does not know if anyone in legislature has proposed it. She has not seen it mentioned in any bills that she reviewed.
 - Chairperson Donna Egan asked whether DOT is not being receptive as they sound like they could be a huge market. Kathleen responded that DOT has been burned before: and stated an example of DOT using demonstration roadway that didn't work well- it cracked on roads south of Albany. But she stated that technology has improved quite a bit, especially with crumb rubber being used in sealant. She noted how competitive the bidding process can be and the complicated layers involving that.
 - Chairperson Donna Egan asked whether recycled tires contained mercury in its emissions. Kathleen responded that she is unsure if it was mercury, however the takeaway to her point is that tire derived fuel was contributing negative effects to emissions, so that has stopped.
- "End-of-Life Tire Management" Presentation by Amelia Chucholowski, USTMA (US Tire Manufacturers Association) began around 5:45pm (recording 28:45- 58:55).

Amelia also attended remotely to provide a presentation with respect to emerging markets and market trends as it relates to Tire manufacturers, recycling and zero waste. She stated that USTMA represents about 11 tire manufacturers in the US. USTMA releases an End of Life Tire (ELT) Management Report at the end of every 2 years. She stated that they will be releasing 2025 data next year, and the current presentation is regarding 2023 data. Also, the data is about passenger and truck tires in US—data regarding Off the road tires is not included.

USTMA is the national trade association for tire manufacturers that produce tires in the US. (responsible for 291,000 jobs and \$170.6 billion economic footprint.) She stated their vision which is that members have the

goal that all ELTs enter sustainable and circular end use markets. She provided some data regarding US ELT Generation (2023) and noted that state data is reported differently, so when reviewing the data to be careful in what the numbers are actually saying. She noted markets that went up: including export markets (exports to India), Electric Arc Furnace (although they did not want to share info with them), and markets that went down such as Reclamation Projects, and other small markets like Agriculture, punch and stamped markets, pyrolysis. She also presented a chart showing data of the smaller markets that showed losses that were offset by new exports, especially to India and other small market gains. She showed a graph that showed the US ELT Market Trend from 2015-2023 that showed in 2021, the amount of generated tires jumped from 71% to 79%; she believes 2025 will show similar numbers to 2021. She showed a pie graph showing the disposition of ELT in 2023, that showed that tire derived fuel was about 33%, ground rubber was about 28%, land disposal was 19%, civil engineering was 6% and remaining uses (such as exported, reclamation projects etc.) accounted for 14%. She noted that US Tire Derived Fuel was the largest market in 2023 (i.e. Cement Kilns 51%, Pulp & Paper 36% and Electric Utilities 13%). She noted that all the data has been affected by several factors such as Covid 2020 and the war in Ukraine that started in 2022 that increased the demand to purchase, and raised the cost of natural gas.

She noted that the second largest market in 2023 was Ground Rubber Markets (i.e. Sports Surfaces 26%, Playground Loose Mulch 29%, Molded & Extruded 27%, Asphalt 12% and Automotive 6%). She stated that she sees investment in these markets and sees growth in loose mulch for playgrounds. She stated that there was no growth in sport surfaces due to health concerns in 2017-2019, however now she sees growth after studies have been conducted on sport surfaces by EPA that show no health risks to coaches, players, spectators who are exposed to the surfaces that use crumb rubber. She noted briefly other smaller emerging trends like Pyrolysis and Devulcanization regarding recycling tire waste and the technologies being invested to create a circular tire market.

She provided a graph showing the decrease in US stockpiled ELTs from 1990 to 2023. She also provided a map of the US that showed the remaining stockpiled tires remaining in the US, showing that Colorado (largest), Texas, NM and NJ still have more than 1 million stockpiled tires.

She highlighted information about the Tire Recycling Foundation (Tirerecyclingfoundation.org), and their mission is to recycle 100% of ELT into circular sustainable markets and encouraged people to join or get information on their QR Code.

She then continued to discuss New York specific waste tire recycling information. She notes that achieving zero waste necessitates the development of markets locally to ensure that as many tires are utilized in new products as are produced, because one can collect all the tires, but if there are no markets, the tires collected cannot be recycled into new products (NY is a "Demand Pull Market"). She outlines some potential collaboration efforts:

- CRM (Albany) - ground rubber (Rubber Modified Asphalts)
 - Liberty (West Haven) - ground rubber (mulch, RMA)
 - Rubber Form (Lockport) - ground rubber (municipal Safety products- molded & extruded goods)
- She notes that finding second use/ collaborating close by or locally is key because it is cheaper and more achievable because transporting old tires is expensive. She concludes her presentation with her contact information.

After Amelia's presentation, she answered a few questions (Recording 53:31):

- Chairperson Donna Egan asked, what percentage of the waste stream is made up of tires? Amelia asked Donna Egan whether she meant the tires that have been recycled or of other materials. Donna clarified

she meant other materials; Amelia does not know the answer to that question but can get back to her; Kathleen of DEC pointed out that the State's Solid Waste Management Plan may have some insights on how much of the waste stream is made of tires for NYS.

- Chairperson Donna Egan asked about the health studies that were done regarding the crumb rubber on sport fields: but have there been any studies done on storm water impact using crumb rubber? Amelia responded that there haven't been any studies done on that, although she notes that California is looking into that issue, and that USTMA is looking for grant money to look into ground water.
- Chairperson Donna Egan asked if there are any major processors in NY. Amelia responded that CRM is located in Albany and they focus on ground rubber- RMA. There is also Rubber Form located in Lockport, which focuses ground rubber for municipal safety products like barriers.
- Erica Brown asked out of the tire manufacturers, how many are members of USTMA? Amelia stated USTMA represents about 80% of the market. Erica Brown asked a follow-up question of whether the 80% is of tires produced or manufacturers? Amelia confirmed: 80% of tires produced.

Marc Rider made a final comment and stated that Angelina Brandt, Director of Sustainability was able to look up the waste composition: Rubber, Leather, and Textiles makes up 11% of the waste stream for Ulster County.

Marc Rider also wanted to clarify a question from July's ZWC meeting that: 12 of 19 MRDCs take Tires and 10 of the 19 MRDCs take textiles.

ADJOURN

Motion to adjourn August 14, 2025, Zero Waste Committee Meeting at 6:18 PM was made by James Gordon and seconded by Erica Brown. 3 in favor, 0 opposed, 0 absent.

October 9, 2025

Motion to approve the above transcribed Minutes of August 14, 2025 Zero Waste Committee Meeting was made by Erica Brown, seconded by James Gordon. 2 in favor, 0 opposed, 1 absent (EGAN).

The Minutes were approved by the Board.

Transcribed by: Nancy Lam, Agency Counsel

Signatures:

Donna Egan, Chair



