

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

October 9, 2025 at 5:40 PM

Meeting End Time: 6:11 PM

The Ulster County Resource Recovery Agency held the ZWC Meetings at the Agency's Main Office, 999 Flatbush Road, Kingston, NY.

ROLL CALL

Committee Members

Donna Egan (Chair) Absent
James Gordon x
Erica Brown x

Agency Staff

Marc Rider x
Timothy DeGraff x
Angelina Brandt x
Tim Weidemann x
Nancy Lam x

James Gordon chaired the ZWC Meeting.

Andrew Ghiorse, a member of the Board was present at the ZWC Meeting.

Kevin Truetler, the newly hired Reuse Coordinator was present at the ZWC Meeting.

Present at the Zero Waste Committee meeting were the following individuals from the public: Rebecca Martin, Claudia Joseph- *Recycling Oversight Committee (ROC)*, Poppy Cannon-Reese- *ROC*, Vince Mow- *ROC*, Manna Jo Greene- *Ulster County Legislature*, and William Kemble - *Daily Freeman*.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

PUBLIC COMMENT

Poppy Cannon-Reese, ROC: (recording 22:19) Introduced herself as a member of the Recycling Oversight Committee. She stated that there are other members of the ROC in attendance as well. She spoke on their behalf and indicated that they are in attendance to educate themselves, as members of the ROC.

*Manna Jo Greene, Ulster County Legislature arrived late and was given time after the meeting to provide her public comment. See below. (recording 2:33-3:18).

APPROVAL OF AGENDA

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

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

- Minutes of August 14, 2025, Zero Waste Committee Meeting

Erica Brown made a motion to approve Minutes and it was seconded by James Gordon. 2 in favor, 0 opposed and 1 absent (EGAN).

COMMUNICATIONS & ANNOUNCEMENTS

- Zero Waste Committee Meeting is scheduled for November 13, 2025 at 5:15pm.

OLD (UNFINISHED) BUSINESS

- Update on RePOWER Project: Reuse Pathway for Zero Waste & Economic Resilience, *Marc Rider, Executive Director* (recording 24:48-36:48)

Marc Rider first gave a Power Point presentation regarding the RePOWER Project to refresh the Committee's memory and provide useful information for some of the new members of the ROC. He made a disclaimer that due to the holding pattern UCRRA is currently in regarding the project, some of the information from the slides needs to be updated (i.e. timeline of the plan), since the deck was made in April.

- Nearly 265,000 tons of waste generated in UC in 2023; Only 27% of that amount is currently being diverted, despite successful recycling and composting programs; Remaining 73% is sent via tractor-trailers to Seneca Meadows landfill; Costs: \$13mil (2025) and contribute 87,000 metric tons of carbon in climate-warming emissions each year
- Goals include: UCRRA's new circular economy initiative to divert 90% of waste from landfills by 2050; creating jobs; generating revenue from reclaimed materials; educate the public, encourage and enhance UCRRA's existing recycling and composting programs
- Ulster County conducted a reuse center feasibility study in 2023, which provided the roadmap for the RIC
- Reuse Innovation Center (RIC) – “the Hub”, the central collection site to collect donated items from the public and diverted waste from UCRRA; it would warehouse the inventory of salvaged materials, including cataloging, pricing and sorting; it would process and market the salvaged materials by cleaning, processing and repair. There will be Retail Sales (direct to consumers) for bulk items, and Commercial Sales (wholesale supplier to existing retailers and manufacturers; deconstruction & salvaged building material sales to contractors- hope is that Legislature will also follow with ordinance or mandate). There will also be education and training with partners (i.e. BOCES, SUNY Ulster)
- Collection and Distribution Sites (“the Spokes”): 19 municipally owned sites – Town transfer stations or MRDCs. There will also be an E-Commerce side of this since not everyone can get to the Kingston area.
- The Project will reduce the Agency's costs because diversion reduces operating (T&D) expenses; the Project will also reduce externalized cost (i.e. social cost of carbon, DAC).
- The Project will have a positive environmental impact (i.e. conserving green house gas emissions)
- The expected implementation timeline needs to be updated, however, the Program Management, Startup Phase Operations, Steady-State Operations he anticipates will still happen in 2026
- The slide regarding Capital Costs will also need to be updated as it was created around a site acquisition that is no longer available to UCRRA.
- The Project is funded through: Agency Funds, County Support, and other grants ie EPA SWIFR – we are still in the running.
- Next steps:
 - Land acquisition for site- UCRRA is engaged with Degan Collins as a broker to assist in finding a location.
 - Secure funding and partnership commitments

- Hire program manager
- Convene Reuse and Repair Business to Announce Program Launch
- Select Operator through RFP process (close on this)
- Startup Operations in 2026

After the brief presentation, Marc Rider introduced the new Reuse Coordinator, Kevin Treutler.

(recording 37:04) **Kevin Treutler, Reuse Coordinator:** stated that he has a strong Habitat for Humanity background- he started in Ulster County and then moved to PA to reopen stores that closed during Covid. He was able to transition those stores from a failing location to thriving through: staffing, programing, getting involved with the community, educating what constitutes reuse of an item and what doesn't. Kevin will start with UCRRA on Tuesday.

(recording 38:30) Marc Rider provided an update regarding the Sustainable Hudson Valley Kick-Off Event with stakeholders on 10/23 and then opened the floor for questions or comments:

- Sustainable HV was retained to do a report on Circular Economy in UC, focusing on what type of materials are rich for diversion; convening stakeholders and doing community engagement
- 10/23/25 UCRRA's meeting with Sustainable HV - not open to the public but the Board members and UCRRA Staff will be invited
- Roundtable discussions with their subcontractors will be held after meeting:
 1. Architects, engineers, construction
 2. Manufacturers, repair, makers
 3. Haulers, waste handlers
 4. Reuse Businesses/ Retail Side

(recording 42:19) **Manna Jo Greene, Ulster County Legislature:** She asked to participate in the round table discussion at the Sustainable Hudson Valley Kick Off Event. She then asked the ZWC if the property owned by UCRRA had been ruled out to be used for the RIC. Marc Rider, Executive Director responded that the current property owned by UCRRA has been ruled out due to permitting issues, although DEC said the RIC wouldn't require permits- the agency did not want to run the chance of complicating the existing permits affiliated with UCRRA's property. Finally, she asked if there have been any progress with the Zero Waste Implementation Plan. Marc Rider responded that it currently sits with the Legislature right now (RFQ); it is not before a Committee. She also stated that she hoped to sponsor a bill that would make C&D mandatory, before she left legislature. She hoped to work with the agency to draft the legislation. Marc Rider recommend for her not to wait for the Agency to secure a site before working on such a bill since these processes take time.

Rebecca Martin: asked a question about whether the implementation plan is stuck at a committee and Marc Rider clarified that it is not before a Committee because UC put out a RFQ; the county received 5 responses: all of the responses were higher than the budgeted amount (\$10-15,000)- even the lowest one were 5 times the budget.

NEW BUSINESS

- None

ADJOURN

Motion to adjourn October 9, 2025, Zero Waste Committee Meeting at 6:11 PM was made by Erica Brown and seconded by James Gordon. 2 in favor, 0 opposed, 1 absent (EGAN).

November 13, 2025

Motion to approve the above transcribed Minutes of October 9, 2025 Zero Waste Committee Meeting was made by _____, seconded by _____. in favor, _____ opposed, _____ absent.

The Minutes were approved by the Board.

Transcribed by: Nancy Lam, Agency Counsel

Signatures:

Donna Egan, Chair

DRAFT