

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

**December 11, 2025 at 5:15 PM**

**Meeting End Time: 6:00 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) x \_\_\_\_\_  
James Gordon Absent  
Erica Brown x \_\_\_\_\_

**Agency Staff**

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

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

Present at the Zero Waste Committee meeting were two individuals from the public as well as one member of the public via Teams Video (Claudia Joseph).

**PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE**

**PUBLIC COMMENT**

There was no public comment during the public comment period, however Claudia Joseph, a member of the public who attended via Teams video did ask a few questions regarding the Circular Economy Round Table and provided a brief statement stating that she believes UCRRA is doing great work, at the end of the presentation.

**APPROVAL OF AGENDA**

- The Agenda needed to be corrected: removing “Approval of August 14, 2025 ZWC Meeting Minutes” from the Agenda because those minutes have already been approved during the last meeting.

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

**APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

- Minutes of October 9, 2025, Zero Waste Committee Meeting

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

**COMMUNICATIONS & ANNOUNCEMENTS**

None to report.

**OLD (UNFINISHED) BUSINESS**

None to report.

**NEW BUSINESS**

None to report.

**PRESENTATION**

**Circular Economy Strategic Planning Presentation (2:29-14:55):** Casey Plasker and Tim Wedman presented a summary of the findings from the Circular Economy Strategic Planning Roundtables.

- **Roundtable Structure (3:42-4:03):** Four roundtables were held, focusing on:
  1. Architects, Builders, Engineers, Designers
  2. Makers, Manufacturers, Fixers
  3. Waste Managers
  4. Retail
  
- **Key Highlights and Barriers from Roundtables:**
  - **Architects, Builders, Engineers, Designers (4:18-7:10):** This was the most well-attended and lively roundtable, showing significant momentum in New York State for building material reuse. Discussions included the need for processes around deconstruction (audits, identifying material outlets) and key barriers such as storage and staging for reuse, logistics of moving materials, and policy for regrading and warranting reused products. A low-hanging fruit opportunity identified was utilizing existing and surplus construction materials. 15-20 people attended.
  
  - **Makers, Manufacturers, Fixers (7:12-9:11):** This diverse group discussed informal waste identification and exchange channels, with an opportunity to formalize these into more systematic B2B exchanges. Distributed manufacturing through shared facilities was also explored. The deep participation of the repair ecosystem, including 75 repair cafes, highlighted opportunities to train more people in repair.
  
  - **Waste Managers (9:19-10:55):** Discussions included existing informal systems, particularly with the City of Kingston's DPW sanitation department, and the potential to involve junk services as allies for material reuse. Only 5 people attended.
  
  - **Retail (11:04-13:53):** Two major themes emerging from all roundtables for circularity strategy were built environment and textiles. Conversations focused on public education and formalizing material circulation through marketplaces (digital and physical, like a penny saver). Challenges included quality control and illegal dumping at donation-based retail spaces. An opportunity was identified for shared cooperative resources to support micro-businesses. 13 people attended.
  
- **Next Steps for Circular Economy Strategic Plan (14:01-15:59):**
  - A draft circular economy strategic plan is expected by the end of the month.
  - Stakeholder sessions in January will review the draft strategy and identify implementation pathways.
  - The final report is aimed for presentation to the Board in January.

- The plan is for a global Ulster County circular economy strategy, with implementation pathways that will involve other entities like Ulster County government, Economic Development, and SUNY Ulster.
- Sustainable Hudson Valley plans to revisit their circular economy summit in the first quarter of the new year.
- **Discussion on Participation and Outreach (19:42-27:00):** A committee member questioned the outreach strategy, noting that private haulers were not widely invited and that the process was not publicly advertised, which might have excluded potential entrepreneurs. The speakers explained they wanted to target businesses directly involved in or interested in the circular economy, fearing that a broad public announcement would attract too many advocates instead of business representatives. They acknowledged the need to cast a wider net for future engagement.
- **Entrepreneurial Support and Funding (18:46-27:00):** Discussion on supporting circular economy businesses, with an entrepreneur in residence at NYSERDA attending the launch and expressing interest in facilitating more discussion, mentorship and investment opportunities. Ulster County has an RFP out for entrepreneurship services, and there's a desire for the circular economy plan to inform future entrepreneurship support initiatives.
- **Reuse Innovation Center RFP (34:44-36:18):** UCRRA has an RFP out for an operator of their reuse innovation center, the "RePOwer Project," accessible through Bidnet. Eight to ten entities have downloaded it so far, and it has been widely shared within relevant networks.

**ADJOURN**

Motion to adjourn December 11, 2025, Zero Waste Committee Meeting at 5:53 PM was made by Erica Brown and seconded by Donna Egan. 2 in favor, 0 opposed, 1 absent (GORDON).

March 19, 2026

Motion to approve the above transcribed Minutes of December 11, 2025 Zero Waste Committee Meeting was made by Erica Brown, seconded by Chris Hurlbert. 3 in favor, 0 opposed, 0 absent. (Donna Egan appeared remotely)

The Minutes were approved by the Board.

Transcribed by: Nancy Lam, Agency Counsel

Signatures:

  
Chris Hurlbert, Chair