

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

July 9, 2026 at 5:02 PM

Meeting End Time: 6:46 PM

The Ulster County Resource Recovery Agency held the Zero Waste Committee (ZWC) Meeting at the Agency's Main Office, 999 Flatbush Road, Kingston, NY and live streamed on Youtube.com @UCRRA5008.

ROLL CALL

Board Committee Members

Chris Hurlbert, Chair x
Donna Egan x
Erica Brown x

Community Members

Claudia Joseph x
Manna Jo Greene x
Rebecca Martin Remote
Shabazz Jackson x

Agency Staff

Marc Rider x
Angelina Brandt Excused
Tim Weidemann x
Nancy Lam x
Kevin Treutler Excused

7 out of 9 Present

1 remote

1 absent

Ulster County Legislature:

Chris Hewitt, Chair of Energy, Environment, and Sustainability Committee Absent

Ulster County Association of Supervisors and Mayors:

Alexandria Wojcik, Mayor of the Village of New Paltz Arrived at 5:09

- James Gordon, Chair of UCRRA Board was present for part of the ZWC meeting- arrived at 5:21PM
- Mike Baden, Treasurer of UCRRA Board was present for part of the ZWC meeting- arrived at 6:14PM

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

After rollcall, the Chair led the body to recite the Pledge of Allegiance

PUBLIC COMMENT

No one from the public made a comment.

APPROVAL OF AGENDA

Donna Egan made a motion to approve the Agenda. It was Seconded by Erica Brown.

A vote was taken to approve the Agenda: 6 in favor, 0 opposed, 1 absent (HEWITT). (MARTIN remote; WOJCIK hadn't yet arrived at the time of the vote); the Agenda was approved.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

- Minutes of July 9, 2026 Zero Waste Committee Meeting

Donna Egan made a motion to approve the Minutes and it was seconded by Erica Brown. A vote was taken to approve the Minutes: 6 in favor, 0 opposed, 1 absent (HEWITT). (MARTIN remote; WOJCIK hadn't yet arrived at the time of the vote); the Minutes were approved.

COMMUNICATIONS & ANNOUNCEMENTS

- The next ZWC Meeting will be held on **September 10, 2026 at 5pm**

PRESENTATION:

- ZWC Orientation

The Chair provided a presentation for the new committee members by re-instating the purpose of the ZWC: To orient the Zero Waste Committee on its mission, scope, and strategic timeline for developing a Preliminary Zero Waste Implementation Plan (ZWIP) to inform the upcoming Local Solid Waste Management Plan (LSWMP) revision, with a focus on actionable, feasible initiatives.

(Alexandria Wojcik arrived at meeting at 5:09*)

- Committee Charter, Scope, and Meeting Procedures

Marc Rider, Executive Director provided a brief historical context and overview of the purpose of the Local Solid Waste Management Plan (LSWMP), which is a guidance document that is approved by County Legislature and DEC. UCRRA was designated as the planning unit for UC by the enacting statute when the Agency was created. The LSWMP is required to be updated every 10 years.

The Chair stated: the Zero Waste Committee, a special one-year committee of the UCRRA board, was established to assist the Agency and Board to develop a Preliminary Zero Waste Implementation Plan (ZWIP) that will inform the next LSWMP. The current LSWMP (2020–2029) lacks full integration of zero-waste principles despite legislative support. The goal is to begin LSWMP revisions in 2027 with a consultant, aiming for submission by 2028 and approval by 2029. The committee's role is to provide structured, actionable input to ensure implementable zero-waste initiatives are included. It operates under defined in-scope topics—waste prevention, reuse, recycling, organics, public education, equity, and emerging practices—while avoiding out-of-scope actions like procurement, personnel matters, or directing staff operations. Emphasis was placed on practical impact, feasible and actionable items and being prepared and respectful in order to have productive meetings.

There was a discussion regarding the public survey that the legislature will put out.

- 2026 Work Plan and Timeline

A strategic timeline from July to November 2025 guides the process: idea collection (July), template refinement (August), prioritization criteria and shortlisting (September), funding and partnership exploration (October), and final review, voting, and submission (November).

Scope- the ZWC is to assist and advise the Agency and the Board; ZWC is not a part of the Board.

UPDATES

Marc Rider provided the Executive Director Updates on the following Current Zero Waste Initiatives at UCRRA: (5:29PM-5:45PM)

- **Compost Expansion Project (includes food waste and yard waste)**

- 1) UCRRA has applied twice for a Climate Smart Communities grant without success and is now applying independently or will fund through agency fees.
- 2) Goals include expanding compost collection and processing at municipal transfer stations using either on-site in-vessel composters or electric Ford Lightning trucks for collection.
- 3) Challenges include a drop in food waste collection from 5,000 to ~2,500 tons annually due to a major supplier switching to animal feed, a DEC permit capped at 7,500 tons/year (past violations occurred at overages), and bulk compost sales suspended since April due to low supply (now limited to 5 tons/load, 10 tons/day per customer).

- **ReP0WER Project (or ReUse Innovation Center) – spoke and hub**

- 1) Originated from a 2022 county study and UCRRA reform input.
- 2) Includes TIOLI (Take-It-or-Leave-It) sheds at town transfer stations and a central hub to be operated by Big Reuse (selected via RFP) for redistribution, resale, and wholesaling (e.g., to People's Place, Habitat for Humanity).
- 3) Focuses on C&D debris, aiming to divert 5% via future deconstruction ordinances and a planned secondary diversion building.
- 4) Site selection delayed after 1.5 years; operations may be split across locations. The secondary building is postponed until the hub is operational (originally 2026–2027).

- **Secondary Diversion Building (Hub)-**

- Seen as “cleaner” than present MRF– diverts to Reuse Center
- Bulky furniture
- C&D

- **Mattress Recycling with Renewable Recyclables**

- 1) Partnered with Renewable Recyclables since February/March.
- 2) Initially faced issues: inefficient box trucks (required tractor trailers), slow trailer turnover causing contamination, and last 4 loads landfilled despite \$20/mattress fee.
- 3) Program paused and now resuming with improved logistics, staff training, and contamination protocols (reject non-recyclables).
- 4) Recyclable materials used for insulation and sustainable sandbags.

- **Onsite MRDC**

- 1) Aims to improve safety and zero waste outcomes by enabling full-time e-waste diversion and household hazardous waste (HHW) management.
- 2) Currently limited to 4 HHW events per year; requires hiring a chemist for safe chemical storage and disposal.

NEW BUSINESS

- Organizational Discussion (5:59PM)

- **Committee Priorities and Information Needs:** The Chair of the Committee asked for the committee members to go around the room and provide a brief response as to what their priorities are and whether there are any information needs in order to achieve their prioritized goals:

Manna Joe Greene: Former Recycling Coordinator- Prioritized reuse and composting; suggested stronger collaboration with the Department of Health and organizing a composting expo with the Chamber of Commerce; advocated for a hub-and-spoke system.

Donna Egan: UCRRA Vice Chair - stated that all of the initiatives the agency is already working on are great, but also feels that focus can be on the following “odd-ball” items:

- 1) Tires
- 2) C&D
- 3) Textile
- 4) Scrap metals

Alex Wojcik: As Mayor of the Village of New Paltz, highlighted fragmentation in local waste efforts; for example, shared challenges with compost from a community fridge (i.e. high municipal overtime costs); noted massive potential in diverting textile waste- for example, during college move-out; offered to connect with Earth Law Center interns for pro bono legal support on zero-waste policy and Green Amendment goals.

Claudia Joseph: along with composting, she emphasized systems studies due to fragmented leadership and unclear responsibilities across agencies/ legislature; requested budget transparency and cost-benefit analysis for initiatives to understand economic viability for certain projects (e.g., removing recyclable bottles from glass stream). Marc Rider, Executive Director stated that all UCRRA budgets are publicly available; explained financial model dependence on tipping fees and the net loss in recycling; discussion regarding exploration of alternative funding models, grants, and county support.

Shabazz Jackson: Advocated evaluating transfer station performance, citing New Paltz (<300 tons/year) as a model vs. Hurley (~600 tons/year); suggested scaling best practices for a decentralized system. Info needs- look at volumes, income- using NP as a model to study all the communities

Rebecca Martin: Currently working on water quality/ leachate; Asked for clarification of UCRRA’s goals; the Chair provided a summary of ZWC, indicating the 30-60-90 goal. She stated that it is important for a global theory of change. James Gordon, the Chair of UCRRA who was present in the public at the ZWC meeting spoke to recommend that everyone in the ZWC read the study prepared regarding circular economy by Sustainable Hudson Valley.

Erica Brown: UCRRA Board Member, emphasized relationship building, resource mapping, education, and community psychology to drive behavioral change.

- **Committee Process and Next Steps (6:33PM)**

The Committee Chair will develop initiative cards using a standardized eight-question framework to evaluate and prioritize zero-waste strategies for Ulster County. Committee Members can self-assign to initiative areas and develop cards independently or in informal working groups during July and August, in preparation for the September ZWC Meeting. The idea being that when the full committee meets in September, they will workshop, review, and prioritize cards, aiming to identify those for inclusion in the preliminary ZWIP. Each card must have an identified “owner” and overlapping ideas should be consolidated.

ADJOURN

Motion to adjourn July 9, 2026, Zero Waste Committee Meeting at 6:46 PM was made by Donna Egan and seconded by Shabazz Jackson. 7 in favor, 0 opposed, 0 absent. (MARTIN remote)

September 10, 2026

Motion to approve the above transcribed Minutes of July 9, 2026 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:

Chris Hurlbert, Chair