

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

August 20, 2026 at 5:10 PM

Meeting End Time: 6:55 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 remote

Erica Brown absent

Community Members

Claudia Joseph x

Manna Jo Greene x

Rebecca Martin x

Shabazz Jackson x

Agency Staff

Marc Rider x

Angelina Brandt Excused

Tim Weidemann Excused

Nancy Lam x

Kevin Treutler x

6 out of 9 Present

2 remote

1 absent

Ulster County Legislature:

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

Ulster County Association of Supervisors and Mayors:

Alexandria Wojcik, Mayor of the Village of New Paltz Remote

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

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

PUBLIC COMMENT

No public comment.

APPROVAL OF AGENDA

Shabazz Jackson made a motion to discuss the Agenda. It was Seconded by Claudia Joseph.

Chris Hurlbert, Chair made a motion to remove "Approval of draft July ZWC Meeting Minutes" from the Agenda, so that the Chair can distribute draft minutes for the rest of the committee to review. Rebecca Martin second the motion.

A vote was taken to approve the Agenda, as amended: 6 in favor, 0 opposed, 1 absent (BROWN). (2 remote EGAN, WOJCIK). The Agenda as amended was approved.

COMMUNICATIONS & ANNOUNCEMENTS

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

Chair update on meeting cadence and work plan:

- Meetings for the remainder of the year: October 15, November 12, and December 10, 2026.
- The ZWC will meet monthly through December 2026 to develop a prioritized and executable set of zero waste initiatives, including, refinement of initiative cards to be submitted for consideration to inform the local solid waste management plan (LSWMP) 2030-2040.

PRESENTATION:

Marc Rider, Executive Director gave a presentation on UCRRA Goals including:

- Goals for UC Planning Unit
- Goals for the waste stream directly managed by UCRRA
- How these goals relate to the next LSWMP

He stated the following:

- **Mission:** Protect public health and the environment by sustainably managing solid waste with a focus on resource conservation.
- **Vision:** Minimize waste at the source; prioritize reuse, recycling, composting; protect ecosystems; responsibly manage residual waste.
- **Diversion Targets** Ulster County aims to divert: 30% by 2030, 60% by 2040, 90% by 2050. Current diversion is slightly above 30%, though data reliability is uncertain.
- **Roles and Responsibilities:**
 - **County/local governments:** Create policies, partner in planning/enforcement, and maintain hauler contracts.
 - **Generators** (residents, businesses, manufacturers): Reduce waste, source-separate, comply with laws.
 - **State agencies (DEC, ABO):** Set laws, permit facilities, enforce regulations, provide fiscal oversight.
 - **UCRRA:** Local Solid Waste Planning, hauling, receiving waste, diversion, education, compliance.
- **Waste Flows in Ulster County**
 - **MSW:** 105,641 tons generated; 98.9% received (due to flow control).
 - **C&D debris:** 104,000 tons generated; ~33% received (no flow control).
 - **Regulated recyclables:** 28,000 tons generated; 15% received. (no flow control)
 - **Source-separated organics:** 18,000 tons (yard/food waste); 41% received.
 - **Biosolids:** 3,500 tons; 92% received and then sent composted in Rockland County.
 - **Other materials:** 6.3% received (scrap metal, hazardous waste).
- **Capital Project Plan (5 yr)**
 - **Mattress recycling:** Facility complete; training and operations to resume shortly.
 - **Secondary diversion building (2027–2028):** Sort C&D and bulky items separately from MSW to increase landfill diversion (not deconstruction).
 - **Reuse Innovation Center:** Expected to divert 5% of MSW; hub-and-spoke model with TIOLE (Take It or Leave It) sheds at town MRDCs.
 - **Compost expansion:** Hub-and-spoke system; weekly truck collection from ~90 community sites; awaiting \$3 million grant with \$1.5 million match.
 - **Onsite MRDC:** Will separate residential from commercial haulers; include full-time e-waste and household hazardous waste collection.
- **Alternative Diversion: Global NRG Project**
 - Proposed facility would process 100,000 tons of MSW/year.
 - Mixed waste processing: separates 20% regulated recyclables for market sale.

- Organics treated with thermal hydrolysis (not incineration), producing organic fraction for composting or anaerobic digestion.
- 60–70% diversion projected; due diligence ongoing; anaerobic digestion likely not included.
- **Challenges**
 - Low public compliance with source separation.
 - Revenue model dependent on tipping fees (revenue tied to volume, not diversion).
 - Disposal and transportation costs rising due to landfill limitations and market volatility.
 - Loss of waste volume to out-of-county transfer stations due to non-flow-controlled materials and competitive pricing (\$130 vs. \$150).
- **Committee Discussion and Clarification:**
 - The work product is a policy guidance document through the initiative cards-- not a final implementation plan.
 - These will inform the local solid waste management plan (2030–2040), which UCRRA will develop with a consultant.
 - The legislature has authority to pass laws (e.g., banning clamshells, restricting plastics); Enforcement responsibility varies (e.g., Department of the Environment enforces Food Waste Prevention Act); recommendation to include Enforcement as a card topic.

NEW BUSINESS

- **Initiatives Card Discussion:** Some members presented summary overviews of their proposed zero waste initiative cards:
- 1. Countywide Organics Capture Network – Chris Hurlbert, ZWC Chair**
 - Strategy to expand organics collection.
 - Proposes policy changes, education (e.g., food waste expo), and lower thresholds for compliance.
 - Aims to increase source separation across households and institutions.
 - 2. Composting Education and Tools - Claudia Joseph**
 - Leverage existing expertise in home and community composting.
 - Proposes expanding fall leaf and pumpkin collection, hot box bins (sealed, aerated systems), and pumpkin smash events.
 - Educational focus: rodent control, composting science, community involvement.
 - 3. New Paltz Transfer Station as Zero Waste Spoke - Shabazz Jackson**
 - Use New Paltz as a hub and spoke model for diversion excellence.
 - Pilot program to consolidate commercial food waste collection via a single hauler.
 - Baseline data shows New Paltz reduced waste to 186 tons/year (vs. Hurley's 600).
 - Proposal includes volunteer coordination, third-party auditing, and replication across towns.
 - Mayor of New Paltz supports initiative.
 - 4. C&D Materials Diversion - Shabazz Jackson**
 - Build on New Paltz's existing C&D separation practices.
 - Graduated tipping fees to incentivize reuse over disposal.
 - Aligns with secondary diversion building project.
 - 5. Transfer station/ MRDC- Scrap Metals – Manna Jo Greene**
 - Define what is meant by durable materials
 - Requested if UCRRA could provide list of scrap metal dealers
 - System is not broken, just needs to be fixed
 - Greenhouse gas emission consideration- freon being used in appliances
- *Rebecca Martin and Chris Hewitt will need time to submit a card

ADJOURN

Motion to adjourn August 20, 2026, Zero Waste Committee Meeting at 6:55 PM was made by Chris Hewitt and seconded by Shabazz Jackson. 6 in favor, 0 opposed, 1 absent (BROWN). (2 remote EGAN, WOJCIK)

September 10, 2026

Motion to approve the above transcribed Minutes of August 20, 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