



Albemarle County Solid Waste Alternatives Advisory Committee
Meeting Minutes



Thursday, August 14, 2025, 4-5:30 pm
County Office Building, 401 McIntire Rd
Room 246

Attendance:

SWAAC members: Christine Hirsh-Putnam, Jane Colony Mills, Betsey Soulsby, Kendall Dix, Lee Kondor, Mike Kruse, Kaleigh Reno

SWAAC members absent: Peggy Gilges, Zack Landsman

Liaisons: Jamie Powers, David Rhoades, Phil McKalips, Bea LaPisto-Kirtley

Liaisons absent: Isabella O'Brien, Jim Andrews

Guests: Chuck Delanoy, Amanda Bilchick, John

The meeting was called to order at 4:02 pm

Approval of Agenda: Lee moved that we approve the August agenda as presented, Betsey seconded, approved by all.

Approval of July minutes: Lee moved that we approve the July minutes, Betsey seconded, approved by all.

Announcements: October 25, 2025 is Medication Take-Back Day at Sentara and a few other places. At Take Back the Night, Betsey learned from a fire marshall that October is fire awareness month and thought the committee could create and put out messaging about the fire hazards of lithium batteries. Develop something off of Smokey the Bear's "Do Your Part and Don't Let a Wildfire Start"

Phil announced Amnesty days at the landfill

- **Electronic Waste Collection:** September 13, 2025.
- **Furniture & Mattress Collection:** September 27, 2025.
- **Appliances Collection:** October 4, 2025.
- **Tires Collection:** October 11, 2025.
- **Household Hazardous Waste Collection:** September 19 & 20, 2025.

Action Items/Followup/New Business (50 minutes):

- **SWAAC End of Year Report:** the committee reviewed Christine's draft of year-end report. Christine asked whether the committee can get feedback from the BOS on suggestions the committee makes. Ms. LaPisto-Kirtley noted that the Board doesn't take action on many items that come before the board unless on the agenda at a full board meeting. Sometimes items are considered and supported by the board but not feasible with staff.

Kendall noted that the BOS created the SWAAC but it would be helpful to know the best ways to present the committee's ideas to the BOS. Ms. LaPisto-Kirtley said staff liaison (Jamie) would be

the best point of contact. Jamie noted that staff are considering the process(es) for forwarding advice from the many advisory commissions to the BOS. Jamie can get something that we want to present to the BOS on the agenda. In the case of the suggestion to convert to 100% recycled paper use at county facilities, the board thought it was a good suggestion and since it was a small budgetary consideration, it was easy to accept this recommendation.

Mike asked if it would be wise to select a few suggestions each year to present/promote as a committee at a BOS meeting.

Ms. LaPisto-Kirtley noted that there needs to be 4-vote support from the BOS for staff to do anything with a proposal.

Betsey noted that the committee hasn't had recommendations in the past, so this is still a fairly new process.

Lee moved that the committee approve the report, Betsey seconded, approved by all.

- Styrofoam Ban Law- [Draft Letter](#). The committee discussed how Alb. Co. can promote Virginia's styrofoam container ban for restaurants/bring your own containers for take away at local restaurants and encourage on Food & Beverage website, Environmental Stewardship hub, and social media. Recommended looking at City of Hampton communications.

Jane suggested that we could use this opportunity to educate restaurants on how they also can donate leftover food to the community's free fridges.

Jamie suggested that this could be built into this fiscal year's strategy for promoting climate action.

Kendall suggested that the committee should work with staff to put messaging out. Jamie agreed that CAPE (communications staff) develops communications materials and could incorporate this message into regular CAPE communications. Kendall said we could present this issue at a BOS meeting during the "matters before the board that are not on the agenda." Ms. LaPisto-Kirtley agreed, suggested making sure Mr. Andrews also is aware of this issue, present the issue and share the letter to the BOS at a meeting this fall, and then the item will go on the consent agenda for the next meeting. Jamie said this issue could be built into an anti-littering communications campaign.

Chuck asked about enforcement of the styrofoam ban.

- Data Center Draft Ordinance- E-waste
Christine sent the committee information on data center waste and energy use and acknowledged that the Board of Supervisors is developing a data center ordinance. Would the board want any guidance from the SWAAC? Ms. LaPisto-Kirtley said the BOS is looking at considered sites for data centers - zoning, water use, energy requirements, 500 ft. from residential boundaries, three layers of trees, noise ordinance, etc. BOS is looking at existing sites that could be data centers: Rivanna Futures, Airport/North Fork, State Farm (Pantops), old Sieg property (64/29 interchange). Christine noted that one of the impacts of a data center is that

they produce a lot of e-waste and wants the BOS to be aware of this potential impact on the county.

- Work Plan:
 - Recycling Requirements (Zack, Mike, Kendall): Kendall said that his work and other commitments would prevent him from further involvement.
 - Hauler franchising (Peggy and Christine)
 - Recycling education (Betsey and Christine)
 - Organics (Kaleigh and Jane)
 - Waste to Energy (Lee)

The committee agreed the work plan is good.

RSWA News (10 minutes):

RSWA eventually will be able to accept lithium batteries. RSWA will be going cashless February 2, 2026 but still will accept payment by debit and credit cards, checks. No touchless payments yet but in future.

County Report Out (10 minutes):

- Climate Program Update

Jamie has been approved to start recruitment for a 2nd climate position. Community composting program coming next month. Working on recommendations on integrating climate action into property development. Met with the planning team for AC44 to include Climate Action and Resilient Together plans in the comprehensive plan. At a recent BOS meeting, they voted that Free Bridge Lane will remain closed to vehicles. Housing will send climate team money to work with LEAP and AHIP on low-income housing repairs. Climate staff will present at the September BOS meeting.

Lee talked about Waste to Energy opportunities for future discussion.

Adjourn: The meeting was adjourned at 5:25 pm.

Next meeting: September 11, 2025

Adjourn