



Materials Management Advisory Council

Executive Summary

The Ohio Materials Management Advisory Council (MMAC or Council) was established in 2015 through House Bill 64 of the 131st General Assembly. The primary purpose of MMAC is to provide advice and guidance to the director of Ohio EPA on solid waste issues, including updates to the state solid waste management plan and Ohio EPA’s Recycling and Litter Prevention Grant Program. MMAC is also tasked with facilitating partnerships that expand markets for recycled commodities.

This document presents MMAC’s annual report to the General Assembly that the council is required to provide by Ohio Revised Code Section 3734.49. This report provides members of the General Assembly with updates on MMAC’s activities and accomplishments in 2020.

MMAC met bimonthly, for a total of 5 times in 2021. Three of those meetings were held virtually and two as hybrid meetings. MMAC’s primary focus in 2021 was Ohio EPA’s recycling and litter prevention grants. A subcommittee of four MMAC members met three times from May to July to discuss the grant guidelines and develop recommendations for increasing the responsiveness of the grants to industry needs.

Membership

MMAC is comprised of thirteen members appointed by the Governor to serve terms of three years. The composition of MMAC is designed to include key stakeholders in Ohio’s comprehensive solid waste management system. Seven members represent interests of the public sector and six members represent interests of the private sector. The chart below presents the MMAC’s membership in 2021 and each member’s affiliation.

Membership of the Materials Management Advisory Council in 2021

- Matthew Old, Erie County Board of Commissioners
- Kelly Bensman, Hull & Associates, Inc.
- Alex Boehnke, Ohio Council of Retail Merchants
- John Daly, Royal Document Destruction
- Chuck DeJonckheere, Hamilton County Public Health
- Michael Dinneen, AggRok
- Jennifer Fenderbosch, Councilwoman, City of Avon Lake
- Kimberly McConville, Ohio Beverage Association
- Beth Biggins-Ramer, Cuyahoga County Solid Waste Management District
- Marcie Kress, The Organics Recycling Association of Ohio
- Paul F. Wise, Genoa Township
- Steve Sargent, Rumpke
- Brian W. Winter, Scotts Miracle-Gro Company

Recycling and Litter Prevention Grants

Ohio EPA annually awards grants for recycling-related projects through the Recycling and Litter Prevention Grant Program. These grants support community recycling services and market development opportunities. One of MMAC's responsibilities is to advise Ohio EPA on priorities for the grants. Members expressed their desire to evaluate Ohio EPA's current guidelines governing who can qualify for grants, funding priorities, and processes for applying for and issuing grants.

Four members volunteered to participate on a subcommittee to conduct the review. The subcommittee met twice in May and again in July. Discussion focused on Ohio EPA's market development grant. That grant provides funding to businesses to create or expand recycling processing capacity and recycled material production. Businesses are required to have a government sponsor, and the sponsor is responsible for dispersing grant funds to the business.

The subcommittee's discussions centered around three main topics: the government grant sponsor requirement, outreach to potential grantees, and making the grant responsive. Ohio EPA is currently evaluating the subcommittee's recommendations and will decide which to act on and incorporate into future grant rounds as appropriate.

Waste Industry Stakeholders, Challenges and Opportunities

MMAC heard presentations from several different stakeholders in solid waste management. From the waste industry, MMAC learned about how the shortage of labor, difficulties in retaining employees, the prevalence of contaminants in recyclables, and the increases in both trash and recyclables generated during the pandemic have challenged the waste industry to adapt. Representatives from the waste industry also provided an overview of the dangers that lithium-ion batteries present when crushed in vehicles and at recycling centers. The lack of recycling options for residents presents a challenge for keeping those batteries out of the waste and recycling streams.

MMAC also heard from the association of Ohio Recyclers, Keep Ohio Beautiful, the Organics Recycling Association of Ohio, and the Northeast Ohio Vinyl Recycling Coalition about their organizations' efforts to further recycling and control litter in Ohio.