

**Recycling Oversight Committee
Meeting Minutes**

DATE & TIME: November 12, 2025 – 5:00 PM
LOCATION: Legislative Chambers, 6th Floor, County Office Building, Kingston
PRESIDING OFFICER:
LEGISLATIVE STAFF:
PRESENT: Erin Enouen, Manna Jo Greene, Poppy Cannon-Reese, Penny Coleman, Claudia Joseph, Jonathan Kaplan, Vincent Mow, Sunali Sikand (arrived at 5:12 PM)
ABSENT: Steve Noble
QUORUM PRESENT: Yes
OTHER ATTENDEES: Penny Coleman – Rosendale Environmental Commission

The meeting was called to order at approximately 5:02 PM.

Motion No. 1:	Motion to Adopt the minutes of the September 25, 2025 Meeting
Motion Made By:	Penny Coleman
Motion Seconded By:	Vincent Mow
Voting in Favor:	Enouen, Greene, Poppy Cannon-Reese, Penny Coleman, Claudia Joseph, Jonathan Kaplan, Vincent Mow
Voting Against:	None
Votes in Favor:	7
Votes Against:	0
Disposition:	Minutes Approved

Chair Enouen introduced the agenda, emphasizing the need to reset and regroup, especially as the new Chair.

The purposed and charter of the committee were reviewed, and members introduced themselves and their involvement in the committee.

Jonathan Kaplan shared that he frequently receives community questions about whether recycling is required by law. He stated the service provider/vendor is not responsible for enforcing the law. Jonathan noted ongoing public confusion about recycling requirements across Ulster, Dutchess County, and surrounding areas. He emphasized that recycling is significantly cheaper than solid waste disposal and is the morally and ethically responsible choice. Instead of focusing on enforcement or penalties, Jonathan explained he tries to respond in a sensitive, educational way that encourages compliance and promotes the value of recycling.

Jonathan Kaplan emphasizes the importance of education and the challenges of enforcing recycling laws.

Manna Jo Greene stated the agency's budget relies heavily on garbage tipping fees, which has led enforcement efforts to focus on ensuring waste is brought to Ulster County facilities in order to generate needed revenue.

Manna Jo Greene believes the first layer has to be education, she shared if there was an expo, and had the haulers there to provide the service, and this features a good example like SUNY New Paltz, Mohawk Mountain House, Frost Valley etc, this brings more people on board.

Erin Enouen stated there is a Recycling Compliance Officer who is supposed to provide a quarterly report and asked the committee members what data they would like to see in this report that would be useful for example, what is the percentage of recycling? Is this what's being recycled versus what's being thrown away?

Sunali Sikand followed Erin with what percentage of our recyclables are being recycled, beyond us and our county, where does it go and what happens, because her understanding is about 30% of what goes into recyclables actually make it into another product.

The committee discussed the importance of data collection, including waste audits and the percentage of recyclables actually recycled.

Jonathan Kaplan discussed the challenges of recycling, including the devaluation of recyclables materials and the need for better markets.

Claudia Joseph raised concerns about the shortage of processing facilities and the contamination of recyclables.

The committee discussed the potential for increasing the percentage of recycling and the importance of education and collaboration with stakeholders.

The committee discussed the need for more frequent meetings and the importance of scheduling them effectively.

Manna Jo Greene mentioned the need to fill two committee vacancies, including a municipal recycling coordinator and a representative for multifamily dwelling interests.

The committee discussed the importance of clear objectives and the need to make progress on increasing mandated recyclables and improving recycling rates.

Sunali Sikand suggested setting clear objectives for the committee to measure success at the end of their term.

Poppy Cannon-Reese mentioned that someone was hired to oversee the Reuse Innovation Center (RIC), but they are still looking for a facility.

Claudia Joseph inquired about the current facility status, and Sunali Sikand suggested New Paltz as a potential location.

Erin Enouen discussed the committee's role in making recommendations and working on mandated recyclables. She also emphasized the importance of cooperation with the agency responsible for handling weights.

Manna Jo Greene explained that recommendations for Legislation go through the Energy Environment Committee.

Vincent Mow raised a point about roll-off container companies and the need for a new market.

Jonathan Kaplan explained the practice of transfer station mining and its safety concerns. He also mentioned that the transfer station mining is not profitable and often results in incineration.

Poppy Cannon-Reese and Jonathan Kaplan discussed the polluting nature of landfilling and incineration.

Jonathan Kaplan described the diverse materials found in demolition boxes, including cans, paint cans, copper, and foam insulation.

Jonathan Kaplan introduced the Leeds Project, which involves segregating waste streams at job sites. He questioned the compliance and enforcement of the Leeds Project.

Sunali Sikand suggested researching successful recycling practices in other places.

Vincent Mow recalls a previous decision to visit a Material Recovery Facility (MRF).

Erin Enouen discussed possibility of touring the UCRRA and Re Community facilities.

Erin Enouen encouraged the committee to gather information from UCRRA to inform their goals and research.

Motion to Adjourn

Motion Made By:	Jonathan Kaplan
Motion Seconded By:	Poppy Cannon-Reese
Votes in Favor:	8
Votes Against:	0

Adjourned: 6:41 PM

Respectfully submitted by:	Lizvett Noriega
Approved:	January 14, 2026