

Multicounty Materials Management Planning

The amendments to Part 115, Solid Waste Management, of the Natural Resources and Environmental Protection Act, 1994 PA 451, as amended, shift the focus of planning to more productive ways of managing discarded materials in Michigan. Future Materials Management Plans (MMP) are required for each county, once initiated by the Department of Environment, Great Lakes, and Energy (EGLE). These MMPs must explore the need for materials management facilities and capacity for managing and processing materials for productive reuse, rather than just disposing waste. The MMP will focus on setting goals to recover recyclable and organic material; increasing both local and state recycling rates; and encouraging and incentivizing a regional approach to managing materials.

The generation and flow of materials like solid waste, diverted waste, and recyclable materials does not stop at county boundaries. Materials can be managed more effectively and efficiently through planning at the multicounty level and have the potential to improve operations, costs, environmental impacts, education and outreach, market development, required managed materials capacity, etc.

Further, prior to filing a notice of intent to prepare a MMP, counties will be required to consult with their neighboring counties to determine the potential for collaboration and will receive an incentive for counties that develop and implement a multicounty MMP together.

Please see Michigan.gov/EGLEMMP for new resources as they become available and Materials Management Plan, Subpart 11, of [Part 115](#) for all MMP requirements.

GLOSSARY OF TERMS

County Board of Commissioners (BOC): The county board of commissioners or the elected county executive, as appropriate.

County Approval Agency (CAA): The county board of commissioners, the municipalities in the county, or the regional planning agency – whichever entity is responsible for submitting a notice of intent (NOI) to prepare a materials management plan.

Designated Planning Agency (DPA): The planning agency designated and an individual within the DPA who shall serve as the contact person for the purpose of Subpart 11. Designated planning agency does not mean a regional planning agency unless the CAA identifies the regional planning agency as the DPA.

MMP Grant: The materials management planning grant provided to BOCs for the use of CAAs for the administrative costs for preparing, implementing, and maintaining an MMP.

Planning Area: The geographic area to which an MMP applies.

Planning Committee: The permanent body that is appointed to direct the DPA in the preparation of the MMP. Also known as the Materials Management Planning Committee.

REQUIREMENTS FOR THE DEVELOPMENT OF A MULTICOUNTY MMP

- A MMP may include 2 or more counties if the BOC of those counties agree to the joint exercise of the powers and performance of the duties under Subpart 11, of the BOC and of the CAAs.
- Multicounty MMPs are subject to the same procedure for approval as single-county MMPs, and each BOC shall take formal action on a multicounty MMP as appropriate. A multicounty MMP shall include a process to ensure that the MMP requirements are met.
- CAAs preparing a multicounty MMP, shall appoint a single planning committee. For each county, additional planning committee members may be appointed:
 - An elected official of the county or a municipality in the planning area.
 - A representative from a business that generates managed materials within the planning area.

MULTICOUNTY COLLABORATION

Counties will be required to document that they contacted, at a minimum, their adjacent counties, regarding the option and interest in preparing a multicounty MMP. Documentation memorializing the outcome and any interlocal agreements identifying the process for creating a multicounty MMP will be submitted to EGLE when a county(ies) submits their NOI to prepare the MMP for the planning area.

NOTE: Counties consulted may reside outside the state designed planning region.

THE BENEFITS OF MULTICOUNTY PLANNING

As stated above, there are several benefits of creating and implementing a multicounty MMP, including a compounding effect of MMP Grant funding for counties that choose to plan together. Each county that intends to plan will receive \$60,000 plus \$0.50/capita, not to exceed \$300,000 (the per capita funding is for the first 3 years). For example, a group of 4 counties that agree to develop a multicounty MMP will receive an additional \$10,000 for each county – a total of an additional \$40,000/year – for a total of \$280,000/year for all 4 counties in the planning region, plus the per capita amount that will be received annually for the first 3 years. In addition, collaborating counties can:

- Share implementation costs.
- Streamline access to regional facilities.
- Identify solutions with counties facing similar challenges and opportunities.
- Use a standardized educational campaign for the planning area.
 - Easier to use the programs.
 - Reduce contamination.
 - Increase marketability and value of materials.
- Reduce the need to have or create program expertise in each county.
- Increase service options for region.
 - Capacity requirements
 - Material collection/access
- Fill Material Management Planning Committee representatives more easily.
- Improve efficiencies and reduce costs.

EXAMPLE SCENARIOS

These scenarios can also happen outside of the MMP.

- Multiple jurisdictions in two counties adjacent to the county boundary can jointly pursue a contract with a hauler. The larger area and volume of materials may result in a lower per-customer cost, a lower budget for each jurisdiction, etc.
- Multiple counties joining together to transfer recyclables to a regional materials recovery facility (MRF). A larger contiguous service area for haulers creates larger volumes, which may lower the cost of service, along with other potential benefits.

WHAT CAN YOU DO NOW?

Develop mechanisms (agreements, ordinances, infrastructure capacity needs, contracts, etc.) to build a multicounty MMP and create systems to collaboratively manage materials. This will take time and is highly recommended to start these conversations with adjacent counties now.

HOW WILL WORK DONE PRIOR TO EGLE'S INITIATION OF THE PLANNING PROCESS BE USED?

All collaboration work between counties done prior to the planning process being initiated by EGLE is done in an unofficial/preliminary capacity. If counties decide to pursue working together for this purpose, it will be important to begin drafting any mechanisms needed to accomplish this collaboration: agreements; ordinances; committees; authorities. These items can be created and remain dormant until the planning process is officially initiated by EGLE.

Once EGLE initiates the planning process, counties would document their action(s) by submitting their interlocal agreements with their NOI along with all other required documentation.

Municipalities located within two counties must choose a county to be part of per Section 11571(4); this request should not occur until the MMP process has been initiated and until each county knows if they intend to develop a multicounty MMP. It may be unnecessary for a municipality to choose which county to be part of for planning if a multicounty MMP is being prepared.

Visit Michigan.gov/EGLES MMP or contact EGLE-MMP@Michigan.gov for more information.

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