



Southwest Michigan Materials Management

What is it and why should I care?

Berrien, Cass, Van Buren Counties



1 | What is Materials Management?

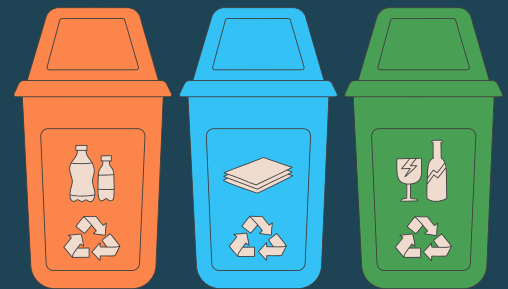
- Materials management is how materials are handled once they no longer serve their original purpose.
- Key components include **recycling, organics programs, waste diversion, and hazardous waste management**. It aims to keep materials in their highest and best use through reuse and recovery.
- Materials management recognizes waste as a resource that should be managed to promote economic vitality, and improve quality of life in a way that fosters sustainability.

2 | Why are we talking about Materials Management?

- The State of Michigan amended Part 115, Solid Waste Management, of the Natural Resources and Environmental Protection Act, 1994 PA 451, (Part 115).
- These amendments call for counties to **replace** Solid Waste Plans with Materials Management Plans (MMPs).

3 | Who is writing the Materials Management Plan?

- Berrien, Cass, and Van Buren Counties have agreed to work together to create **one** Materials Management Plan for the region.
- A 17-member multi-county Materials Management Planning Committee (MMPC) directs the Southwest Michigan Planning Commission in the writing of the plan.
- The MMPC meetings are open to the public, and **all are welcome to attend**.



4 | Why should municipalities care?

- All municipalities will have an opportunity to approve the draft Materials Management Plan. $\frac{2}{3}$ of the municipalities must approve the plan for it to be adopted. **If the plan fails to be adopted, the State may write a plan for the region without local input.**
- Many of the goals created in the Materials Management Plan will require efforts from **both** County-level government, as well as Cities, Villages, and Townships.
- Funding to help with planning and implementation is available to the Counties. Every five years each County must show progress toward achieving the goals or funding may be lost.

5 | How do I get involved?

The MMPC meets every first Wednesday of the month at 1:00 p.m. Virtual attendance for the public is available.

- Join the email list to get updates on MMPC meetings by emailing schragb@swmpc.org
- Attend meetings to provide input on your municipality's capacity to aid in the implementation of the plan
- Read through meeting minutes to stay up to date with what the MMPC is working on.

6 | Where can I find more information?

- For MMPC meetings and more information scan the QR code or visit: www.swmpc.org/materials_mngt.asp

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