



SOLID WASTE AGENCY OF LAKE COUNTY, IL

MEMORANDUM

To: Michael Talbett, Chairman, Executive Committee
From: Walter S. Willis, Executive Director *WSW*
Subject: September Meeting Notice Information
Date: September 4, 2025

Attached you will find the agenda for our next meeting at 12 pm on September 11, 2025, the minutes from the July 10, 2025, meeting and the referenced action items.

Please let Amy Bartemio know if you will be attending or not, this meeting will be held in person with food and drinks served.

**SOLID WASTE AGENCY OF LAKE COUNTY, IL
EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE**

**Thursday, September 11, 2025, 12:00 pm
1311 N. Estes Street, Gurnee, IL. 60031**

1. CALL TO ORDER.....Chairman Talbett
2. ROLL CALLSecretary
3. ACKNOWLEDGEMENT OF GUESTS
4. PUBLIC COMMENT ON AGENDA ITEMS
5. APPROVAL OF MINUTES
July 10, 2025
6. NEW AGENDA ITEMS
7. EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE UPDATES/COMMENTS
8. EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE ITEMS.....Chairman Talbett

Consent Items - None

Action Items

1. Proposed FY 2026 Budget
2. 2026 Legislative Policy

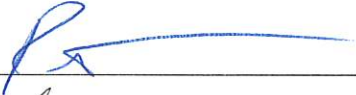
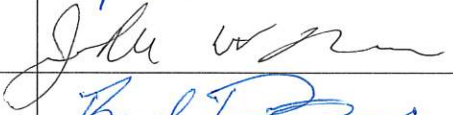

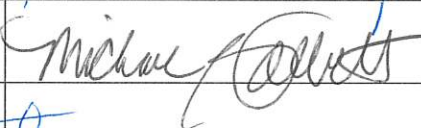



Information Items - None

7. EXECUTIVE SESSION
8. ADJOURNMENT

SOLID WASTE AGENCY OF LAKE COUNTY (SWALCO) EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

SIGN IN SHEET

July 10, 2025

REPRESENTATIVE	SIGNATURE	TITLE
ELLIS	Mike Ellis	VILLAGE MANAGER
MUETZ		VILLAGE ADMINISTRATOR
NORRIS		MAYOR EMERITUS
ROTHING		VILLAGE PRESIDENT
TALBETT		VILLAGE ADMINISTRATOR
PETERSON		ALDERMAN
WASIK		LAKE COUNTY BOARD
IRVIN		VILLAGE ADMINISTRATOR

Peter Garrity	Phone	SWALCO BOD CHAIRMAN
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PUBLIC SIGN-IN SHEET

(Executive Committee Meeting)

Name

Address

Representing

NONE Present

Date: 07/10/2025



	A	B	C	D	E	F	G	H	I	J	K	L	M	N
1	SWALCO EXECUTIVE BOARD VOTING RECORD - JULY 10, 2025													
2	REPRESENTATIVE		March, April & May expense consent		Audit 2024		nw review 3.5% increase							
3	Attendance		A	N	A	N	A	N	A	N	A	N	A	N
4	MIKE ELLIS	✓	✓				✓							
5	PATRICK MUETZ	✓	✓				✓							
6	JOHN NORRIS	✓	✓				✓							
7	BUD ROTHING	✓	✓				✓							
8	MICHAEL TALBETT	✓	✓				✓							
9	DREW IRVIN	—												
10	JOHN WASIK	✓	✓				✓							
11	ANDY PETERSON	✓												
12	PETER GARRITY —Phone	✓	✓				✓							

(6) (7)

(7)



SOLID WASTE AGENCY OF LAKE COUNTY, IL

EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE
Thursday, July 10, 2025, at 12:00 pm
1311 N. Estes Street, Gurnee, IL. 60031
MEETING MINUTES

CALL TO ORDER

Chairperson Michael Talbett called the Executive Committee meeting to order at 12:00 pm with (6) members in attendance, and a quorum was established.

ROLL CALL

Present: Michael Talbett, Mike Ellis, John Norris, John Wasik, Pat Muetz and Bud Rothing.

Via Phone: Peter Garrity (not including in quorum count)

ACKNOWLEDGMENT OF GUESTS

Board Chairman, Peter Garrity (via phone), and Attorney: Derke Price (via phone)

PUBLIC COMMENT - None

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Motion by *Mike Ellis* seconded by *John Norris* to approve the *Executive* meeting minutes of 02.06.2025

Motion was unanimously approved and declared carried.

NEW AGENDA ITEMS

EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE UPDATES/COMMENTS – None

CONSENT ITEM

1. Expenditure Reports (March, April & May 2025)

Motion by *Bud Rothing*, seconded by *John Norris* to recognize the presented expenses.

Motion was approved on a roll call of 7 to 0.

ACTION ITEMS

1. Fiscal Year 2024 Audit

Walter Willis presented the report from Baker Tilly for the 2024 Fiscal Year. The audit includes the required communication of internal control related matters, and financial statements for fiscal years ending November 2024 and 2023. This year's audit was completed in conformance with the Government Accounting Standard Board (GASB) 34 model. The audit was found to be satisfactory and did not contain any material weaknesses in our financial reporting.

Motion by *John Norris*, seconded by *Mike Ellis* to recommend acceptance of SWALCO's 2024 Fiscal Year Audit which will be presented to full board in August for approval.

was approved on a roll call of 7 to 0 and declared carried.

INFORMATION ITEMS

1. ICAW Updates

Merleanne Rampale discussed International Compost Awareness Week and efforts made to support this international program.

2. Executive Director Project and Program Updates

Walter Willis provided summaries and updates regarding several projects and programs we are currently working on:

- On April 15, 2025 we filed our brief and argument appealing the December 16, 2024 judgement of the Nineteenth Judicial Circuit Court. The Appellee filed its response brief on June 24, 2025. Our response brief must be filed by July 8, 2025.
- The IEPA issued its permit for our HHW facility which increases the hours we can operate each month, allows us to accept lead acid batteries, and accept paint and batteries from the commercial sector. We issued a press release informing residents we now accept single use/alkaline batteries and batteries that are damaged or defective at our HCW events starting in July. Once we have developed a procedure and find a vendor to accept lead acid batteries from cars and boats, we will begin accepting those as well.
- We had to cancel a HCW event in June due to our warehouse being too full and running out of money under our IEPA grant award. The Daily Herald saw our press release cancelling the event and ran a short article on it. The IEPA has raised our cap for next fiscal year. We will be holding an event at Lakes High School on July 19th for the first time.
- The IEPA conditionally approved PaintCare's plan for managing paint under the EPR law. We will be entering into talks with PaintCare on an agreement that will spell out the procedures for us collecting paint and PaintCare collecting it from us. We expect the EPR program to begin December 1, 2025, and after that date we will once again begin accepting latex paint from residents during our HCW events.
- The EPR law for batteries will begin January 1, 2026 and we will be reaching out to members about becoming a collector of batteries at no cost using special collection boxes that allow for the mixing of all battery types and no requirement to tape terminals. This will make it very easy for members to provide for collection of batteries at village halls, etc.
- The Hefty ReNew program began on October 1, 2024 and LRS continues to see more orange bags coming in and has made approximately 5 bales so far. We are working with Hefty and Lake County Communications to create a video that shows the process from beginning to end. We will be shooting most the video for it on July 16th and hope to share with our members who are in the program by August. The program recently expanded to several SWANCC communities as well.
- SWALCO staff (primarily Emily) continues working on Recycle Coach, which is active on our website. To date, 13 members have completed the onboarding and are actively using RC, 6 have completed the onboarding but still need to put the widget on their websites, 5 have attended the training on how to onboard, 3 are interested but have not attended training and the remaining 16 have not responded yet. Staff's goal is to have all members complete the onboarding process by the end of the year.
- We continue to hold weekly meetings on the REO grant. The Metro Mayors have hired a full-time person to do outreach for the next 2 years and we have met with her and she has already attended a meeting along with staff in Waukegan. We have hired a consultant to help grow recycling participation in Waukegan, N. Chicago and Zion, which was part of the sub-award the agency received under the grant. Frank Pettis is the consultant, and he will be helping us develop and implement a marketing effort in the tri-cities and will also be coordinating cart tagging programs in all three towns. Another part of the grant subaward is to increase traffic on our website related to proper recycling, which is timely with our focus on Recycle Coach. A marketing firm has been hired (Gud Marketing out of



SOLID WASTE AGENCY OF LAKE COUNTY, IL

EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE
Thursday, July 10, 2025, at 12:00 pm
1311 N. Estes Street, Gurnee, IL. 60031
MEETING MINUTES

Michigan) and will be presenting the creative options at a meeting on July 30th with the goal of having the campaign ready to go in October. At that time, we will be asking for members to help market the campaign which is focused on getting people to have more faith that recycling is real and to reduce the amount of contamination.

- We continue working on the legislation we filed in 2025. Senator Johnson has committed to holding stakeholder meetings beginning in July with several key groups, including the IEPA, waste industry, composting industry, food recovery groups, environmental groups and local government. The goal is to get consensus on amendments to SB1398 and be ready to work the bill in 2026 with IMA and IRMA. Walter met the Director of the Household and Commercial Products Association at the PSI Forum in early June. His association represents the majority of producers that would be impacted by an EPR law for HHW. We agreed to begin discussions on HB1893 over the summer. We have also begun discussions with the auto fluids association with the potential to break them out of the HHW EPR bill and run a standalone bill for their products and packaging. The IL PSC has targeted mattresses as the next bill to work on in 2026, landfills and transfer stations are now charging \$75 to \$100 to accept a mattress. At some point this is going to impact the contract language in our hauling contracts as mattresses are commonly accepted as a bulky item with no extra charge. With the recent increase in charges for mattresses it is only a matter of time before the haulers push back on accepting them as a bulky item without a separate charge.

EXECUTIVE SESSION: Executive Director Annual Review

Motion by *John Norris* seconded by *Bud Rothing* to go into Executive Session citing 5 ILCS 120/2(c)(1) and 120/2.06 to discuss Employee Evaluation (12:59 pm). Derke and Peter Garrity via phone. ***Motion was approved on a roll call vote of 7 to 0.***

Motion by *Mike Ellis*, seconded by John Norris to return to open session (1:09 pm).
Motion was approved on a roll call vote of 7 to 0.

Motion by *John Norris*, seconded by *Bud Rothing* to approve an annual increase of 3.5% for 2025 along with previous corrections as discussed, beginning July 31, 2025, per the current employee contract and review. ***Motion was approved on a roll call vote of 7 to 0 and declared carried.***

NEXT EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE MEETING: Thursday, September 11, 2025

NEXT BOARD MEETING: Thursday, August 21, 2025 – 6:00 p.m., Hainesville

ADJOURNMENT (1:18 p.m.): Motion by *Mike Ellis* seconded by *John Wasik* to adjourn.
Motion was unanimously approved and declared carried.

A – 1. Proposed FY 2026 SWALCO Budget

ISSUE: Whether to recommend the Board of Directors approve the proposed fiscal year 2026 SWALCO budget.

RECOMMENDATION: SWALCO staff recommend that the Executive Committee recommend approval of the 2026 SWALCO budget.

BACKGROUND: Attached to this memo are the proposed FY 2026 budget and a separate attachment which compares the proposed 2026 budget to the approved budget for 2025. The board item for the October Board of Directors meeting will include the five-year budget forecast.

Proposed FY 2026 Budget

The highlights of the proposed budget are as follows:

1. Proposed expenditures for FY 2026 are \$1,590,100 compared to \$1,578,947 in FY 2025, an increase of \$11,153 or approximately 0.7%. Please note the following: 1) a 3.5% salary increase was assumed, 2) \$15,000 has been allocated for landscaping along the north property boundary and 3) \$50,000 has been allocated to replace air conditioning units at the facility.
2. Total FY 2026 revenues are estimated at \$1,625,474 compared to \$1,635,927 in FY 2024, a decrease of \$10,453 or approximately 0.6%.
3. Revenues are expected to exceed expenditures by \$35,374 (\$1,625,474 - \$1,590,100).

ENCLOSED DOCUMENTS: 1) spreadsheet comparing FY 2025 vs. FY 2026 expenditures and revenues and 2) proposed FY2026 budget

STAFF: Walter Willis, Executive Director

Solid Waste Agency of Lake County
FY 2026 Budget v. 2025

	A	B	C	D	E	F	G
1	Fund:	Management Center	Account	DESCRIPTION	2025 APPROVED	2026 REQUESTED	DETAIL
2	ADMINISTRATION 9200010						
3	930	51110	SW0	REGULAR SALARIES AND WAGES	\$ 591,188	\$ 615,490	Assumes 3.5% increases for staff, Exec. Director increase effective August 1, 2026 at 3.5%.
4	930	51120	SW0	PART TIME SALARIES AND WAGES	\$ -	\$ -	
5	930	51150	SW0	SICK PAY REIMBURSEMENT	\$ -	\$ -	Assumes no sick pay reimbursement
6	930	51180	SW0	SPECIAL PAY - AUTO ALLOWANCE	\$ 12,480	\$ 12,480	2 FT (\$385/mo.)and 1 FT (\$270/mo.) Employee
7	50000 SERIES TOTAL (Administrative)				\$ 603,668	\$ 627,970	
8	930	61010	SW0	OFFICE SUPPLIES	\$ 1,000	\$ 1,000	Office supplies; petty cash; recycling specific supplies
9	930	61040	SW0	OPERATIONAL SUPPLIES	\$ 250	\$ 250	Plaques and awards/recognition
10	930	61080	SW0	FOOD & PROVISIONS	\$ 1,200	\$ 1,500	Executive Committee lunches, staff meeting lunches, and BOD meetings
11	930	65180	SW0	MISCELLANEOUS COMMODITIES	\$ 250	\$ 250	Misc. purchases
12	60000 SERIES TOTAL (Administrative)				\$ 2,700	\$ 3,000	
13	930	71110	SW0	AUDITING AND ACCOUNTING	\$ 12,800	\$ 12,240	Per the County fee schedule with Baker Tilly
14	930	71140	SW0	LEGAL SERVICES	\$ 60,000	\$ 40,000	Derke Price, meetings plus anticipated hours for LF lawsuit and WM TS siting
15	930	71150	SW0	CONSULTANT FEES	\$ 76,070	\$ 68,000	Mike Grady, Strategic Advocacy Group \$38,000; extra lobbying funds \$30,000.
16	930	71500	SW0	TRIPS AND TRAINING	\$ 10,400	\$ 11,000	National onference attendance in general, 3 x \$2,500 per event (\$7,500); ILCSWMA conf, 4 x \$500 (\$2,000); OSHA Training (2 people, \$400); IDOT Training (1 person, \$500), CPR training (\$100), mileage reimbursement (\$500)
17	930	71810	SW0	DUES AND SUBSCRIPTIONS	\$ 9,200	\$ 10,200	Official Board Markets, Resource Recycling, BioCycle, Recycled Products Guide (\$1,200); Membership dues for IRA, SWANA, ILCSWMA, LCML, CHMM, NAHMMA, PSI, IFSC and IEC (\$9,000)
18	930	71910	SW0	GAS FOR HEATING	\$ 18,400	\$ 23,400	Air make-up, hot water, furnace
19	930	71920	SW0	ELECTRICITY	\$ 16,000	\$ 17,500	Parking lights, storage facility and office lights and baseboard heat
20	930	71930	SW0	WATER AND SEWER CHARGES	\$ 600	\$ 500	Water and sewer services
21	930	71940	SW0	TELEPHONE	\$ 4,500	\$ 4,000	Line charge, cell phones
22	930	71955	SW0	CELL PHONE ALLOWANCE	\$ 660	\$ 660	Reimburse Amy B. cell phone costs
23	930	72110	SW0	LIABILITY INSURANCE	\$ 39,000	\$ 58,500	Premium for all required insurance.
24	930	72140	SW0	UNEMPLOYMENT COMPENSATION	\$ 625	\$ 750	\$125 per employee (6)
25	930	72260	SW0	OFFICE EQUIP MAINT AND REPAIRS	\$ 1,500	\$ -	Moved to HCW program budget
26	930	72410	SW0	ALL OTHER MAINT AND REPAIRS	\$ -	\$ -	
27	930	72530	SW0	EQUIPMENT RENTAL	\$ 1,300	\$ 1,200	Copy machine maintenance/service
28	930	72820	SW0	POSTAGE	\$ 200	\$ 200	Postage for meter, supplies for meter, and courier services
29	930	73195	SW0	INDIRECT COST ALLOCATIONS	\$ 62,233	\$ 62,233	No change per County, expect increase next fiscal year
30	930	74080	SW0	H/L/D EMPLOYEE BENEFITS	\$ 122,000	\$ 99,200	Emily Wachter opted out of insurance

	A	B	C	D	E	F	G
1	Fund:	Management Center	Account	DESCRIPTION	2025 APPROVED	2026 REQUESTED	DETAIL
31	930	74100	SW0	RETIREMENT CONTRIBUTIONS FICA	\$ 45,226	\$ 47,085	All employee salaries x 7.65%
32	930	74110	SW0	RETIREMENT CONTRIBUTIONS IMRF	\$ 3,665	\$ 4,862	Employee Salaries x 0.62%, still low due to switch from County IMRF
33	930	79930	SW0	MISCELLANEOUS CONTINGENCY	\$ 20,000	\$ 15,000	Contingency for unanticipated expenses
34	930	79940	SW0	MISC CONTRACTUAL SERVICES	\$ 13,100	\$ 29,500	Office Cleaning (\$3,800), special facility handyman (\$500); snow and lawn maint. (\$9,500); pest control (\$700); and landscaping (\$15,000)
35	70000 SERIES TOTAL (Administrative)				\$ 517,479	\$ 506,030	
36	930	82010	SW0	BUILDINGS AND STRUCTURES	\$ -	\$ -	Misc. Unknown capital expenses
37	930	84040	SW0	COMPUTER, WEB HOSTING	\$ 6,500	\$ 6,500	Website hosting fee from CivicPlus \$3,500; Adobe Creative Annual Subscription \$3,000
38	930	84060	SW0	FURNITURE AND OFFICE EQUIPMENT	\$ 500	\$ 500	Misc. office furnishings; recycled art
39	80000 SERIES TOTAL (Administrative)				\$ 7,000	\$ 7,000	
40	TOTAL 9200010 ADMINISTRATION				\$ 1,130,847	\$ 1,144,000	

Solid Waste Agency of Lake County
FY 2026 Budget v. 2025

	A	B	C	D	E	F	G
1	Fund:	Management Center	Account	DESCRIPTION	2025 APPROVED	2026 REQUESTED	DETAIL
41	Education 9200020						
42	930	61040	SW2	OPERATIONAL SUPPLIES	\$ 2,500	\$ 2,000	Public information/school education: plaques, flags, awards, promo items. Supplies for other events
43	930	65180	SW2	MISCELLANEOUS COMMODITIES	\$ 1,500	\$ 2,000	Supplies, materials & other expenses for workshops, displays, open houses, programs, training, etc. Supplies for member events and to assist schools with events
44	930	65179	SW2	RAIN BARREL, COMPOST SUPPLIES	\$ 15,000	\$ 10,000	Purchase of supplies for rain barrel and compost bin annual sale
45	60000 SERIES TOTAL (Education)				\$ 19,000	\$ 14,000	
46	930	72830	SW2	PRINTING SERVICES	\$ -	\$ 500	Print work: guides, annual report, newsletters, brochures, flyers, workshop invites, media kits, and other needed public info materials
47	930	79940	SW2	MISC CONTRACTUAL SERVICES	\$ 17,000	\$ 16,000	Funding for special services, special projects, document shredding and compost giveaways
48	930	71635	SW2	TEXTILE AND SHOE PAYOUTS	\$ 40,000	\$ 32,000	Payouts to textile and shoe collection partners
49	930	71850	SW2	ADVERTISING	\$ 1,000	\$ 2,000	Special ads for programs
50	70000 SERIES TOTAL (Education)				\$ 58,000	\$ 50,500	
51	930	85070	SW2	ALL OTHER CAPITAL OUTLAY		\$ -	
52	80000 SERIES TOTAL (Education)						
53	TOTAL 9200020 EDUCATION				\$ 77,000	\$ 64,500	

	A	B	C	D	E	F	G
1	Fund:	Management Center	Account	DESCRIPTION	2025 APPROVED	2026 REQUESTED	DETAIL
54	HOUSEHOLD CHEMICAL WASTE (HCW) 9200030						
55	930	65020	SW2	LABORATORY SUPPLIES	\$ 250	\$ 250	Supplies for Unknown Test Kit
56	930	61040	SW2	OPERATIONAL SUPPLIES	\$ 12,000	\$ 13,000	Safety Gear, OilDry, Brooms, Tape, Visqueen, Spill Cleanup, FirstAid Kits, Respirator Cartridges, Pallets, Etc.
57	930	65180	SW2	MISCELLANEOUS COMMODITIES	\$ 450	\$ 450	Grease for crusher, bottled water, etc.
58	60000 SERIES TOTAL (HCW)				\$ 12,700	\$ 13,700	
59	930	71150	SW2	CONSULTANT FEES	\$ 172,900	\$ 172,900	Mobile events \$72k (\$18k/event x 4); Public drop offs \$92k (\$4k per event x 23); Food \$3.5k; commercial battery collections \$5.4k (\$900 per event x 6 events)
60	930	71630	SW2	GARBAGE DISPOSAL	\$ 11,000	\$ 11,000	Mobile Events \$7.2k (\$1800 x 4 events); Office \$3.3k (\$270/month x 12 months); Xtra Service(\$500)
61	930	79940	SW2	MISC. CONTRACTUAL SERVICES	\$ 54,600	\$ 44,600	Burris fork lift=\$2.2k (\$550/event x 4) Porta John \$2.4k (\$800/event x 3); special collection events \$5k (\$1000/event x 5 events); sharps disposal contract \$35k
62	930	72110	SW2	LIABILITY INSURANCE	\$ -	\$ -	Covered under Administrative 930-72110, Liability Insurance
63	930	72210	SW2	MOTOR VEHICLE MAINT & REPAIR	\$ 3,600	\$ 3,600	Fuel \$1000; Truck safety inspections \$100; Annual tune up and brakes \$2.5k
64	930	72410	SW2	ALL OTHER MAINT AND REPAIRS	\$ 31,600	\$ 42,100	Dock Lock \$750, Plumbing \$3.5k, Fire sys PM \$5k, Warehouse Maint \$4k, Generator \$4k, HVAC \$12k, Elec Services \$3k, Fork lift \$2k, Can Crusher \$1000, Alarms \$2,250, Overhead Doors \$800, Fire Exting \$800; and Front gate maintenance \$3k
65	70000 SERIES TOTAL (HCW)				\$ 273,700	\$ 274,200	
66	930	82010	SW2	BUILDINGS AND STRUCTURES	\$ 65,000	\$ 74,000	Air conditioning units \$50k; Water heater (\$5k); baseboard heaters\$11k and office painting \$8k
67	930	83010	SW2	MOTOR VEHICLES	\$ -	\$ -	
68	930	84060	SW2	FURNITURE AND OFFICE EQUIPMENT	\$ 200	\$ 200	
69	930	85070	SW2	ALL OTHER CAPITAL OUTLAY	\$ -	\$ -	
70	80000 SERIES TOTAL (HCW)				\$ 65,200	\$ 74,200	
71	TOTAL 9200030 HCW				\$ 351,600	\$ 362,100	

	A	B	C	D	E	F	G
1	Fund	Management Center	Account	DESCRIPTION	2025 APPROVED	2026 REQUESTED	DETAIL
79							
80							
81							
82							
83	GRAND TOTAL (All Series)					\$ 1,578,947	\$ 1,590,100

Solid Waste Agency of Lake County
FY 2026 Budget v. 2025

	A	B	C	D	E	F	G
1	Fund:	Management Center	Account	DESCRIPTION	2025 APPROVED	2026 REQUESTED	DETAIL
84	REVENUES 40000						
85	930	47230	SW0	REVENUE FROM LANDFILL SURCHARGE & TS HOST FEE	\$ 965,000	\$ 965,000	Countryside LF (\$140,000); Zion LF (\$710,000); Groot TS (\$115,000)
86	930	48010	SW0	INTEREST INCOME FROM SURCHARGE BALANCE	\$ 92,283	\$ 95,402	\$1,981,358 in CD, assume 4% rate; \$403,711 in money market, assume 4% rate
87	930	45380	SW0	REVENUE FROM MUNICIPALITIES	\$ 318,911	\$ 318,922	O&M Fee at \$1.25 per hh per year
88	930	48145	SW0	REVENUE FROM TEXTILES AND SHOES	\$ 142,400	\$ 124,400	Shoes (40,000 lbs at \$58/lb), Textiles/Bin Program (850,000 lb. at \$.12/lb)
89	930	48146	SW0	REVENUE FROM SPECIAL COLLECTION EVENTS	\$ 16,000	\$ 5,000	5 events @ \$1000 per event
90	930	45333	SW0	REVENUE FROM STATE GRANT	\$ 35,000	\$ 35,000	Grant from IEPA to reimburse SWALCO for sharps collection costs
91	930	45334	SW0	REVENUE FROM FEDERAL GRANT	\$ 33,333	\$ 45,000	SWALCO received a subaward from Metro Mayors \$2M REO grant from USEPA for a total of \$83,333
92	930	48149	SW0	REVENUE FROM RAIN BARRELS AND COMPOSTERS	\$ 16,500	\$ 20,250	Based selling 150 rain barrels at \$85 per barrel and 100 composters at \$75 per composter
93	930	49910	SW0	MISCELLANEOUS REVENUES	\$ 16,500	\$ 16,500	Hauler Licensing (\$1,500); Grayslake payment for drop off (\$15k)
94	TOTAL REVENUES				\$ 1,635,927	\$ 1,625,474	

Solid Waste Agency of Lake County
FY 2026 Budget

	A	B	C	D	E	F
1	Fund:	Management Center	Account	DESCRIPTION	2026 APPROVED	DETAIL
2	ADMINISTRATION 9200010					
3	930	51110	SW0	REGULAR SALARIES AND WAGES	\$ 615,490	Assumes 3.5% increases for staff, Exec. Director increase effective August 1, 2026 at 3.5%.
4	930	51120	SW0	PART TIME SALARIES AND WAGES	\$ -	
5	930	51150	SW0	SICK PAY REIMBURSEMENT	\$ -	Assumes no sick pay reimbursement
6	930	51180	SW0	SPECIAL PAY - AUTO ALLOWANCE	\$ 12,480	2 FT (\$385/mo.) and 1 FT (\$270/mo.) Employee
7	50000 SERIES TOTAL (Administrative)				\$ 627,970	
8	930	61010	SW0	OFFICE SUPPLIES	\$ 1,000	Office supplies; petty cash; recycling specific supplies
9	930	61040	SW0	OPERATIONAL SUPPLIES	\$ 250	Plaques and awards/recognition
10	930	61080	SW0	FOOD & PROVISIONS	\$ 1,500	Executive Committee lunches, staff meeting lunches, and BOD meetings
11	930	65180	SW0	MISCELLANEOUS COMMODITIES	\$ 250	Misc. purchases
12	60000 SERIES TOTAL (Administrative)				\$ 3,000	
13	930	71110	SW0	AUDITING AND ACCOUNTING	\$ 12,240	
14	930	71140	SW0	LEGAL SERVICES	\$ 40,000	Derke Price, meetings plus anticipated hours for LF lawsuit and WM TS siting
15	930	71150	SW0	CONSULTANT FEES	\$ 68,000	Mike Grady, Strategic Advocacy Group and extra lobbying funds
16	930	71500	SW0	TRIPS AND TRAINING	\$ 11,000	National onference attendance in general, 3 x \$2,500 per event (\$7,500); ILCSWMA conf, 4 x \$500 (\$2,000); OSHA Training (2 people, \$400); IDOT Training (1 person, \$500); CPR training (\$100); and mileage reimbursement (\$500)
17	930	71810	SW0	DUES AND SUBSCRIPTIONS	\$ 10,200	Official Board Markets, Resource Recycling, BioCycle, Recycled Products Guide (\$1,200); Membership dues for IRA, SWANA, ILCSWMA, LCML, CHMM, NAHMMMA, PSI, IFSC and IEC (\$9,000)
18	930	71910	SW0	GAS FOR HEATING	\$ 23,400	Air make-up, hot water, furnace
19	930	71920	SW0	ELECTRICITY	\$ 17,500	Parking lights, storage facility and office lights and baseboard heat
20	930	71930	SW0	WATER AND SEWER CHARGES	\$ 500	Water and sewer services
21	930	71940	SW0	TELEPHONE	\$ 4,000	Line charge, cell phones
22	930	71955	SW0	CELL PHONE ALLOWANCE	\$ 660	Reimburse Amy B. cell phone costs
23	930	72110	SW0	LIABILITY INSURANCE	\$ 58,500	Switched to Alliant in 2022, premium for all required insurance.
24	930	72140	SW0	UNEMPLOYMENT COMPENSATION	\$ 750	\$125 per employee (6)
25	930	72260	SW0	OFFICE EQUIP MAINT AND REPAIRS	\$ -	See HCW budget

	A	B	C	D	E	F
1	Fund:	Management Center	Account	DESCRIPTION	2026 APPROVED	DETAIL
26	930	72410	SW0	ALL OTHER MAINT AND REPAIRS	\$ -	
27	930	72530	SW0	EQUIPMENT RENTAL	\$ 1,200	Copy machine maintenance/service
28	930	72820	SW0	POSTAGE	\$ 200	Postage for meter, supplies for meter, and courier services
29	930	73195	SW0	INDIRECT COST ALLOCATIONS	\$ 62,233	County rate, no increase from last year, expect increase next fiscal year per county
30	930	74080	SW0	H/L/D EMPLOYEE BENEFITS	\$ 99,200	Emily Wachter opted out of coverage
31	930	74100	SW0	RETIREMENT CONTRIBUTIONS FICA	\$ 47,085	All employee salaries x 7.65%
32	930	74110	SW0	RETIREMENT CONTRIBUTIONS IMRF	\$ 4,862	Employee Salaries x 0.62%, still low due to switch from County IMRF
33	930	79930	SW0	MISCELLANEOUS CONTINGENCY	\$ 15,000	Contingency for unanticipated expenses
34	930	79940	SW0	MISC CONTRACTUAL SERVICES	\$ 29,500	Office Cleaning (\$3,800), special facility handyman (\$500); snow and lawn maint. (\$9,500); pest control (\$700); and landscaping (\$15,000)
35	70000 SERIES TOTAL (Administrative)				\$ 506,030	
36	930	82010	SW0	BUILDINGS AND STRUCTURES	\$ -	Misc. Unknown capital expenses
37	930	84040	SW0	COMPUTER, WEB HOSTING	\$ 6,500	Website hosting fee from CivicPlus \$3,500; Adobe Creative Annual Subscription \$3,000
38	930	84060	SW0	FURNITURE AND OFFICE EQUIPMENT	\$ 500	Misc. office furnishings; recycled art
39	80000 SERIES TOTAL (Administrative)				\$ 7,000	
40	TOTAL 9200010 ADMINISTRATION				\$ 1,144,000	

Solid Waste Agency of Lake County
FY 2026 Budget

	A	B	C	D	E	F
1	Fund:	Management Center	Account	DESCRIPTION	2026 APPROVED	DETAIL
41	Education 9200020					
42	930	61040	SW2	OPERATIONAL SUPPLIES	\$ 2,000	Public information/school education: plaques, flags, awards, promo items. Supplies for other events
43	930	65180	SW2	MISCELLANEOUS COMMODITIES	\$ 2,000	Supplies, materials & other expenses for workshops, displays, open houses, programs, training, etc. Supplies for member events and to assist schools with events
44	930	65179	SW2	RAIN BARREL, COMPOST SUPPLIES	\$ 10,000	Purchase of supplies for rain barrel and compost bin annual sale
45	60000 SERIES TOTAL (Education)				\$ 14,000	
46	930	72830	SW2	PRINTING SERVICES	\$ 500	Print work: guides, annual report, newsletters, brochures, flyers, workshop invites, media kits, and other needed public info materials
47	930	79940	SW2	MISC CONTRACTUAL SERVICES	\$ 16,000	Funding for special services, special projects, document shredding and compost giveaways
48	930	71635	SW2	TEXTILE AND SHOE PAYOUTS	\$ 32,000	Payouts to textile and shoe collection partners based
49	930	71850	SW2	ADVERTISING	\$ 2,000	Special ads for programs
50	70000 SERIES TOTAL (Education)				\$ 50,500	
51	930	85070	SW2	ALL OTHER CAPITAL OUTLAY	\$ -	
52	80000 SERIES TOTAL (Education)					
53	TOTAL 9200020 EDUCATION				\$ 64,500	

	A	B	C	D	E	F
1	Fund:	Management Center	Account	DESCRIPTION	2026 APPROVED	DETAIL
54	HOUSEHOLD CHEMICAL WASTE (HCW) 9200030					
55	930	65020	SW2	LABORATORY SUPPLIES	\$ 250	Supplies for Unknown Test Kit
56	930	61040	SW2	OPERATIONAL SUPPLIES	\$ 13,000	Safety Gear, OilDry, Brooms, Tape, Visqueen, Spill Cleanup, FirstAid Kits, Respirator Cartridges, Pallets, Etc.
57	930	65180	SW2	MISCELLANEOUS COMMODITIES	\$ 450	Grease for crusher, bottled water, etc.
58	60000 SERIES TOTAL (HCW)				\$ 13,700	
59	930	71150	SW2	CONSULTANT FEES	\$ 172,900	Mobile events \$72k (\$18k/event x 4); Public drop offs \$92k (\$4k per event x 23); Food \$3.5k ; commercial battery collections \$5.4k (\$900 per event x 6 events)
60	930	71630	SW2	GARBAGE DISPOSAL	\$ 11,000	Mobile Events \$7.2k (\$1800 x 4 events); Office \$3.3k (\$270/month x 12 months); Xtra Service(\$500)
61	930	79940	SW2	MISC. CONTRACTUAL SERVICES	\$ 44,600	Burris fork lift= \$2.2k (\$550/event x 4) Porta John \$2.4k (\$800/event x 3); special collection events \$5k (\$1000/event x 5 events); sharps disposal contract \$35k
62	930	72110	SW2	LIABILITY INSURANCE	\$ -	Covered under Administrative 930-72110, Liability Insurance
63	930	72210	SW2	MOTOR VEHICLE MAINT & REPAIR	\$ 3,600	Fuel \$1000 ; Truck safety inspections \$100 ; Annual tune up and brakes \$2.5k
64	930	72410	SW2	ALL OTHER MAINT AND REPAIRS	\$ 42,100	Dock Lock \$750 , Plumbing \$3.5k , Fire sys PM \$5k , Warehouse Maint \$4k , Generator \$4k , HVAC \$12k , Elec Services \$3k , Fork lift \$2k , Can Crusher \$1000 , Alarms \$2,250 , Overhead Doors \$800 , Fire Ext. \$800 ; Front gate maintenance \$3k
65	70000 SERIES TOTAL (HCW)				\$ 274,200	
66	930	82010	SW2	BUILDINGS AND STRUCTURES	\$ 74,000	Air conditioning units \$50k , Water heater \$5k , baseboard heaters \$11k and office painting \$8k
67	930	83010	SW2	MOTOR VEHICLES	\$ -	
68	930	84060	SW2	FURNITURE AND OFFICE EQUIPMENT	\$ 200	
69	930	85070	SW2	ALL OTHER CAPITAL OUTLAY	\$ -	
70	80000 SERIES TOTAL (HCW)				\$ 74,200	
71	TOTAL 9200030 HCW				\$ 362,100	

Solid Waste Agency of Lake County
FY 2026 Budget

	A	B	C	D	E	F
1	Fund:	Management Center	Account	DESCRIPTION	2026 APPROVED	DETAIL
72	RECYCLING 9200040					
73	930	65180	SW8	MISCELLANEOUS COMMODITIES	\$ 2,500	Electronics Collections, supplies, signage and labels (\$1,000); Special Events/collection containers (\$500); Signage and labels (\$500); and food scrap collection bags (\$500)
74	60000 SERIES TOTAL (Recycling)				\$ 2,500	
75	930	72830	SW8	PRINTING SERVICES	\$ -	
76	930	79940	SW8	MISC. CONTRACTUAL SERVICES	\$ 17,000	Electronics collection costs associated with drop off program (\$15K) potential underweight truck charges (\$2K)
77	70000 SERIES TOTAL (Recycling)				\$ 17,000	
78	TOTAL 9200040 RECYCLING				\$ 19,500	

	A	B	C	D	E	F
1	Fund:	Management Center	Account	DESCRIPTION	2026 APPROVED	DETAIL
79						
80						
81						
82						
83	GRAND TOTAL (All Series) \$ 1,590,100					

Solid Waste Agency of Lake County
FY 2026 Budget

	A	B	C	D	E	F
1	Fund:	Management Center	Account	DESCRIPTION	2026 APPROVED	DETAIL
84	REVENUES 40000					
85	930	47230	SW0	REVENUE FROM LANDFILL SURCHARGE & TS HOST FEE	\$ 965,000	Countryside LF (\$140,000); Zion LF (\$710,000); Groot TS (\$115,000)
86	930	48010	SW0	INTEREST INCOME FROM SURCHARGE BALANCE	\$ 95,402	\$1,981,358 in CD, assume 4% rate; \$403,711 in money market, assume 4% rate
87	930	45380	SW0	REVENUE FROM MUNICIPALITIES	\$ 318,922	O&M Fee at \$1.25 per hh per year
88	930	48145	SW0	REVENUE FROM TEXTILES AND SHOES	\$ 124,400	Shoes (40,000 lbs at \$.56/lb), Textiles/Bin Program (850,000 lb. at \$.12lb)
89	930	48146	SW0	REVENUE FROM SPECIAL COLLECTION EVENTS	\$ 5,000	5 events @ \$1000 per event
90	930	45333	SW0	REVENUE FROM STATE GRANT	\$ 35,000	Grant from IEPA to reimburse SWALCO for sharps collection costs
91	930	45334	SW0	REVENUE FROM FEDERAL GRANT	\$ 45,000	SWALCO received a subaward from Metro Mayors \$2M REO grant from USEPA. Next two years the award is \$25K per federal fiscal year.
92	930	48149	SW0	REVENUE FROM RAIN BARRELS AND COMPOSTERS	\$ 20,250	Based selling 150 rain barrels at \$85 per barrel and 100 composters at \$75 per composter
93	930	49910	SW0	MISCELLANEOUS REVENUES	\$ 16,500	Hauler Licensing (\$1,500); Grayslake payment for drop off (\$15k)
94	TOTAL REVENUES				\$ 1,625,474	

A – 2. 2026 Legislative Policy

ISSUE: Whether to recommend to the Board of Directors that it approve SWALCO's 2026 Legislative Policy.

RECOMMENDATION: SWALCO staff recommend approval.

BACKGROUND: The Legislative Committee was sent a draft of the Legislative Policy and met on September 11, 2025, to provide feedback and make a recommendation.

The Legislative Policy for 2026 is comprised of two parts: 2026 Legislative Policy-Top Priorities and 2026 Legislative Policy-Standing Policies (see attachments). There were no changes to the Standing Policies from 2025. The top priorities in 2026 are to: 1) continue to seek enactment of the EPR bill for household hazardous waste (HB1893/SB1394), 2) continue to seek enactment of the food scrap diversion bill (SB1398/HB1707) and compost market development bill (SB1397), 3) support an EPR bill for mattresses and boxsprings, and 4) introduce a bill on carryout bags.

ENCLOSED DOCUMENT: 2026 Legislative Policy, Standing Policies and Top Priorities

STAFF: Walter S. Willis, Executive Director



SOLID WASTE AGENCY OF LAKE COUNTY, IL

2026 LEGISLATIVE POLICY – STANDING POLICIES

The Solid Waste Agency of Lake County (SWALCO) is a Municipal Joint Action Agency established to implement the Lake County Solid Waste Management Plan. SWALCO is comprised of 43 Lake County municipalities, the County of Lake and the Great Lakes Naval Base. SWALCO's Board of Directors established the Legislative Committee to develop a legislative policy for ultimate approval by the Board of Directors. The Legislative Committee implements the approved policy.

The following are SWALCO's standing or existing policies in key subject areas, which have been divided into state and federal levels.

STANDING LEGISLATIVE POLICY

SWALCO's legislative policy will be communicated to our elected representatives and will be used to provide input to organizations which SWALCO, or its members, are affiliated (for example: National Association of Counties, US Conference of Mayors, the Solid Waste Association of North America, Illinois Counties Solid Waste Management Association, Illinois Product Stewardship Council, Illinois Food Scrap and Composting Coalition, Lake County Municipal League, Northwest Municipal Conference and the Illinois Municipal League).

The following is a more detailed discussion of SWALCO's policy stance on key state and federal solid waste policy issues.

State Level

1. ISSUE: INFORMATIONAL SUPPORT FOR OUR STATE DELEGATION

The SWALCO Legislative Committee and staff will coordinate with the Lake County legislative delegation in reviewing legislative initiatives.

Discussion

SWALCO stays in close contact with its legislative delegation through ongoing discussions with our lobbyist, Mike Grady. SWALCO staff and members of the Legislative Committee will strive to meet in person with all members of the legislative delegation in the coming year either through our partnership with the Lake County Municipal League, attending special meetings convened by legislators, or visiting with them while in Springfield.

It is also important for SWALCO to support its delegation on an on-going basis regarding issues as they arise in Springfield. The state representatives often do not have the staff required to complete detailed assessments of issues. However, this is an area where the Agency can assist its legislators.

2. ISSUE: PRODUCT STEWARDSHIP LEGISLATION

SWALCO will support legislation that fosters responsible product stewardship and responsibility. SWALCO will engage with manufacturers and other stakeholders to enact legislation that reduces the health, environmental and social impacts of consumer products throughout their life cycle, with the ultimate goal of responsibly managing products after their useful life to conserve resources and protect the environment and human health. This activity commonly known as “Product Stewardship” is very common throughout Europe and Canada and to a lesser degree in the United States where over 34 States have passed laws covering 12 different product categories (e.g., electronics, paint, mercury thermostats, and mattresses). One definition of Product Stewardship developed by the Product Stewardship Institute is, “the act of minimizing the health, safety, environmental and social impacts of a product and its packaging throughout the product life cycle, while maximizing the product’s economic benefits. The producer of the product has the greatest ability to minimize the adverse impacts; however, other stakeholders, such as suppliers, retailers and consumers, also play an important role. Stewardship can be either voluntary or required by law.”

Discussion

In the past several years SWALCO has been active on Extended Producer Responsibility (EPR) laws for batteries, electronics, paint, pharmaceuticals, packaging and carpet. EPR laws have been enacted for batteries, electronics, paint and pharmaceuticals.

3. ISSUE: LOCAL SURCHARGE

Support amending the Illinois Environmental Protection Act to either eliminate exempting wastes from state and local fees imposed by units of local government (\$1.27 per ton) or increasing the fee. The authority to impose a local fee on the two in-county landfills has been a key funding source for SWALCO since its inception. Currently, the local surcharge fee represents approximately 65% of the funding for the Agency’s annual budget. Approximately 25% of the waste accepted at the landfills is exempt from the local surcharge, and the local surcharge fee of \$1.27 per ton has not been increased since the enactment of the Solid Waste Management Act in 1986. Further, SWALCO splits the local surcharge fee with the Lake County Health Department, with SWALCO receiving 75% of the fee and the Health Department the remaining 25%.

Discussion

The Task Force on the Advancement of Materials Recycling that SWALCO was appointed to in 2013 did not take a position or offer recommendations regarding the local or state surcharge fees in its 2015 final report to the General Assembly. In addition, the Solid Waste Management Fund, where the State fees are deposited, has been swept and continues to be swept due to the current fiscal situation in IL.

4. ISSUE: FOOD SCRAP COMPOSTING

The Agency will actively support legislation that promotes and supports the marketing of compost or enhances the market demand for compost derived from landscape waste alone or commingled with food scraps.

Discussion

With the passage of SB 99 in 2009 (which SWALCO supported and worked hard to see enacted) significant barriers to the development of food scrap composting sites were removed. SB 99 and the legislation passed in 2015, 2016 and 2017 have provided the necessary regulatory changes to further encourage the diversion of food scraps and other organics from the landfill. Thirty SWALCO members now have provisions in their hauling contracts to allow the commingling of food scraps with landscape waste during the 8-month landscape waste season.

5. ISSUE: RENEWABLE ENERGY FROM MSW SOURCES

Support the designation of municipal solid waste (MSW) derived energy as a renewable energy source. SWALCO may, on a case-by-case basis, support the establishment of renewable energy goals/requirements as a percentage of total energy output. This may also include support for tax credits and other incentives, including greenhouse gas offset credits that provide financial and/or environmental incentives for the development of renewable energy from MSW sources.

Discussion

Under current Illinois law, energy derived from municipal waste from non-landfill related uses does not count as a renewable energy source and therefore cannot be counted toward the 25% renewable portfolio standard per Illinois law (25% by 2025).

6. ISSUE: POLLUTION CONTROL FACILITIES

Oppose changes that affect the local authority's control over the siting of pollution control facilities.

Discussion

SWALCO firmly supports the current practice of having local units of government approve or deny the siting of pollution control facilities within their jurisdictions. This law has proven to be successful in Illinois. Any attempt to tamper with local control will be opposed by SWALCO. However, minor changes to the law that help streamline or clarify the process (often due to case law) will be evaluated on a case-by-case basis.

7. ISSUE: LANDFILL MATERIAL BANS

Oppose the banning of individual materials from landfills unless a viable alternative disposal technology and funding is available.

Discussion

Waste bans have been used previously to eliminate landscape waste, white goods, electronics and oil from municipal solid waste landfills. These bans have reduced the amount of material going to landfills. However, the infrastructure needed to support the alternative disposal plan is rarely in place. SWALCO believes that a two-year period is required to ban material from a landfill and to set up the alternative disposal technology. In this interim period, the state agencies can address the alternative disposal methodologies needed to handle the banned material.

8. ISSUE: ENVIRONMENTAL FEE TRANSFER

Oppose the transfer of any state fees imposed on municipal solid waste to offset any shortfall in general fund revenues.

Discussion

The State applies two fees on waste accepted at landfills: a Subtitle D fee (this refers to the portion of the federal law known as the Resource Conservation and Recovery Act, which regulates municipal waste landfills) and a solid waste fee. The Illinois Environmental Protection Agency, Bureau of Land (BOL) uses these fees for its programs. These fees are used for enforcement grants, which enable Lake County and others to inspect solid waste facilities. It is imperative that these fees stay in the BOL and not be used for other State purposes. SWALCO does not support the transfer of fees to the general fund and supports the expansion of the enforcement program to other Illinois communities.

SWALCO is reliant on our agreement with the Illinois Environmental Protection Agency for funding the disposal of the household chemical wastes we collect in our program. Securing and maintaining funding for this agreement is of the greatest importance to SWALCO.

9. ISSUE: DEPOSIT LEGISLATION

Oppose the imposition of a deposit on beverage containers. A \$0.05 or \$0.10 fee on beverage containers will negatively impact our recycling programs by reducing the revenue anticipated by the recycling centers and creating a fee on residents. One exception would be deposit legislation that focused on glass containers only, such a deposit would help reduce glass at the recycling plants, which makes the plants more profitable by removing a material that is hard on processing equipment and has a negative value after accounting for processing costs.

Discussion

Eleven states have enacted this deposit legislation. Hawaii adopted a deposit system in 2002. The remaining states adopted a deposit system prior to 1987. Generally it is aimed at reducing roadside litter by creating a financial incentive as well as recycling discarded materials. New York experienced a 30% reduction in roadside litter with their bottle bill.

Deposit legislation can expand access to the recycling system to all residents, but handling of deposit containers, either through retail stores or redemption, is an increased burden from a transportation and space standpoint - such as additional trips by residents to redeem containers and space required by retailers to store deposit containers. This financial burden on retail stores may be partially offset by the fees imposed by the deposit. The deposit is an additional fee on residents when they fail to redeem their containers. Curbside recycling represents a convenient way for residents to recycle their beverage containers.

If high value containers such as aluminum cans and PET bottles are removed from the recycling stream the recycling plants' revenue from commodity sales will be decreased substantially. Most SWALCO members have a change in law provision in their contracts that would in theory allow the haulers to come back and ask the members to make up the difference by raising rates. Preliminary estimates are it could raise rates by \$1 per household per month or more.

10. ISSUE: LEAF BURNING BAN

The Agency will support a leaf burning ban bill, which provides for local control of burning ordinances.

Discussion

Over the last several years, SWALCO considered supporting a ban on burning leaves. Landscape waste is prohibited from being disposed of in landfills. Therefore, property owners must compost/mulch leaves at home, subscribe to a service for collection (which costs money) or burn them. Many member communities have banned or restricted the burning of leaves within their communities, while other communities have decided to not restrict the burning of leaves.

Burning leaves creates particulate emissions and causes the release of chemicals in the burning process. Many residents suffer respiratory distress as a result of this process. Leaf burning is a significant air pollution hazard and may be an increased health risk to humans. The Agency will consider supporting a leaf burning ban bill which provides for local control of burning ordinances.

Federal Level

1. ISSUE: INTERSTATE WASTE

Support federal legislation which recognizes and "grandfathers" current interstate waste transport and disposal. Any bill that limits the future importation or exportation of waste

should be evaluated to assess its impact on SWALCO's members before a final policy position is taken.

Discussion

Midwest states do not want to be considered dumping grounds for east coast or Canadian generated waste. Many communities, however, signed agreements to accept waste from outside of their state when their local landfill was developed. They benefited in this arrangement by receiving host fees for this waste. Several states, primarily Michigan with its concerns over waste imports from Canada, have attempted to enact federal legislation to limit or restrict the flow of waste from other states and/or countries. In Illinois we recognize that a significant quantity of Chicago metro waste is transported to landfills in Wisconsin, Michigan and Indiana. Any federal attempt to legislate the flow of waste must be closely scrutinized and evaluated before a position can be taken.

2. ISSUE: FLOW CONTROL

Take no action on flow control, other than to work with other solid waste and municipal organizations to monitor the progress of any flow control legislation and ensure that local governments can institute franchise refuse collection and continue to act as a market participant to direct their waste and/or recyclables to facilities pursuant to competitively bid contracts.

Discussion

The US Supreme Court has upheld the right of communities to enact flow control by acting as a market participant. The Court went further with its April 30, 2007 decision in the *United Haulers v. Oneida-Herkimer Solid Waste Management Authority* case where the Court sustained the flow control ordinances of the Waste Authority. The Court held that directing waste or recyclables to publicly owned facilities was constitutional. The Court has now created a public-private distinction with respect to the Commerce Clause of the U.S. Constitution.

This means that SWALCO has the legal authority to direct its waste and recyclables to publicly owned disposal sites and recycling centers. What isn't clear in the decision is what ability public entities have to direct materials to privately owned or operated facilities. Regardless, SWALCO does have the authority to act as a market participant and direct materials to facilities as part of competitively bid contracts.

3. ISSUE: RENEWABLE ENERGY FROM MSW SOURCES

Support the designation of municipal solid waste (MSW) derived energy as a renewable energy source. SWALCO may, on a case-by-case basis, support the establishment of renewable energy goals/requirements as a percentage of total energy output. This may also include support for tax credits and other incentives, including greenhouse gas offset credits that provide financial and/or environmental incentives for the development of renewable energy from MSW sources.

Discussion

Methane gas energy production is an example of energy production from waste sources. The primary method of waste management in Lake County is landfilling. Both in-county landfills collect and generate energy from methane gas. This capability is facilitated through tax incentives. It is also a source of renewable energy production.

Also of interest is energy derived from alternative waste management technologies including anaerobic digestion and MSW gasification. Both technologies are well proven with other feed stocks, but have yet to be utilized for MSW in the U.S. due to unfavorable economics and the U.S.'s continued reliance on landfilling. Several alternative technology projects are proceeding in both California and Florida. Essential to the economics of these projects is the designation of the energy as a renewable energy source. Large utilities are now searching for renewable energy projects and are often willing to pay a premium for the energy. These projects also have the potential to reduce the amount of greenhouse gases (GHG) emitted in the production of energy, especially as related to coal power plants.

4. ISSUE: PRODUCT STEWARDSHIP AND PRODUCER RESPONSIBILITY

Support legislation that fosters responsible product stewardship and producer responsibility. Most attention is currently focused on the electronics industry. SWALCO supports a national policy, but in the absence of a national policy will support a state-based program (please refer to the state level discussion).

Discussion

Product stewardship is a product-centered approach to environmental protection. Product stewardship calls on all those in the product life cycle--manufacturers, retailers, users, and waste managers --to share responsibility for reducing the environmental impacts of products.

Product stewardship recognizes that product manufacturers should take on new responsibilities to reduce the adverse environmental impact of their products. However, all participants in a product life cycle, including retailers, consumers, and waste managers have important roles to play in working in cooperation with product manufacturers to develop the most workable and cost-effective solutions.

From a solid waste manager's perspective, product stewardship refers to the actions that should be taken with respect to product design, reuse, collection, recycling and disposal in order to avoid adverse environmental impacts from the disposal of the product. Manufacturers must design their products to facilitate disassembly and recycling. Consumers must be educated on how to properly dispose of products. Education can be approached through information developed by manufacturers and provided to consumers through product stickers, operation manuals and advertising. Most importantly, an infrastructure must be developed to properly and responsibly handle the product if it's diverted from the municipal solid waste stream



SOLID WASTE AGENCY OF LAKE COUNTY, IL

2026 LEGISLATIVE POLICY – TOP PRIORITIES

The Solid Waste Agency of Lake County (SWALCO) is a Municipal Joint Action Agency established to implement the Lake County Solid Waste Management Plan. SWALCO is comprised of 43 Lake County municipalities, the County of Lake and the Great Lakes Naval Base. SWALCO's Board of Directors established the Legislative Committee to develop a legislative policy for ultimate approval by the Board of Directors. The Legislative Committee implements the approved policy.

SWALCO has developed two documents related to its legislative policy: 1) 2026 Legislative Policy – Standing Policies, and 2) 2026 Legislative Policy – Top Priorities. The Standing Policies represent SWALCO's current viewpoint on key solid waste related issues on both the state and federal levels. This document, Top Priorities, outlines the legislation the Agency intends to pursue or track in 2026.

Top Priorities for 2026

1. Household Chemical Waste, Extended Producer Responsibility

In 2025, with assistance from the Product Stewardship Institute (PSI) SWALCO staff (Walter and Joe) prepared a draft bill entitled "Household Hazardous Waste Stewardship Act" which was sponsored and filed by Senator Koehler (SB1394) and Representative Chung (HB1893). The bill would shift the costs for SWALCO's collection program (approximately \$450,000 per year) to the producers of the hazardous products we collect from residents.

The bill was not allowed to move in the Senate as it was not assigned to a committee. The House version did get assigned to the House Energy & Environment Committee and was moved out of committee on second reading with the understanding it would not be moved without further discussions. The bill did not move further in session, one stakeholder meeting was convened and held by Representative Chung. The IMA, IRMA and CICI were all opposed to the bill, as was the IEPA.

SWALCO staff has had discussion with the auto fluids industry which is considering developing its own EPR bill that would separate their products from the HHW bill and would include the packaging that the auto fluid products come in and include acceptance from both residential and commercial generators. We should know in late September 2025 if the industry plans to work with SWALCO on a separate bill.

Staff have also been in discussions with the Household and Commercial Products Association (HCPA), which represents over 250 producers of products that we typically collect in our HCW program. The HCPA has suggested that we consider a Needs Assessment bill that would provide

more research and data on which products are brought to HHW events, who the producers are, and the estimated cost to collect and dispose of the products. They have agreed that the bill should include a scope of work and that industry would pay for the study. SWALCO has shared this idea with the other permanent sites and Cook County (it will be opening a new HHW site later this year).

It is recommended that SWALCO continue to have discussions with the HCPA and consider adding the needs assessment component to HB1893/SB1394 and depending on how the bill proceeds in the 2026 session, decide whether to continue to push for the enactment of the bill or pivot to a needs assessment only bill.

2. Food Scrap Diversion

In July 2024, SWALCO organized a tour of Midwest Organics Recycling's compost facility for Senator Johnson. At the end of the tour the Senator gave her approval for SWALCO to develop a bill to divert food scraps from landfilling. SWALCO staff (Emily) developed a tagline, logo and website to help promote the bill (FeedandConserveIL.org). Approximately 200 people have signed up on the website and over 50 businesses have provided their logos as supporters of the bill.

SB1398 was introduced in 2025 and was assigned to Senate Appropriations. The bill has 14 co-sponsors and a subject matter hearing was heard on the bill in early May 2025.

To get the bill moving, we amended HB1707 (Representative Mason) to include the text of SB1398. HB1707 was then assigned to the House Energy & Environment Committee and was moved out of committee on second reading. Over 500 witness slips were filed in support of the bill, showing the reach of the FeedandConserveIL grassroots movement.

SWALCO has helped convene a stakeholder group meeting to work on developing an amendment to the bill prior to the 2026 session. The group includes the IEPA, waste industry, compost industry, food recovery groups, environmental groups and local governments. The first meeting was held on July 31, 2025, with more to follow in the fall. The recommendation is to work with Senator Johnson and Representative Mason to file an amendment to the bill and to work for its passage in 2026.

3. Compost Market Development

Senator Johnson also authorized SWALCO staff to draft a bill to develop new markets for compost, realizing that most compost sites in IL have more finished compost product than the market demands. For example, Midwest Organics Recycling land applies thousands of cubic yards of compost on farmland that its parent company owns adjacent to the compost facility. They would rather sell the product. Illinois banned yard waste from the landfill in 1990, resulting in approximately 500,000 tons of yard waste being diverted to compost sites. If food scraps were banned, that amount would increase by over 2.2 million tons, the need for market development is clear.

SB1397 was filed by Senator Johnson and assigned to the Appropriations Committee, where it was never called for action. The IEPA let the Senator know that they were opposed to the bill because it requested money from the Solid Waste Management Fund to fund the grant program.

Senator Johnson informed us on the July 31st stakeholder call that she still wanted to work SB1397 in the 2026 session. The recommendation is to continue to support the enactment of SB1397 in the 2026 session.

4. EPR for Mattresses

Currently four states (CT, CA, RI, and OR) have EPR laws for mattresses. The laws all have an up-front fee that the consumer pays (like the paint law we enacted in IL) that funds the mattress recovery program. The fee per mattress and box spring is between \$16.00 and \$22.50 in the four states. The mattress industry is supportive of the EPR bills as long as they follow the model of including an upfront consumer fee and do not vary too much from the four existing laws.

This product is being focused on by the IL Product Stewardship Council due to the recent increase in costs to dispose of mattresses, between \$75 to \$100 at the landfill or transfer station. An independent hauler reached out to SWALCO in the spring letting us know about the increased cost to dispose of mattresses. This is a cost that may impact whether haulers will continue to collect mattresses and box springs as a bulk item under residential collection contracts without an additional charge.

The recommendation is to work with the IL PSC to develop and introduce a mattress/box spring EPR bill in 2026.

5. Carryout Bags

SWALCO has a long history, going back to 2009, working on legislation for plastic bags/carryout bags. In 2009 legislation was enacted for Lake County to conduct a pilot program to collect more plastic bags and film and to prepare a report to the General Assembly. In 2012, we attempted to enact a plastic film EPR law to require that bag and film producers develop a statewide collection program; that bill was vetoed by Governor Quinn due to pressure from the environmental community. Finally, in 2017 and 2018 we worked with Senator Link and aligned with IMA and IRMA to pass a bill that would put a 5-cent fee on bags and then split that money among the State, retailers, counties and Municipal Joint Action Agencies like SWALCO. That bill did not get enacted, again due to opposition from the environmental community over the pre-emption language in the bill.

In 2025, a carryout bag bill, SB1872, was introduced with the support of the IL Environmental Council (IEC) and the IL Retail Merchants Association (IRMA). Efforts had been made in previous sessions to introduce a bill, but it wasn't until this year that IEC and IRMA reached a compromise. While SWALCO initially was neutral to supportive of the bill, it became apparent that there was a better approach and one that more resembled what we attempted to enact in 2017 and 2018. The biggest issues with SB1872 are that: 1) retailers keep all the revenue from the 10 cent fee on paper bags (plastic bags are banned under the bill starting in 2029) resulting in hundreds of millions of dollars going to retailers only over the next decade, and 2) the 10 cent fee on paper bags will perpetuate the use of paper bags which from a greenhouse gas perspective are more impactful than plastic bags, and not significantly change consumer behavior to use reusable bags. SWALCO has drafted a new bill that does not include a ban on plastic bags but imposes a 10-cent fee on all types of carryout bags and raises the fee 5 cents per year until bag use is reduced by 90% from the first year's use. The bill splits the money between the State (60%), retailers (20%) and local government (20%). The bill also requires local government to use the

funds on waste recycling, composting, HHW, special collections and other sustainability related uses.

The recommendation is to find a sponsor and file an alternative carryout bag bill in 2026.