

MATERIALS MANAGEMENT FAQ

Updated October 2026

WHAT IS THE MATERIALS MANAGEMENT PLAN?

Part 115 of the Natural Resources and Environmental Protection Act (PA 451 of 1994) was updated in 2023 to expand regulations for solid waste to include recycling and composting. As a result, each county is required to submit a Materials Management Plan to the Department of Environment, Great Lakes and Energy (EGLE). Prior to these updates, each county maintained a Solid Waste Management Plan, with the last major updates required ~25 years ago.

The 6 County Boards of Commissioners of the central Upper Peninsula (Alger, Delta, Dickinson, Marquette, Menominee, and Schoolcraft) joined together to form a regional Materials Management Plan (MMP). [Some reporting has called it the multi-county recycling plan]. The MMP regulates provisions for the siting, operation, and strategic use of solid waste, recycling and organics facilities under the requirements of Part 115.

WHAT IS THE TIMELINE FOR THE MATERIALS MANAGEMENT PLAN?

The creation of the Plan is set by a timeline in Part 115; planning began in 2024 and the central Upper Peninsula's MMP is due to EGLE by June 27, 2027. The Central Upper Peninsula Materials Management Planning Committee (CUPMMPC) was created by intergovernmental agreement to draft the Plan, beginning in October of 2024. The CUPMMPC is a public body that contains representatives appointed by each County Board of Commissioners from materials management facilities, local governments, and businesses.

Beginning in November of 2026, the draft MMP will be distributed for a public comment and local municipal approval process. Following this period, each County Board of Commissioners will approve the final MMP and recommend its distribution to local governments. The MMP will then need to be majority-approved by each local unit of government in the six counties. The timelines for these approvals are dependent on action steps outlined in Part 115.

DO THESE PLANS REQUIRE THAT EVERYONE RECYCLE AND COMPOST?

No, the plans do not require participation from all residents. However, Part 115 requires that recycling options be accessible to all residents in some form. Whether that is through drop-off facilities, haulers providing additional services, municipal facilities, etc. will be determined through the planning process and implementation by local governments, authorities, and private businesses. Organic waste represents one of the largest shares of landfilled materials, so additional options to divert organics/yard wastes through composting or other means are expected to become more available.

I ALREADY RECIEVE TRASH/RECYCLING SERVICE, WILL THIS PLAN AFFECT THAT?

The Plan may ultimately recommend a level of service to households, or various methods of service delivery. A local unit of government or private service provider may choose to adopt and implement those recommendations in furtherance of the Plan's goals.

Contact Ryan Carrig at CUPPAD for more information : rcarrig@cuppad.org (906)-280-5134



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HOW DOES THIS PLAN CONTROL SITING/LOCAL ZONING FOR FACILITIES?

Part 115 creates a preemption to local siting authority for materials management facilities (landfills, transfer stations, recycling processing facilities, compost sites, anaerobic digesters, and other types of management facilities). Local control is maintained if a local zoning approval is available (specific types of facilities are included in a local zoning ordinance). The Materials Management Plan contains siting requirements in absence of local zoning and for larger types of disposal facilities. The Plan includes standard defintions and sample zoning ordinace regulations for local units to include in their ordinances; contact CUPPAD for additional information and assistance with incorporating these regulations.

HOW CAN I REVIEW AND COMMENT THE DRAFT MATERIALS MANAGEMENT PLAN?

Beginning in November and running through January 20, 2027, the approved draft of the 2027-2032 Central Upper Peninsula Materials Management Plan will be available for public review and comment. The Plan will be available electronically through each county's website and the CUPPAD website at www.cuppad.org/materials-management. Printed copies are available at cost by contacting CUPPAD.

Local meetings during the public comment period will be held at a location in each county; check the CUPPAD website at the page above for a list of these locations.

Written comments may be mailed to CUPPAD, 2950 College Ave, Escanaba, MI 49829. Online written comments will be accepted through a comment form located at www.surveymonkey.com/r/CUPMMP27. A public hearing additional comments on the proposed Plan will be held by the Central Upper Peninsula Materials Management Planning Committee on January 21, 2027 at 1:00pm ET in the Board Room of the Delta County Service Center, 2920 College Ave, Escanaba, MI 49829. The Committee will review comments received for additional action before the Plan's adoption.

HOW WILL THE PLAN BE ADOPTED?

The Central Upper Peninsula Materials Management Planning Committee will adopt the Plan at the conclusion of the public review and comment period. Then, the Boards of Commissioners of Alger, Delta, Dickinson, Marquette, Menominee, and Schoolcraft County will adopt the Plan upon review. Upon their adoption, the Plan will be transmitted to each of the townships, cities, and villages in the six-county area for adoption by their legislative body.

Approval of the final Plan requires a ⅔ majority vote in approval by all the legislative bodies that respond to the transmission. The Plan is then submitted to EGLE for final approval.

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