

Solid Waste Disposal and Recyclable Materials Processing Authority of Broward County, Florida

C&D Subcommittee Meeting

June 17, 2025, 10:00 – 11:30 AM

Broward County Government Center West

1st Floor Board Room – Surtax Plaza

1 North University Drive

Plantation, FL 33324

MINUTES

The meeting was called to order and roll call was taken. A quorum was not met. Due to the absence of a quorum, no official votes or actions could be taken.

Present: Member Mead.

Not Present: Member Newton, Member Caggiano.

Public Comment

During public comment, stakeholders emphasized support for increased diversion and questioned whether flow control and ordinances could be implemented before Master Plan approval. They raised concerns about discrepancies in waste estimates, especially in high-performing cities, and stressed the need for clear enforcement, stronger education efforts, deconstruction incentives, and regional infrastructure improvements. One speaker urged prioritizing deconstruction mandates for higher recovery and job creation potential.

Selection of Chair and Vice Chair

The selection of the chair and vice chair was postponed to the next meeting, due to the absence of a quorum.

Purpose of Subcommittee

Executive Director Todd Storti opened the initial subcommittee meeting with a C&D Diversion Program Overview presentation. He emphasized the importance of establishing the C&D subcommittee to address the large volume of construction and demolition (C&D) debris in Florida's waste stream, which makes up 20–35% of total waste. A 2024 study found that 74% of this material is potentially divertible, highlighting the urgency of developing a standardized, countywide diversion strategy.

Deposit Program Framework - A refundable deposit program was proposed, in which deposits would be collected at the time of building permit issuance and based on the project's square footage. Contractors would be required to demonstrate that all C&D materials were delivered to certified processors to receive a full refund. Certified processors would need to achieve a minimum 50 percent diversion rate, verified through third-party audits. A digital reporting system was also proposed to facilitate tracking of weight tickets and documentation uploads.

Facility Certification Requirements - Eligibility for the certification program would be limited to Florida DEP-permitted processors. Third-party auditing companies would verify each facility's diversion rates and capabilities. The certification process would be based on overall facility performance, rather than requiring per-load tracking.

Phased Implementation Strategy - A phased implementation strategy was outlined. The first phase would target high-recovery materials such as concrete, metal, and asphalt. The second phase would include wood, cardboard, and drywall, while the third phase would address mixed loads with lower recovery potential. Larger construction projects might be required to meet additional standards, such as LEED Silver certification.

Legal Authority & Implementation - The subcommittee confirmed that both the County and individual municipalities have the legal authority to implement C&D ordinances. This would allow cities to move forward independently without waiting for the completion of the County's Master Plan. An open-market certification approach was recommended to avoid potential conflicts related to flow control.

Comparison Models – Lee County was presented as a successful example of a deposit-based compliance model. Member Mead proposed organizing a visit to Lee County facilities and inviting their representatives to speak to the Executive Board. Their program may serve as a model for developing a similar ordinance in Broward County.

Proposed Timeline - The timeline for implementation includes community input and scoping in the third quarter of 2024, development of draft ordinance language in the fourth quarter of 2024, and education and outreach efforts during the first three quarters of 2025. The next subcommittee meeting is scheduled for September 2024.

(Reopened) Public Comment

During public comment, attendees questioned whether fees in the proposed model would cover costs and whether C&D ordinances should be adopted by the county or cities. The Solid Waste Authority clarified that cities must adopt their own ordinances, but the county can support with templates and coordination.

There was uncertainty about landfill bans versus certified recycler mandates. The Authority explained that while bans may face legal challenges, a refundable deposit system tied to certified processors can drive diversion.

Speakers asked if enough local recycling capacity exists. The Authority confirmed short-term needs can be met with current facilities, which could expand with consistent material flow. Concerns were raised about the complexity of coordinating across 37 municipal building departments. Some suggested exploring Palm Beach County's franchise-based model and recommended issuing an RFP to assess service providers and pricing.

Immediate Action Items

Support was expressed for continued brainstorming and collaboration, with the Solid Waste Authority committing to further outreach, legal review, ordinance refinement, and support for cities ready to move forward. The Executive Director was charged with organizing a visit to Lee County facilities for Subcommittee members and inviting their representatives to speak to the Executive Board. Other: Review model ordinances, comment on targets/deposits, and create list of local processors. The next C&D Subcommittee meeting to be tentatively scheduled in the month of August or September.

The meeting was adjourned by the Executive Director.