



June 10, 2024

Cook County Board of Commissioners
Environment and Sustainability Committee
118 N. Clark Street
Chicago, Illinois 60602

Via email: cookcounty.board@cookcountyil.gov

Dear Members of the Environment and Sustainability Committee,

It has been my pleasure to serve as a member of the Solid Waste Advisory Committee on behalf of the Solid Waste Agency of Northern Cook County (SWANCC) throughout the development of the 2024-2029 Cook County Solid Waste Management Plan Update. SWANCC is a municipal joint action agency representing 23 member communities across northern Cook County, constituting approximately 30% of suburban Cook County’s population. SWANCC facilitates the delivery of effective, competitive, and environmentally sound collection, transportation, transfer, processing, treatment, storage, disposal, recovery, and reuse of municipal waste for its members.

The goals and recommendations established in the updated Cook County Solid Waste Management Plan align closely with SWANCC’s own goals, including goals addressing:

- Implementation of new diversion programs, including organics management opportunities
- Increased support for diversion in multi-family residential developments
- Development of a new permanent household hazardous waste facility
- Regional collaboration to provide education and outreach services
- Technical assistance to individual communities to support sustainable material management
- Support for legislative initiatives including product stewardship and extended producer responsibility to reduce and divert waste from disposal

The updated plan encourages the County to work with existing agencies, including SWANCC, and to focus its work to the areas of greatest need in Cook County. These areas are both geographic, with recommendations to provide assistance to southern Cook County communities that lack a waste agency, and programmatic, with recommendations to advance waste reduction and diversion opportunities in low-performing communities and areas of environmental justice concern. It also highlights opportunities to reduce greenhouse gas emissions and advance the circular economy while striving to achieve an ambitious diversion goal of 45% by 2030 and 50% by 2035, consistent with statewide goals set by the Illinois Materials Management Advisory Committee in 2021. SWANCC supports the efforts of Cook County and its staff to elevate the opportunities for responsible waste management available to all communities across the County.

George Van Dusen
Chairman,
Board of Directors

Karen Darch
Vice Chairman,
Board of Directors

Jon Sfondilis
Secretary/Treasurer,
Board of Directors
Chairman,
Executive Committee

Christina Seibert
Executive Director



I encourage the Committee and the Board of Commissioners to adopt the Plan as drafted, and I look forward to continuing to collaborate and knowledge-share with Cook County and its staff on programs, education, and legislation to drive cost-effective, efficient, and responsible management of municipal waste throughout the County as the 2024-2029 Cook County Solid Waste Management Plan is implemented.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Christina Seibert". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first letters of the first and last names being capitalized and prominent.

Christina Seibert
Executive Director