

# **Public Engagement Plan**

## **Ivy Materials Utilization Center (MUC)**

### **Project Description**

Over the past two years, the Board has considered various options regarding the current transfer station facilities and operation at the Ivy Materials Utilization Center (MUC). In part, the evaluation of alternatives for the continued use of the Ivy MUC has been driven by the need to bring the facility into compliance with applicable Virginia Department of Environmental Quality (VDEQ) regulations. Those regulations require that the transfer station operation be covered to prevent the waste material from being exposed to precipitation.

The Ivy MUC is owned and operated by the Rivanna Solid Waste Authority (RSWA) under an operating agreement involving RSWA, the County, and the City of Charlottesville. RSWA holds the VDEQ permit governing the transfer station operation and is guided currently by a Letter Agreement with the VDEQ that has established a detailed plan for bringing the transfer station into regulatory compliance.

In November 2015, the Board approved an option for addressing the compliance issues and retaining the Ivy MUC's use as a transfer station. The approved option provides for the construction of an 11,800 square foot stand-alone top load transfer station located to the west of the existing scales. This facility will be large enough to continue current activities and will allow for the possible expansion of recycling services. The construction project will be managed by the RSWA.

This public engagement plan is focused on ensuring an effective method for informing adjacent residents about the parameters and potential impacts of the upcoming construction project and for involving the larger community in discussions about the types of services, particularly recycling, that should be considered as the transfer station is improved.

### **Public Participation Goals**

- Residents in the vicinity of the Ivy MUC are fully aware of the project in advance of construction and have the opportunity to provide input in those instances where their feedback can affect change as the project is designed - establish realistic expectations about the process and timeline for design and construction of the facility.
- Residents in the vicinity and users of the Ivy MUC have adequate notice of construction scheduling and any impacts that might affect their use of the facility.
- County residents in general have an opportunity to provide their input and preferences about the types of services, particularly related to recycling, that should be considered as the transfer station is improved.
- Citizens understand the value of this new public infrastructure investment in improving services.
- The Ivy MUC transfer station is viewed by area residents as a model facility for sustainable materials management with the potential for similar facilities in other locations in the future.

## **Stakeholders**

Neighbors in the vicinity of the Ivy MUC  
Current users of the Ivy MUC  
County residents  
Albemarle County Homeowners Associations  
Private Haulers and Transfer Stations  
Environmental Groups  
Others to be determined

## **Public Participation Activities**

Details on the specifics of these and other identified public participation activities will be developed in partnership with RSWA and with input from Supervisors from the affected magisterial districts:

- Project website established to provide accurate, up-to-date information
- Information distributed via outreach mechanisms like AMail, website, and traditional media
- Open house for neighbors in the vicinity to announce initiation of project
- Periodic updates as construction proceeds, in person when appropriate
- Dialogue opportunities for general community feedback about potential expansion of recycling
- Targeted outreach to entities with particular interest in sustainable materials management/recycling

## **Roles and Responsibilities**

**Board of Supervisors:** The Board of Supervisors has the decision making authority to request and fund the facility and operation and for establishing the long-term solid waste and sustainable materials management policy of the County.

**Rivanna Solid Waste Authority Board County Representatives:** Albemarle County Board of Supervisors and staff representatives will represent the County's preferences and best interests as the project proceeds as members of the RSWA Board, which provides oversight to RSWA operations.

**Rivanna Solid Waste Authority:** The Rivanna Solid Waste Authority has the responsibility of managing the design and construction process for the new facility.

**Albemarle County Staff:** County staff will work with RSWA staff to ensure the effectiveness of the public participation process as outlined, including keeping the community informed about the progress of the project and engaged in discussions about future services.

## **The Feedback Loop:**

This plan will ensure dissemination of information between County staff, decision-makers and the public at large to demonstrate how comments and concerns have been recorded and understood and to assure that they have been accurately communicated. It will also show the

public how their input has been translated and how it influenced the outcome of the process. Examples of the feedback loop include:

- The project website will be kept up to date on all meetings and other events including construction milestones
- Any comments generated at public meetings will be recorded and available for review on the County website and will be available for decision-makers during their review
- All notices of public meetings will be posted on the website. These meetings will be open to the public.
- Press releases and other materials will be distributed as appropriate to inform the community about the progress of the project.

**Evaluation:**

- Staff will use evaluation as an ongoing tool to assess and improve the public participation plan as the project moves forward