

## NOTICE OF 90-DAY PUBLIC COMMENT PERIOD AND PUBLIC HEARING ON PROPOSED AMENDMENT TO THE MACOMB COUNTY SOLID WASTE MANAGEMENT PLAN

The Macomb County Solid Waste Planning Committee ("Committee") is inviting public comment on a Proposed Amendment to the County's Solid Waste Management Plan, originally adopted in 1999. The amendment is a proactive and necessary step to secure the region's long-term environmental health, promote sustainable growth, and ensure Macomb County remains a hub for economic opportunity and innovation.

### **Public Comment and Hearing Details:**

Written comments will be accepted through January 14th, 2026 at:  
Macomb County Office of Planning and Economic Development  
One South Main Street, 7th Floor  
Mount Clemens, Michigan 48043  
Business hours: 8:30 a.m. to 4:00 pm

Or virtually at: <https://www.macombgov.org/solid-waste-planning-committee>

A public hearing will be held on or around Thursday, January 22<sup>nd</sup>, in coordination with the Macomb County Board of Commissioner's meeting, to gather additional community feedback. The full text of the Proposed Amendment is available for review in person at the above address or online at: - <https://www.macombgov.org/solid-waste-planning-committee>. All meeting notices and materials will be made available on the County's website at: - [Solid Waste planning committee](#).

### **Purpose and Overview of the Proposed Amendment:**

The primary purpose of the amendment is to enable the expansion of the Pine Tree Acres Landfill (PTA) in Lenox Township. This expansion is critically needed to maintain essential waste disposal capacity for Macomb County residents and businesses. Without expansion, the County faces a capacity shortfall that could jeopardize public health, economic stability, and environmental safeguards.

In alignment with the County's broader commitment to sustainability, the amendment also recognizes and supports the development of a new recycling transfer station at the PTA site that will deliver collected recyclable materials to a new state-of-the-art WM Detroit Recycling Facility. This modern facility will significantly improve the region's ability to manage recyclable materials, reduce landfill burden, and support Michigan's circular economy goals.

### **Support for Long-Term Environmental and Economic Sustainability:**

While the State of Michigan and Macomb County is currently engaged in updating their statewide recycling and solid waste planning framework through the new Michigan Materials Management Planning (MMP) process, the County has exercised its option to proceed under the existing Solid Waste Management Plan amendment process to meet immediate needs and avoid disruption in essential waste services.

### **Key elements of the Proposed Amendment include:**

- Expansion of the PTA area sited for use by an additional 236.5 acres adjacent to the existing facility—bringing the total acreage sited for use to 813.5 acres. This acreage will include the landfill disposal area (increased by approximately 135 acres), ancillary activities, setbacks, conservation and isolation areas.
- Development and construction of a new recycling transfer station that will enhance collection and management of recyclable materials, aligning with the County’s MMP objectives to meet or exceed the State’s benchmark goals.

### **Advancing Environmental Protection and Local Innovation:**

This Proposed Amendment represents more than a landfill expansion—it is a strategic investment in Macomb County’s future. By pairing essential disposal capacity with cutting-edge recycling infrastructure, the County can significantly reduce its environmental footprint while supporting potential job creation, economic growth, and public health.

The recycling transfer station in particular exemplifies a forward-thinking commitment to sustainable materials management and responsible resource recovery. It positions Macomb County as a leader in environmental innovation and supports the long-term goals of both the County and the State.

### **Learn More and Participate:**

Public participation is important to the plan’s success. A Frequently Asked Questions (FAQ) document with additional background is available alongside the Proposed Amendment materials. For questions or further information, please contact:

Macomb County Office of Planning and Economic Development  
One South Main Street, 7th Floor  
Mount Clemens, Michigan 48043  
Business hours: 9:00 a.m. to 4:30 pm  
(586) 469-5285  
[Planning@macombgov.org](mailto:Planning@macombgov.org)

Your feedback and engagement are appreciated as we take this important step toward a cleaner, more resilient, and economically vibrant Macomb County.

## Frequently Asked Questions (FAQ)

### **Why is the Solid Waste Management Plan being amended?**

The Plan is being amended to allow for a critically needed expansion of the Pine Tree Acres Landfill in Lenox Township. This expansion ensures long-term solid waste disposal capacity, environmental protection, and continued economic growth for Macomb County. The amendment also supports development of a new recycling transfer station that will increase efficiency and sustainability in materials management.

### **Why is the County using the Plan Amendment process instead of the Michigan Materials Management Planning (MMP) process?**

While the MMP process is ongoing at the state level and Macomb County is actively moving forward with its Materials Management Plan, Macomb County has chosen to proceed with the Solid Waste Management Plan Amendment process to meet the urgent needs in solid waste disposal capacity for the County. This faster approach avoids delays and secures critical infrastructure needed to serve the community's environmental and economic interests.

### **Will this expansion discourage other, new landfills from being developed in Macomb County?**

Yes. The expansion of Pine Tree Acres Landfill, as approved through this amendment, provides sufficient long-term capacity—estimated at approximately 25 additional years—for Macomb County's needs. As a result, there is no anticipated need to consider new landfill sites in the County for the foreseeable future, which is expected to protect open space, reduce land use conflicts, and limit environmental disruption.

However, this expansion does not reduce competition or increase disposal costs. Waste hauling, transfer, and disposal services remain subject to competition in the regional marketplace and the County SWMP Import/Export authorizations will remain unchanged, allowing the County's waste to be **disposed of** at other authorized county landfills.

### **What is the process and timeline for approving the amendment?**

The amendment process includes a 90-day public comment period and a public hearing. The amendment also requires the approval of 67% of the municipalities in Macomb County and the County, collaborating with WM, will support that process. After gathering public input, and securing the required approvals, the County will submit the amendment to the Michigan Department of Environment, Great Lakes, and Energy (EGLE) for review and approval. This transparent, state-regulated process ensures community involvement and compliance with environmental standards.

### **Does this plan support environmental sustainability?**

Yes. The Plan includes the development of a recycling transfer station and promotes resource

conservation and recovery. It also supports landfill gas recovery projects that generate clean energy. These components collectively enhance sustainability and reduce the environmental footprint of waste disposal in Macomb County.