

Public Participation Plan: Fill & Waste Zoning Regulations Rewrite

Public Participation Plan for Revising a County Ordinance

Reference: [link to code](#)

Overview

Revising a County ordinance is an important process that requires meaningful public engagement and input. This public participation plan outlines the key steps and strategies to ensure the community has ample opportunities to learn about the proposed revisions to the ordinance, provide feedback, and influence the final outcome.

Objectives

The main objectives of this public participation plan are to:

1. Raise awareness about the ordinance rewrite and the policy goals it aims to address.
2. Gather diverse perspectives and input from residents, businesses, community organizations, and other interested parties.
3. Incorporate public feedback into the drafting process to create an ordinance that reflects the needs and priorities of the community.
4. Promote transparency and build trust in the County's decision-making process.

Interested Parties Identification

The following key parties have been identified for this public participation process:

- County residents
- Customers who have applied for grading permits in the past 2 years
- Local business and industry groups, including farmers, developers, builders, and dump truck operators This includes Albemarle County Farm Bureau, Charlottesville Area Development Roundtable (CADRe), and Blue Ridge Home Builders Association (BRHBA)
- Interest groups that follow Albemarle County land use, including the Piedmont Environmental Council (PEC), the Free Enterprise Forum (FEF), and the Southern Environmental Law Center (SELC)
- Relevant County departments and staff, including Community Development (CDD) and Facilities and Environmental Services (FES), and County Attorney
- Planning Commission
- Board of Supervisors

In addition, the following external agencies and localities will be consulted: Rivanna Solid Waste Authority (RSWA), University of Virginia (UVA), Virginia Department of Environmental Quality (VDEQ), Thomas Jefferson Planning District Commission (TJPDC), surrounding localities (City of Charlottesville, Greene County, Orange County, Nelson County, Fluvanna County, and Buckingham County)

Phases of Engagement

The public participation process will be carried out over the following phases:

Discover (Spring 2024)

Develop a shared understanding of the constraints, interests, challenges, and opportunities associated with this topic. This includes:

- Identifying interested parties and contacts
- Identifying concerns and challenges associated with the current ordinance
- Clarifying the constraints for this ordinance
- Identifying the goals for this ordinance
- Researching best practices
- Delivering clear and accessible information

Define (Summer 2024)

Review the quantitative and qualitative data received during the Discover phase. Identify insights and themes. Finalize the parameters for the revised ordinance with clarity on what we seek to accomplish with the regulations.

Draft (Fall and Winter 2024)

Based on parameters set within the Define stage, staff will draft the revised ordinance and share the draft for review.

Decide (Spring 2025)

The Board of Supervisors will consider the revised ordinance that aligns with the desired parameters and goals.

Do (beginning Spring 2025)

If adopted, the ordinance will be implemented and reviewed at regular intervals.

Public Engagement Strategies

To achieve the stated objectives, the County will employ the following public engagement strategies:

1. **Public Information:** Utilizing the Albemarle County News (ACN) e-newsletter and albemarle.org, the County will provide an overview of the existing ordinance, explain the policy rationale and reasons for review, provide an email address to contact project staff, and share participation opportunities. Materials will be written in plain language with a focus on accessibility.
2. **Online Engagement:** An interactive project website will be created to host information about the proposed ordinance, including draft text, supporting documents, and a public comment form.
3. **Targeted Outreach:** The County will conduct targeted outreach to specific interested parties, such as business associations, community organizations, and environmental groups. This may include attending existing meetings, hosting focus groups, or arranging one-on-one discussions.
4. **Public Hearings:** The County will hold at least two public hearings during the drafting process, providing opportunities for interested parties to present their views and concerns directly to the County decision-makers.

Evaluation and Feedback

Throughout the public participation process, the County will monitor and evaluate the effectiveness of the engagement strategies. This process will include tracking participation levels, analyzing the feedback received, and soliciting input from interested parties on the process. The lessons learned will be used to inform future public engagement efforts.