

Policy Briefing Summary

City Council



Regarding:	Resolution adopting the 2026 Regional Solid Waste Management Plan for the Thomas Jefferson Solid Waste Management Unit
Staff Contact(s):	Kristel Riddervold, Director of the Office of Sustainability, Steven Hicks, Director of Public Works, Victoria Kanellopoulos, City Planner
Presenter:	Kristel Riddervold, Director of the Office of Sustainability
Date of Proposed Action:	September 8, 2026

Issue

City staff and staff from the Thomas Jefferson Planning District Commission (TJPDC) presented City Council with the draft 2026-2031 TJPDC Regional Solid Waste Management Plan ('SWMP') at Council's meeting on August 17, 2026. The presentation covered the legal requirements, the process (including community engagement), and the regional implementation plan including City of Charlottesville elements. Staff requests City Council's adoption of a Resolution to approve the updated TJPDC Solid Waste Management Plan.

Background / Rule

The Thomas Jefferson Solid Waste Planning Unit Regional Solid Waste Management Plan establishes the region's principal framework for managing solid waste, recycling, reuse, and related materials management activities through 2046. The Thomas Jefferson Solid Waste Planning Unit (TJSWPU) includes Albemarle County, Fluvanna County, Greene County, the City of Charlottesville, and the incorporated Towns of Scottsville and Stanardsville. The Thomas Jefferson Planning District Commission coordinates the plan on behalf of the member localities.

Per State Code, the Solid Waste Management Plan must be updated every 5 years and has a 20-year planning horizon. The current Plan was adopted on March 3, 2022. The TJPDC convened a Technical Advisory Committee to develop implementation plans for each locality. The TJPDC also facilitated the community engagement requirement, including the 30-day public comment period (August 1-30, 2026). The process is now concluding with adoption of the plan by each locality and the TJPDC, with the relevant schedule for the City outlined below:

- August 17: Charlottesville Presentation
- September 3: TJPDC Public Hearing & Presentation
- September 8: Charlottesville Adoption (Consent Agenda)
- October 1: TJPDC Adoption
- Before October 24: Final Submission to DEQ

Analysis

Per State Code 9VAC-130-120 & 9VAC-130-125, each SWMP must include objectives for the 20-year planning horizon, discuss plan implementation and tracking, provide facility names, capacity, and lifespan, provide a strategy for funding and resources with descriptions of each, include a public education and information strategy, consider public-private partnerships and private sector participation, and maintain at least a 25% recycling rate.

The updated implementation framework for the City continues various strategies from the current

SWMP and incorporates community feedback and the 2021 Comprehensive Plan. Updated strategies address recycling data collection and public education, enhanced reporting metrics, implementing the City's recently adopted High-Performance Building Standards, engagement with multifamily housing residents and managers to expand recycling, and increasing diversion of yard waste and food scraps.

Financial Impact

There is no budget impact associated with this report.

Recommendation

Staff recommends City Council adopt the attached resolution to approve the 2026-2031 Thomas Jefferson Solid Waste Management Plan for the Thomas Jefferson Solid Waste Planning Unit.

Recommended Motion (if Applicable)

"I make a Motion to adopt the attached Resolution approving the 2026-2031 Thomas Jefferson Solid Waste Management Plan for the Thomas Jefferson Solid Waste Planning Unit ."

Attachments

1. Attachment 1 - Regional Solid Waste Management Plan link
2. Attachment 2 - RESOLUTION Solid Waste Management Plan for TJSWPU