



OFFICE OF THE MAYOR
LA CROSSE

February 14, 2017

Sustainable La Crosse Commission
Mike Giese, Chair
212 6th Street North
La Crosse, Wisconsin 54601

Dear Mike:

Due to a scheduling conflict, I am unable to attend the February 15th Sustainable La Crosse Commission's forum on waste recycling. I offer the following comments for the record. I recommend that La Crosse County adopt a county-wide construction and demolition recycling ordinance and program to reduce the amount of landfilled building materials.

My concern is the data from the annual sustainability indicators report showing a significant increase in landfilled solid waste and a substantial decrease in recycling county-wide. Since our baseline year of 2007, the amount of landfilled waste increased a whopping 37%, while our county-wide recycling plunged 39% during the same time! This trend is troubling to say the least and contradicts La Crosse County's eco-county declaration per the natural step model for sustainable development.

Last year I asked the county's Solid Waste Director Henry Koch for information detailing their efforts for reducing landfilled waste and increasing recycling. Attached is his response.

My recommendation for La Crosse County is to adopt a county-wide construction and demolition recycling ordinance and program. This is based on the dramatic increase of building materials being landfilled, as referenced in Henry Koch's letter. Other communities nationally have experienced great results in recycling these materials and La Crosse County should do the same.

I believe a county-wide program and ordinance makes sense for consistency and administration, rather than having multiple local jurisdiction's efforts. We will see a direct benefit in this endeavor by reducing waste and also by recycling more materials for re-use by our non-profit affordable housing providers, helping to reduce the cost of providing that housing locally.

Thank you for the opportunity to comment about waste recycling in La Crosse County.

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Please let me know if you have any questions or need additional information.

Sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Tim Kabat". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name "Tim" and last name "Kabat" clearly distinguishable.

Mayor Tim Kabat

Attachment

C: Sustainable La Crosse Commission members
 La Crosse County Solid Waste Policy Advisory Board
 Henry Koch, PE, La Crosse County Solid Waste Director