

**Residential Recycling Initiative
Department of Environmental Quality
Status Report
November 3, 2015**

Thirteen months have passed since the first appropriation of funds for the Governor's Residential Recycling Initiative significant progress is being made on the steps necessary to meet the Governor's ambitious goal of doubling recycling in Michigan. Additionally, a greater understanding is shared among interested parties regarding the challenges Michigan faces while working to increase access and participation in recycling programs. The Department of Environmental Quality (DEQ) staff and the Governor's Recycling Council members are implementing plans for the second year of the Residential Recycling Initiative (Initiative). To date focus has been applied to measuring recycling; providing outreach, education, and technical assistance; fostering strong recycling markets; increasing access and participation.

Appropriation – Fiscal year (FY) 2016 DEQ has again been appropriated \$1 million to help to implement the Initiative.

Governor's Recycling Council – The Council advises the DEQ on implementing the Governor's Residential Recycling Plan and other related issues so that the state will achieve a 30 percent recycling rate within two years. The council met on May 20, 2014 in Lansing, July 22, 2014 in Emmet County, September 3, 2014 at the Michigan Recycling Coalition office in Lansing, November 6, 2014 at Schupan in Wixom, January 14, 2015 in Lansing (public meeting), March 12, 2015 in Grand Rapids at the Kent County MRF, May 13, 2015 at Granger in Lansing, July 14, 2015 at Constitution Hall in Lansing, September 22, 2015 in Lansing, and a meeting with the Governor on September 23rd, 2015.

Community Pollution Prevention grants FY 2014 – Three separate grants for FY2014 (\$250,000 total) were awarded to collect data on Michigan's recycling rate, percentage of population with convenient access to recycling, high performing recycling programs, composition of municipal solid waste currently landfilled and incinerated, and the economic value of this material. This data will assist local recycling programs identify best practices and aid the state to benchmark progress on the DEQ scorecard. The results of the recycling measurement grant were presented at the Governor's Recycling Summit. The waste sorts have been completed with a report by the West Michigan Sustainable Business Forum in November (some details and a video here http://www.mlive.com/news/grand-rapids/index.ssf/2015/07/trash_research_project.html) . The benchmarking studies will be published early in 2016.

Community Pollution Prevention grants FY 2015 – The FY2015 grants enhance local or regional recycling programs and lead to increases in the statewide recycling rate. The grant recipients were announced on May 5th at the summit. A total of \$635,500 was awarded for 14 projects that support infrastructure development, program start-up, program enhancement, and education and outreach. Details here http://www.michigan.gov/deq/0,4561,7-135-70153_70155_3585_57765_62565-350042--_00.html

For more information please contact Debbie Swartz at swartzd@michigan.gov.

Sustainability Grants 2016 – In an effort to coordinate all recycling related grant opportunities the DEQ is forming an umbrella outreach and notification campaign for 2016 grant opportunities. The grants currently under the sustainability umbrella are the scrap tire grants, the Community Pollution Prevention grant, and a newly developed residential recycling grant.

Scrap Tire Grants – Cleanup grants http://www.michigan.gov/deq/0,4561,7-135-3312_4122-176203--,00.html Scrap tire market development grants http://www.michigan.gov/deq/0,4561,7-135-3312_4122-82217--,00.html

Community P2 grants – Details to be announced soon and will focus on organics management

Residential Recycling Grant – DEQ has evaluated the best approach to achieving the most progress on increasing the recycling rate and has concluded that moving programs from bins to carts will make a significant positive impact. A grant RFP will be available before the end of 2015. A strong partnership with the Recycling Partnership, an industry funded organization working to improve recycling, has been formed and will be important in providing technical resources and planning for communities making the switch.

Recycling measurement legislation - The DEQ has been working with interested parties to develop recycling measurement and reporting legislation. Significant work was undertaken to identify the acceptable scope of recycling data reporting and address diverse concerns. The DEQ recognizes the importance of recycling data and continues to work to on the issue. Testimony on SB 507 will be held Wednesday, November 4th by the Senate Natural Resources Committee.

Electronic Recycling Reporting System - An electronic recycling reporting system (Re-TRAC) has been secured through a contract. This will allow recyclers to report data electronically. The directory for residents and businesses to find out where to recycle is currently live and ready to be populated with data. A webinar was held July 21st. The electronic reporting forms are delayed because the DEQ is waiting for the recycling measurement legislation to be established before finalizing the forms.

Solid Waste and Sustainability Advisory Panel - The DEQ created a Solid Waste and Sustainability Advisory Panel that is addressing planning and other solid waste issues related to Part 115 in a more holistic way. The Office of Waste Management and Radiological Protection is facilitating this panel to assist with a broad and comprehensive review of Part 115, Solid Waste Management, of the Natural Resources and Environmental Protection Act, 1994 PA 451, as amended, and other statute's related to furthering our solid waste and sustainability goals. This panel is comprised of representatives from state and local government and industry. For more information go to http://www.michigan.gov/deq/0,4561,7-135-3312_4123-352261--,00.html

Lead by example – The DEQ is working with the Department of Technology Management and Budget (DTMB) and the Good Government Team regarding ways the state can better “lead by example”. The DTMB is in the process of issuing a request for proposals for recycling service providers to collect and manage the recycling at state office buildings.

Additionally, the state leases will now request information from the bidders regarding the availability of recycling services at the property and whether they are included in the bid. Other efforts include work to expand recycling opportunities at state parks and rest areas. A DEQ "Action Learning Team" has formed to support the implementation of recycling at state parks.

Market Development – The DEQ is working to grow markets for difficult to recycle recycled commodities and ensure existing Michigan businesses are able to secure high-volume, clean, recycled commodities for their manufacturing processes. Work is focusing on the following areas:

- Commodity Specific End-use Market Development
- Sector Specific End-use Market Development
- Organics
- Recycled Materials Market Directory
- Inventory Existing End-use Markets
- Quantify existing and potential economic impact of the recycling supply chain
- Recycling Collection and Processing Capacity

A contract to complete a market development study, and an evaluation of program focus, as well as a contract to update the Recycled Materials Market Directory has been entered into.

The contracts will result in:

- The development of an analysis and list of end-use markets utilizing recycled material collected from Michigan through residential recycling programs, commercial recycling, and industrial recycling systems.
- An economic analysis of the impacts of recycling on Michigan's economy.
- Management and maintenance of the Michigan Recycled Materials Market Directory.
- A market survey that will gather information, including but not limited to, capacity, throughput, types and amounts of input (by specification) and outputs (by product type), types of customers, actual and perceived market drivers, barriers, and opportunities for market expansion for a specific commodity including one or more of the following commodities including but not limited to tires, paper, metal, glass, plastic, or organics.

Organic waste and yard clippings – Through the Solid Waste and Sustainability Advisory Panel, a subcommittee on composting has been established. This subcommittee will continue to meet to discuss potential changes needed in legislation to address deficiencies within the current statute.

Technical assistance/Training – June 11 Recycling Webinar, State of Recycling in Michigan report had 232 attendees. 94% of evaluation respondents indicated that the webinar improved their understanding of the report and 25% plan to make changes in their organization as a result of the webinar. Recycling and Solid Waste Forums are being planned for 2016.

Outreach campaign/logo – The DEQ is moving forward with using the Recycle, Michigan signs and branding for state park and rest area recycling as well as will be exploring ways to incorporate the logo and brand into DEQ outreach efforts.

Recycle by Design – Recycle by Design is a competition created to incentivize and accelerate the development and implementation of innovative strategies to increase recycling in Michigan. Local, regional, and state level teams comprised of private and public sector partners will be supported in advancing leading-edge ideas that contribute to a more robust and resilient recycling infrastructure; bolstering local economies and ensuring valuable recaptured commodities find their way into new products. Recycle by Design is itself an innovative market development strategy aimed at achieving Governor Snyder’s ambitious goal of doubling Michigan’s residential recycling rate.

Recycle by Design is all about creating a platform for innovative new business proposals that contribute to achieving goals set by Governor Snyder for recycling in the state of Michigan. It’s a competition created to stir bottom-up energy and focus around innovative recycling solutions.

Information and resources –

- To view Michigan’s Residential Recycling Plan and find other documents regarding the Governors Recycling Council visit www.michigan.gov/mirecycles and search “recycling plan of action”
- For general recycling information visit www.michigan.gov/deqrecycling
- For more information about the grants program, visit www.michigan.gov/deqp2grants.