

Governor's Recycling Council (GRC) Meeting Notes

July 14, 2015

Meeting: 9:30 a.m. – 12:00 p.m.

Lunch: 12:00 p.m. – 1:00 p.m.

DEQ Constitution Hall, McCauley Conference Room, 4th Floor, South Tower

Attendance: All members of the GRC were present. A number of Michigan Department of Environmental Quality (MDEQ) staff attended along with members of the DEQ's Solid Waste and Sustainability Advisory Panel.

Welcome: MDEQ Director Dan Wyant and GRC Chair Jim Frey welcomed the GRC members and guests. Jim Frey reviewed the agenda.

- **Solid Waste and Sustainability Advisory Panel (SWSAP):** Members of the SWSAP were invited to attend this GRC meeting. Steve Sliver introduced those who were in attendance and presented the attached update summarizing the work of the SWSAP.

Status Report: Director Wyant and staff reviewed and summarized the *DEQ Status Report on Residential Recycling Initiative 7-14-2015* (attached).

- **MDOT Recycling Opportunities:** Rhonda Oyer updated the group on an issue paper DEQ is putting together on Transportation Projects and Recycling that came out of the discussion at the May 13 GRC meeting. The goal is to provide this issue paper to the DEQ's Deputy Director for his August 18 meeting with the MDOT Deputy Director to get the discussion of the use of these materials in the forefront again with MDOT. The paper covers several materials (glass, shingles, compost, foundry sand, coal ash, and scrap tires), previous efforts to promote use of these materials, what other states are doing regarding use of these materials, issues to overcome for each material in order to promote increased use and potential solutions, and parties who should be brought to the table in order to promote these uses. Glass has the most direct tie to the GRC's charge to increase residential recycling. While glass has seen some past use as an aggregate in sub-bases for roads or in producing asphalt (glassphalt), the DEQ does not know of any use in Michigan or other states since 2012. There is a need to find markets for glass and this use has the potential to consume large amounts of the material. There was additional discussion in the context of promoting the use of materials by all state agencies and in all our discussions. The GRC was asked to provide comments to Rhonda on these issues July 31, 2015.

Recycle by Design Update: Matt Flechter provided an update on Recycle by Design, which is a challenge 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. The competition will be kicked off November 2, 2015. Work is underway to define the rules of the challenge, create the timeline, create a comprehensive marketing and outreach campaign, and seek funding partners. In addition to one-on-one meetings with important partnership organizations, Twelve (12) regional meetings are being organized where the details of the challenge, and the opportunities it presents, will be shared.

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Recycling Profitability Issues: Bill Lobenherz referenced several articles provided to the GRC which discussed the variable trends of commodity pricing in recycling markets, and the impact of these value swings on recycling's profitability and financial sustainability. He offered that these conditions remind us to be mindful and sensitive of the impact of this revenue stream when fashioning our legislative support for hauler recycling services as a bundled part of trash pick-up services. Allowing flexibility in pricing for services and material coverage, he suggested, would be advised.

Recycling Measurement Legislation Update: Sarah Howes walked the GRC through the second draft of the measurement legislation. Key concepts include:

- Recycling establishments must register annually with the DEQ and report the tons of reportable recyclable materials that have been received or shipped from their facility quarterly or annually.
- Reportable recyclable materials include glass, paper, plastic, metals-both ferrous and nonferrous including white goods, and textiles.
- Entities reporting data/numbers are exempted from disclosure of the Freedom of Information Act.
- Entities not required to report may do so voluntarily.
- Drop off locations and locations accepting less than 100 tons per year are not required to report.
- DEQ must post online the aggregated quantities by category as well as total aggregated quantity online annually.

DEQ continues to meet with stakeholders to discuss further and have a meeting scheduled for August 19th with the MRFs.

Proposal for Hauler Access Legislation: Jim Frey presented the attached proposed modifications to the GRC's draft policy statement on access. Further discussions on this and other policy statements will occur at future GRC subgroup/workgroup meetings.

Activities and Accomplishments of DEQ Recycling Specialists – Brian Burke, Emily Freeman, Elizabeth Garver, Katie Venechuk: The DEQ regional recycling specialists summarized their combined efforts under three primary areas: education and outreach, relationship building, and leadership. See attached summary document for details.

Attachments:

SWSAP July 14 GRC Update

DEQ Status Report on Residential Recycling Initiative 7-14-2015

GRC Access Policy Statement Draft

DEQ Recycling Specialists Accomplishments

Solid Waste and Sustainability Advisory Panel

July 14, 2015 Update

The Department of Environmental Quality (DEQ) established the Solid Waste and Sustainability Advisory Panel (SWSAP) 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 statutes related to furthering the DEQ's solid waste and sustainability goals. The SWSAP is advisory in nature and is expected to conduct its work over a period of approximately one year. It does not replace existing stakeholder work groups (e.g., Scrap Tire Advisory Committee). Rather, it may coordinate with them to ensure recommendations to legislation and rules are developed with a common vision for the waste programs.

The 13 SWSAP members appointed by the DEQ Director represent broad interests:

1. Darwin Baas, Michigan Association of Counties
2. Tom Frazier, Michigan Townships Association
3. Christina Gomes, Michigan Municipal League
4. Tonia Olson, Michigan Waste Industries Association – representing landfills, haulers
5. Sean Hammond, Michigan Environmental Council
6. Dana Kirk, Michigan State University – representing a variety of interests including academia, recycling, agriculture, and energy
7. Tom McGillis, U.S. Ecology – representing solid waste processors and liquid industrial waste industry
8. Ann Milne, Central Upper Peninsula Planning and Development Regional Commission
9. Kerrin O'Brien, Michigan Recycling Coalition
10. JR Register, Consumers Energy – representing utilities
11. Arthur Siegal, Michigan Chamber of Commerce
12. Andy Such, Michigan Manufacturers Association
13. Brad Venman, NTH Consultants, Ltd. – representing environmental consulting firms

Two subcommittees are underway at this time: compost facilities work group and electric utilities coal combustion residuals work group, and a subgroup of SWSAP members are also developing a presentation to assist the SWSAP with managing the county solid waste management planning issues.

Scheduled Meetings

The agenda for the July 17 meeting at the Michigan Environmental Council offices includes a briefing on how recycling markets have evolved over the past 10 years, and compliance and enforcement.

The agenda for the August 21 meeting at Smiths Creek Landfill includes compost facility oversight and the broader issues of waste-to-energy, grass-to-gas, and setting up the approach for reviewing county planning.

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Much is being accomplished as we enter the summer months. Department of Environmental Quality (DEQ) staff and the Governor's Recycling Council members are putting the final touches on the measurement legislation, the Recycle by Design competition process and outreach plan, and the Fall Recycling Forums that will be held throughout the state. These tasks and the others identified below are helping to achieve the goals of measuring recycling, providing outreach, education, and technical assistance, fostering strong recycling markets, and increasing access and participation.

Appropriation – FY 2016 DEQ budget includes a \$1 million dollar appropriation to help to implement the recycling initiative. The budget was signed by Governor Snyder on June 16th.

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, and on July 14th at Constitution Hall in Lansing.

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 due later this summer (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 near the end of the year.

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 will be awarded for 14 projects that support infrastructure development, program start-up, program enhancement, and education and outreach.

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| • Bay Area Recycling for Charities
<i>Recycle Hub Michigan</i> | \$65,000 |
| • City of Detroit Department of Public Works
<i>P2 Grant Proposal</i> | \$95,000 |

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• Comprenew <i>PureMAPP</i>	\$67,500
• Eagle Harbor Township <i>Eagle Harbor Township Recycling Initiative</i>	\$6,000
• Emmet County Department of Public Works <i>Bins to Carts: Increasing the Recycling Rate Here and Now</i>	\$82,000
• Houghton County <i>Copper Country Recycling Initiative</i>	\$92,000
• Northeast Michigan Council of Governments <i>Northeast MI Recycling Education Collaborative</i>	\$50,000
• Oceana Conservation District <i>Pesticide Jug Recycling Program</i>	\$1,300
• Recycle Ann Arbor <i>Zero Waste Event Initiative</i>	\$19,500
• RRRASOC <i>Southfield Outreach Project</i>	\$8,200
• Tuscola County Recycling Material Recovery Facility <i>Tuscola County Recycling Trailer Project</i>	\$22,000
• Village of Constantine <i>Big Trash Day - Recycle it! It Helps!</i>	\$3,000
• Washtenaw Intermediate School District <i>Washtenaw County School Recycling and Education Program</i>	\$32,000
• Muskegon River Watershed Assembly <i>Expansion of the Recycling Program in Mecosta County</i>	\$92,000

For more information please contact Debbie Swartz at swartzd@michigan.gov. Details about these grants will be available by the end of August once the grant contracts are finalized.

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.

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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.

Residential Recycling Grant – DEQ is in the beginning stage of developing the grant. Approximately \$400,000 will be available in 2016

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. DEQ recently submitted measurement concepts to the Legislative Service Bureau to develop a draft from. Draft 1 was discussed and commented on by the DEQ, MWRA, and ISRI during a meeting last week. We are awaiting Draft 2, which will reflect those comments and requested updates. Our goal is to discuss Draft 2 with MRFs as soon as possible and to get feedback from them.

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 is scheduled for July 21st at 10 am. The electronic reporting forms are delayed because the DEQ is waiting for the recycling measurement legislation to be completed before finalizing the forms.

Solid Waste and Sustainability Advisory Panel - The DEQ created a Solid Waste and Sustainability Advisory Panel that will convene to address 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.

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An RFP is being developed to purchase recycling bins for rest areas. A DEQ "Action Learning Team" is being 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

The DEQ issued a Request for Proposals on July 7th to seek a vendor to collect comprehensive end-use and supply chain data as well as expand the Market Directory. <https://www.buy4michigan.com/bs0/external/bidAck.sdo?bidId=007115B0005580&parentUrl=activeBids> Proposals are due July 27. Among other items the contract 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.

The DEQ is organizing an Agricultural Plastic Market Development Symposium for late fall. Details to come.

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.

In addition, the DEQ is working to create an action plan for increasing organic waste diversion. A meeting for interested parties is being scheduled for September.

Use of Recycled Commodities in Transportation Projects – DEQ is working on putting together an issue paper on Transportation Projects and Recycling that came out of discussion at the May 13 GRC meeting. The GRC thinks they can serve as a platform to leverage this issue and promote increased utilization. The goal is to provide this issue paper to the DEQ's

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Deputy Director for his August 18 meeting with the MDOT Deputy Director to get the discussion of the use of these materials in the forefront again with MDOT. The paper covers several materials (glass, shingles, compost, foundry sand, coal ash, and scrap tires), previous efforts to promote use of these materials, what other state are doing regarding use of these materials, issues to overcome for each material in order to promote increased use and potential solutions, and parties who should be brought to the table in order to promote these uses. Glass has the most direct tie to the GRC's charge to increase residential recycling. While glass has seen some past use as an aggregate in sub-bases for roads or in producing asphalt (glassphalt). The DEQ does not know of any use in Michigan or other states since 2012. There is a need to find markets for glass and this use has the potential to consume large amounts of the material.

Technical assistance/Training – Residential Recycling Forums - In collaboration with Michigan Townships Association, Michigan Municipal League, Michigan Association of Counties, Michigan Recycling Coalition, and the Michigan Waste and Recycling Association, the DEQ is organizing 5 regional recycling forums in the Gaylord/Grayling area, Mid Michigan, West Michigan, the U.P., Detroit, and Oakland County. The forums will have technical training and facilitated discussion and will be at a low cost.

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.

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. A winning proposal would meet the following criteria:

The competition will be kicked off November 2, 2015

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Work is underway to define the rules of the competition, create the timeline, create a comprehensive marketing and outreach campaign, and seek funding partners.

In addition to one-on-one meetings with important partnership organizations, 12 regional meetings are being organized where the details of the competition, and the opportunities it presents, will be shared.

Names for potential jurors are being identified.

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.

Adopted GRC Policy Statement - Introduction

The GRC has adopted the following policy statements in its role advising the Governor and DEQ Director - having concluded that these are essential to Michigan's development of metric driven cost effective recycling strategies for our state that achieve the Governor's stated goal of 30% recycling and that will realize the economic, job creation and environmental benefits that strong recycling brings to our state.

Proposed Modifications to Adopted Policy Statement on Access

Convenient recycling access is essential to achieving the 30% recycling goal. Recycling access will vary by type for different sectors (e.g. urban, rural, in-home, multi-family, away-from-home). As a first step towards achieving the goal of convenient recycling access, the GRC advises the Governor and DEQ Director that legislative action, this session, is needed that requires, by state statute, solid waste haulers to provide residential recycling collection services if they provide residential trash collection services within urban boundaries in Michigan as specified by the US Census as shown in Exhibit A, – as qualified below.

Proposed Additions to an Expanded Policy Statement on Access

The GRC advises the Governor and DEQ Director that as this framework is fashioned the following items need to be taken into consideration:

- Increased access to convenient residential recycling services is essential to reach the Governor's goal to double residential recycling diversion in Michigan.
- Convenient recycling access means moving towards the goal of recycling access:
 - That is as easy as "throwing it away" – the status quo behavior that will need to change to reach the Governor's goal;
 - That is across the state and across all residential sectors – recognizing that recycling services will vary for different types of residential types such as multi-family - so that recycling is the normative behavior across the state;
 - That is at the same level of service as trash – recognizing that accommodation needs to be made for remote areas – so that curbside trash is matched by curbside recycling – drop-off trash is matched by drop-off recycling – away from home trash matched by away from home recycling;
- Convenient recycling access means no un-necessary hurdles to activating that access and accessing its services – a way to make recycling behavior a "no brainer" and the "obvious choice" each and every time a member of the household has that choice.

The GRC advises the Governor and DEQ Director that the following additional considerations should be addressed in recycling access legislation and in its execution:

- As a first step convenient recycling access can be provided within urban boundaries in Michigan (as specified by the US Census – see Exhibit A) via the existing system of trash haulers.

- Implementing this type of access requirement requires a legislative framework – a statute that requires every hauler in Michigan servicing those urbanized areas to provide convenient recycling collection services as part of their “normal” services.
- The access requirement will need to take into account the structure of Michigan Home Rule Authority – utilizing language such as “a person who chooses to provide hauling services must offer the following in conjunction with them – if that person meets these threshold..”
- That statute should establish a framework defining minimum requirements for the services provided, including:
 - Each customer being charged for recycling including provision of a recycling cart or container, whether they use it or not, allowing the hauler to spread the cost to all;
 - That charge, while bundled into the total bill for that customer, should show separately on the bill, so that people see what they are paying for and are then motivated to use the recycling service;
 - A standard suite of materials to be collected with the statute referencing “common household paper and packaging including but not limited to..”
 - Minimum standards for recycling service defined, but with enough flexibility to enable recycling service features (e.g. weekly or every other week, carts or bins, dual or single stream, approach to incentives/education, etc.) to be matched to local conditions;
 - An enforcement mechanism that is sufficient to prevent abuse, especially in border counties where haulers from adjacent states may assume they can operate outside of the rules;
 - A reporting mechanism that meets minimum requirements for incorporating access coverage data into the states recycling measurement system; and
 - A clause that would make it illegal to take (steal) recyclables from the curb – often known as “anti-scavenging” language.
- The statute should define mechanisms for implementation including:
 - Provisions for the Director to establish more detailed minimum requirements as well as process mechanisms initially via a DEQ Guidance Document to be released within 6 months of statute passage with consideration for adoption of rules at a later date if necessary to correct issues that have developed during execution.
 - Provisions for input from key stakeholders, including haulers of all sizes as well as the communities to be serviced, in the design process for implementation guidelines and/or rules and regulations – so that there is input into the model to be implemented.
 - Provision for training and technical assistance to be provided – and mechanisms for hauler participation in that training.
 - A timeline for implementation to accommodate reasonable steps required for haulers to responsibly meet the obligations – e.g. no later than 18 months after statute adoption.
 - Provisions that recognize the importance of community endorsement of citizen participation in the program – through coordinated announcements of its availability on

municipally controlled information channels (e.g. web, newsletters, cable, etc.) along with annual repeat.

- Provisions that enable urban area communities that contract with haulers and/or provide their own trash service with municipal crews to separately achieve the access objectives.
- Provisions that enable Townships and Cities that partially incorporate urbanized census blocks within their boundaries to extend the hauler requirements to areas outside those boundaries through local action.
- Provisions that enable Townships, Cities and Village that do not include any urbanized census blocks within their boundaries to extend the hauler requirements if they are adjacent to a Township or City where the hauler requirements are in place.

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Exhibit 1

Michigan Census Urban Boundaries Map:
Urbanized areas and urban clusters by census block classification
combined to be considered urban based on US Census

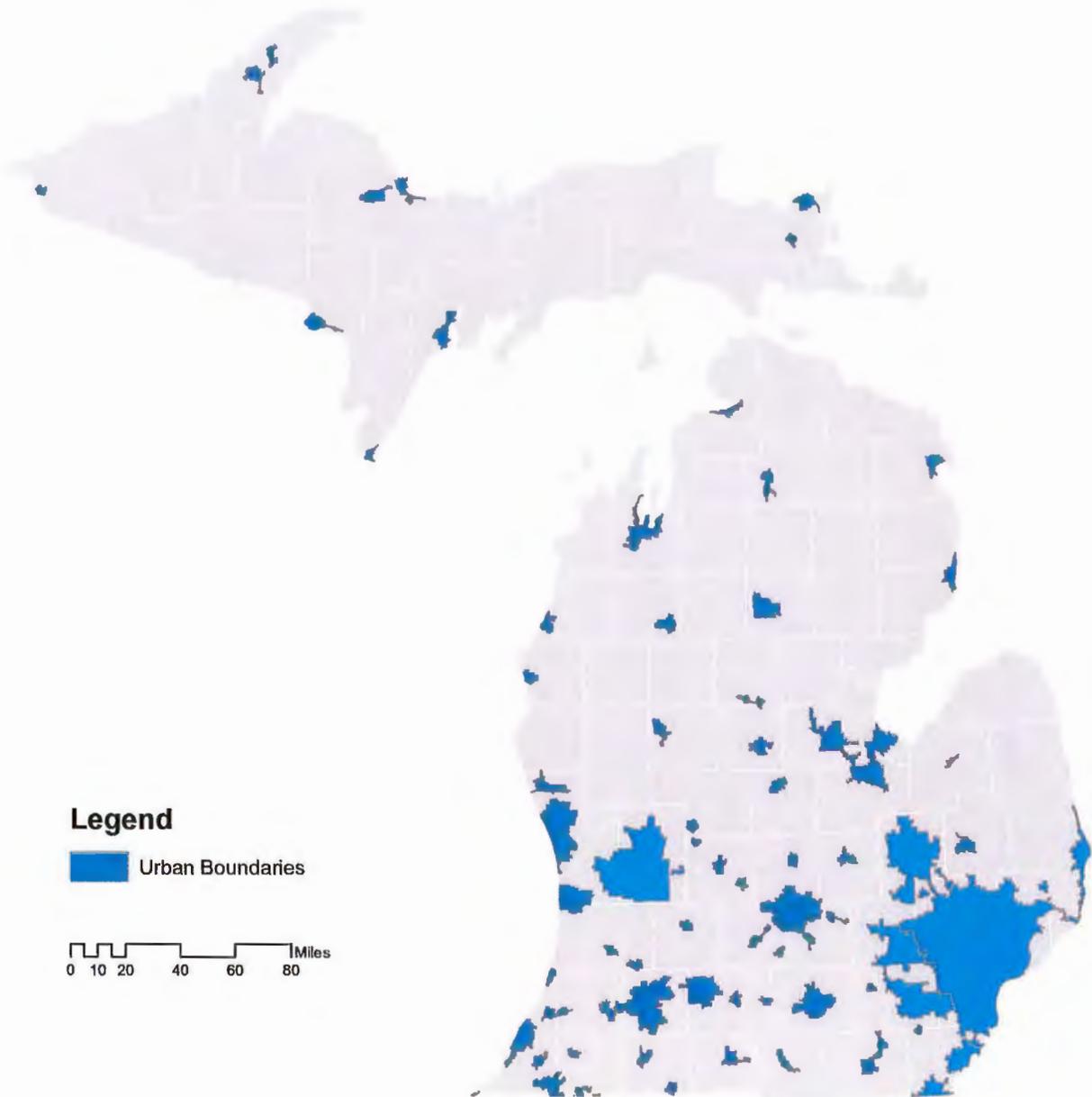
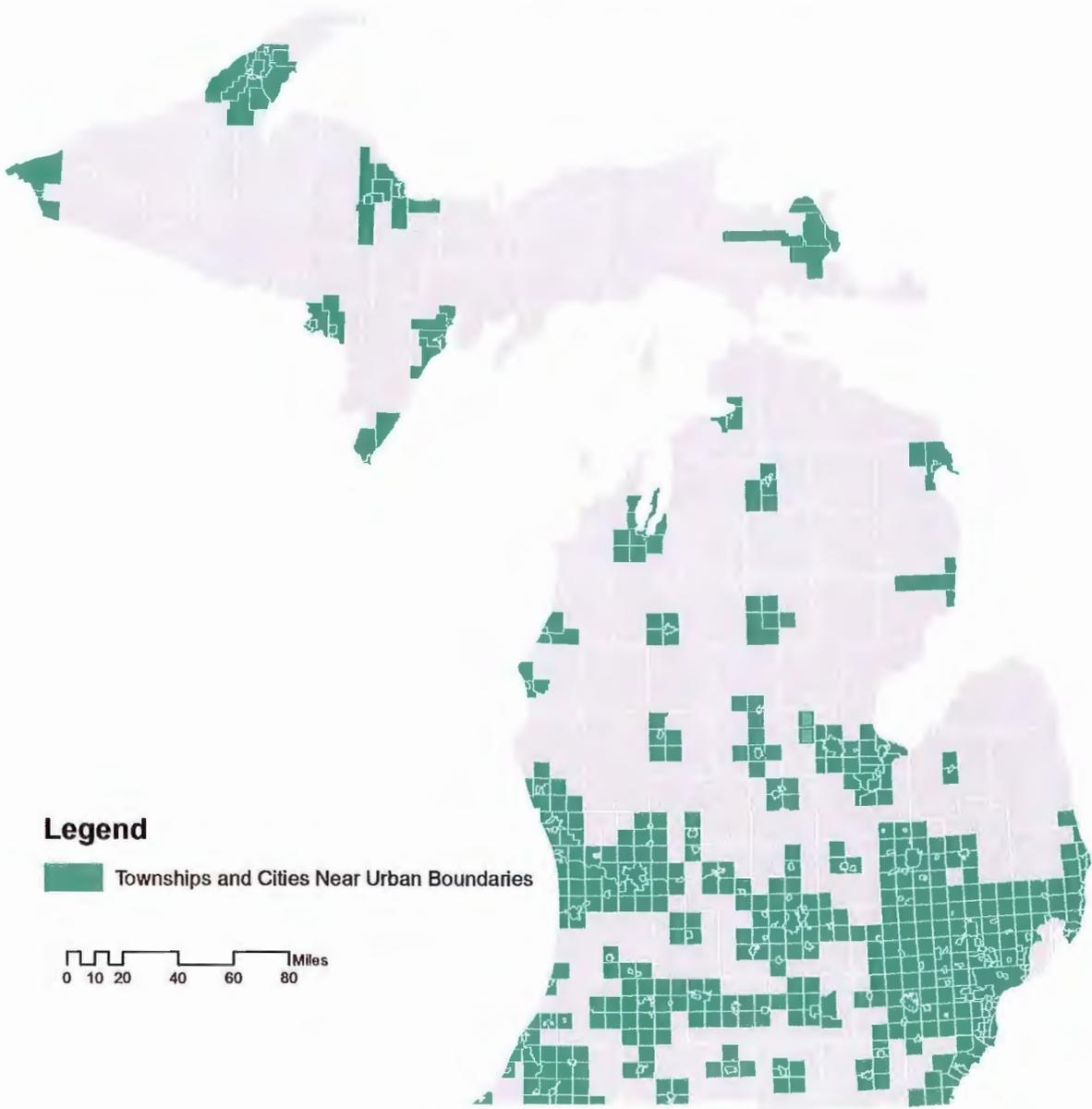


Exhibit 2

Michigan Township and Cities Urbanized Area Map:
All units of government that incorporates urbanized census blocks
within their boundaries based on US Census



DEQ Recycling Specialists Accomplishments Summary Governors Recycling Council Meeting July 14, 2015

Education and Outreach:

One of the four key components described in Michigan's Residential Recycling Plan of Action is to provide education, outreach and technical assistance. It is recognized that successful recycling programs invariably have strong education and outreach campaigns as a necessary tool to increase recycling participation. Therefore, the recycling specialists have invested significant time and energy in these areas as described below:

- **Development of Educational and Outreach Materials:**
 - Residential Recycling Initiative: You Can Make a Difference!
 - Residential Recycling Initiative: Why Recycling Matters for Your Community
 - Guide: Operational and Funding Options for Municipal Recycling
 - Guide: Use of Special Assessments to Fund Recycling Services & Facilities
 - Recycling 101: Learn the Basics (and a few tips, too!) (submitted for formatting)
 - Recycling 201: First Steps to Becoming an Expert Recycler! (submitted for formatting)
 - Why does recycling cost money? (in development)
- **Participation in Outreach Events:**
 - **Earth Day Events: St. Clair County, Saginaw County, and Calhoun County**
 - St. Clair County: Over 6,000 residents attended; participated in a waste sort to determine best practices for 2016 to capture more event recyclable material.
 - Saginaw County: Discussed importance of recycling and gave out residential recycling initiative handouts to Saginaw County regional residents.
 - Calhoun County: Joined the Calhoun County Recycling Coordinator in a demonstrative presentation highlighting the importance of recycling to over 100 children from area schools.
 - **DNR River Days Event:** Communicated importance of recycling and availability of program to numerous Detroit residents and provided the program opt-in form.
 - Assisted with the MRC Fall Into Recycling event.
 - Networked and assisted at the Governor's Recycling Summit and MRC conference.
 - Organized beneficial use luncheon (through WM-AWMA) with speakers from MMA & Gypsoil.
 - Trained Kalamazoo City's new recycling coordinator on a recycling outreach and education lesson that can be used in schools. After one demonstrative presentation with her in a kindergarten classroom, she intends to continue the efforts throughout additional city schools.
 - Hosted recycling booth at a Whitehall community event, booth assistance at Lansing Home & Garden Show
 - Attended ribbon cutting for a new recycling drop-off in Albion. Spoke with a news reporter about the benefits of recycling, and the connection of the new site to the State of Michigan's recycling initiative.
 - Attended Solid Waste Planning Meetings to promote recycling and sustainability initiatives in St. Joseph, Allegan, Tuscola, and Ottawa Counties.
- **Presentations:**
 - Michigan Municipal League Conference
 - U.P. Solid Waste Forum
 - ESD Solid Waste Conference
 - GRC public meeting
 - Consumers Energy and Dawn Food Products
 - Clinton Co Township Officers Association
 - Hillsdale Co Board of Commissioners Meeting

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- Goodland Township meeting
- Region 6A Thumb Regional County Meeting
- Solid Waste and Sustainability Advisory Committee
- Ionia County Conservation District Board of Directors
- Recycling for Newaygo County Board Meeting

Relationship Building:

The primary area where specialists have focused attention and effort is relationship building through face-to-face meetings. We have collectively met with over 200 unique groups and informed them of the importance of recycling, the Governor's state-wide initiative and opportunities for grant or funding sources such as the Pollution Prevention (P2) grant opportunity, Recycling Partnership or the Closed Loop Fund. In addition, the specialists have responded to numerous phone call and e-mail inquiries regarding a wide range of recycling and solid waste sustainability questions.

One of the impacts of these interactions is demonstrated by the increased number of applications for the P2 grant. In 2014, there were eight applications for P2 recycling grants, requesting \$577,936. In 2015, there were 64 applicants requesting \$3.9 million -- a seven-fold increase in both the number of applicants and the funds requested. This increase reflects the concentrated outreach efforts by the recycling specialists prior to the application deadline. More applications created a higher-quality pool of projects to choose from. These projects will be the foundation of our success stories two years from now.

It is also expected that these relationships will help as we encourage participation in the Recycle by Design competition.

Examples of represented groups and further relational foundations that have been established are listed below:

- Targeted groups include: haulers, townships/cities, counties, non-profit organizations, end-users, materials recovery facilities, and manufacturers.
- Connection with multiple organizations within the City of Detroit.
- Southeastern Oakland County Resource Recovery Authority introduced to the Closed Loop Fund (Matt Flechter).
- Helped the City of East Lansing successfully apply for a grant from the Recycling Partnership to switch to carts in summer, 2015.
- Facilitating partnership between City of Flint and Genesee County.
- DEQ is now an active member of the Tri-County Regional Recycling Coordinating Committee, the Networks Northwest Solid Waste Advisory Committee, White Lake Area Sustainability Network, West Michigan Sustainable Business Forum, and the Southwest Michigan Solid Waste Consortium.
- Assisting Alpena County with a private/public partnership to expand their processing center. County is applying for a Closed Loop Fund loan.
- Currently assisting Houghton County with implementing a new recycling program, Montague/White Lake with implementing recycling at parks and downtown, and the City of Kalamazoo with a transition to 96-gallon bins and single stream recycling.

DEQ Recycling Specialists Accomplishments Summary Governors Recycling Council Meeting July 14, 2015

Leadership:

The recycling specialist positions officially began work in November of 2014, approximately eight months ago. In that time, it has been important to establish and demonstrate a leadership role within the DEQ and with outside interested parties. Projects and tasks that have been undertaken or are in progress in support of that role are listed below:

- Providing leadership through technical assistance to local municipalities and participation in waste sorts such as the West Michigan Sustainable Business Forum "Trash Research Project" and the City of Lansing waste sort.
- Site visits in all districts to get a sense of state-wide issues and organizations.
- Representing the recycling program at outreach meetings with MML, MAC, MTA, Russian delegation.
- Leading a group of interns to complete projects such as collection of outreach tools used in other states, commercial recycling case study, summary of model ordinances in use in Michigan, summary of available recycling grants handout, updating list of Michigan recycling contacts.
- Forming internal partnerships with: Green Communities, MEDC Redevelopment Ready Communities, Green Infrastructure and Office of Environmental Assistance Pollution Prevention staff.
- Working with the DEQ Office of Environmental Assistance and the Michigan Recycling Coalition to host six recycling forums between November 2015 and April 2016.
- Encouraging regional collaboration through individually organized meetings, as well as upcoming roundtable discussions coordinated with the MRC.
- Presenting to the Solid Waste and Sustainability Advisory Panel on the importance of recycling and sustainability considerations as Part 115, Solid Waste Management, is evaluated for revision.
- Assisting with the Recycle by Design Initiative.
- Each specialist played a key role in reviewing the Excellence in Recycling Awards applications.
- Working with the Quality of Life Great Lakes Leadership Academy and the Department of Natural Resources to establish and improve recycling at state parks.
- Promote recycling by developing a year's supply of recycling tweets for the DEQ Twitter Account and completing interviews for articles in: District Dashboard's (DEQ newsletter sent to local legislators), The Pleasant Peninsula, and the "DEQbicle" (internal DEQ newsletter), MTA magazine's feature article (August issue)
- Make connections with existing recycling education and/or incentive campaigns and share opportunities with county coordinators and community leaders. (Ex: Recycle Bank, Recycle by City)