



RESIDENTIAL RECYCLING INITIATIVE

Why Recycling Matters for Your Community

In April 2014, Governor Rick Snyder announced a statewide plan to double residential recycling in Michigan. Michigan's recycling rate averages around 15%, lower than every other Great Lakes state, and one of the lowest in the country. We can do better! Working together, communities all across Michigan can help the state to achieve its goal and restore Michigan's reputation as a leader in environmental stewardship.

Recycling is good for your ECONOMY

While waste disposal simply transfers waste to its grave, recycling gives new life to materials, creating opportunities for new jobs. Preparing material for recycling is more labor intensive than landfilling, so industries engaged in sorting and processing recyclable material employ more people than traditional waste disposal firms. The recycling process has many steps. If done locally, each step creates additional jobs in your community. Strong recycling programs also have the ability to reduce solid waste collection, transportation, and disposal costs, as well as generate revenues from the sale of recyclable materials.



The market value of all recyclable metal, glass and plastic sent from Michigan households to Michigan landfills every year.

A 30% recycling rate in Michigan would mean:*

- 7,000 to 13,000 jobs
- Up to \$300 million in income and \$3.9 billion in receipts
- Up to \$22 million in additional state tax revenue

* According to *Expanding Recycling in Michigan*, a study by Public Sector Consultants



Connect with your regional specialist and learn more at www.michigan.gov/mirecycles



Michigan Department of Environmental Quality
1-800-662-9278

MI Recycles!

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Recycling is good for the ENVIRONMENT

Recycling not only conserves our natural resources by reducing the need for raw materials, it also lengthens the life of existing landfills, reducing the often controversial need to site and build new ones. Making items from recycled materials reduces pollution and saves energy. Comprehensive programs that include household waste collection protect our health and environment by removing and properly managing harmful substances.

A community's commitment to a cleaner environment often reflects its commitment to a higher quality of living and is attractive to potential residents. A new or improved innovative recycling program can instill a sense of civic pride with residents and local businesses.

Recycling is good for MICHIGAN

Recycling and reusing materials generates economic investment, jobs and savings for the state. Moreover, studies show that Michigan residents overwhelmingly support comprehensive recycling programs.* Residents benefit, businesses benefit and the environment benefits. The state of Michigan is committed to again becoming a Great Lakes region recycling leader. Regional recycling specialists are working with communities to evaluate recycling and market opportunities, offer technical assistance, and provide educational and outreach tools. Do your part and make a difference by joining Michigan communities who are already realizing the benefits of recycling in their communities. Strong recycling programs will lead to prosperous Michigan communities.

**See Expanding Recycling in Michigan*



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