



GRETCHEN WHITMER
GOVERNOR

STATE OF MICHIGAN
DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENTAL QUALITY
LANSING



LIESL EICHLER CLARK
DIRECTOR

VIA E-MAIL

TO: Members of the Michigan Legislature
FROM: Liesl Eichler Clark, Director 
DATE: January 31, 2019
SUBJECT: Report on Part 175, Reportable Recycling Materials

In accordance with Section 17505 of Part 175, Recycling Reporting, of the Natural Resources and Environmental Protection Act, 1994 PA 451, as amended, attached is the Department of Environmental Quality's (DEQ) report on recycling volumes for reportable recyclable materials for fiscal year 2018.

If you need further information, please contact Amy Lafferty, Environmental Quality Analyst, Waste Management and Radiological Protection Division, at 517-242-8324; or you may contact me at 517-284-6710.

Attachment

cc/att: Greg Bird, Legislative Director, Governor's Office
Emily Laidlaw, Policy Director, Governor's Office
Aaron B. Keatley, Chief Deputy Director, DEQ
Amy Epkey, Administration Deputy Director, DEQ
Sarah M. Howes, Director of Policy and Legislative Affairs, DEQ
David Fiedler, Regulatory Affairs Officer, DEQ
Jack Schinderle, DEQ
Rhonda S. Oyer, DEQ
Kathy Tetzlaff, DEQ
Jeff Spencer, DEQ
Steve Noble, DEQ
Amy Lafferty, DEQ



MICHIGAN DEPARTMENT OF
ENVIRONMENTAL QUALITY

Legislative Report

REPORTABLE RECYCLING MATERIALS PROGRAM REPORT

Report Period: Fiscal Year 2018

In accordance with Section 17505 of Part 175, Recycling Reporting, of the Natural Resources and Environmental Protection Act, 1994 PA 451, as amended, attached is the Department of Environmental Quality's (DEQ) report on recycling volumes for reportable recyclable materials for fiscal year 2018.



Part 175, Recycling Reporting, of the Natural Resources and Environmental Protection Act, 1994 PA 451, as amended, requires recycling establishments to report on a portion of the materials that should be counted to calculate a statewide recycling rate. This is a summary of what was reported into the system during fiscal year (FY) 2018, the second year of the program.

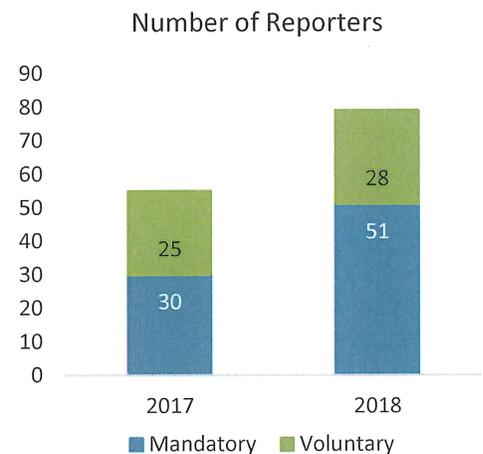
The law focuses on the data of waste diversion and recycling collection for seven commonly recycled materials: paper, plastic, glass, ferrous and nonferrous metals, textiles, and single stream recyclables. In addition to recycling establishments who are required to report, additional facility types can also opt in to report voluntarily into the program.

At the end of the second year (November 2018), 104 separate entities had identified themselves as recycling establishments by registering in the online Michigan Recycling Reporting module. In FY 2018, 76 percent (79 out of 104) of the registered facilities reported their recycling data through the system.

The top reporter organization types include:

- Materials recovery facilities
- Municipalities
- Landfills and Waste haulers
- Businesses
- End Markets
- Scrap Metal/Salvage Yards

This year, efforts and targeted outreach were made to increase the number of reporters, such as local governments, communities, businesses, and end markets participating in the program. The first year of the program demonstrated that these types of entities are key to help fill in data gaps left by recycling establishments not participating in the program and to understand the recycling system more holistically. Outreach was completed through methods such as strategic partnerships, e-mail blasts, listservs, phone calls, individual visits, training webinars, conferences, and handouts explaining the program. These activities led to an increase in participants in FY 2018 and a more detailed look at recycling in Michigan.



Data interpretation has also been refined through analytics developed throughout the past year to minimize double counting and ensure all recycled materials are accounted for. However, some issues impacting the effectiveness of the law remain. To encourage continuous improvement in participation and ensure organizations in the program continue their involvement, the DEQ plans to continue with or enact the following activities:

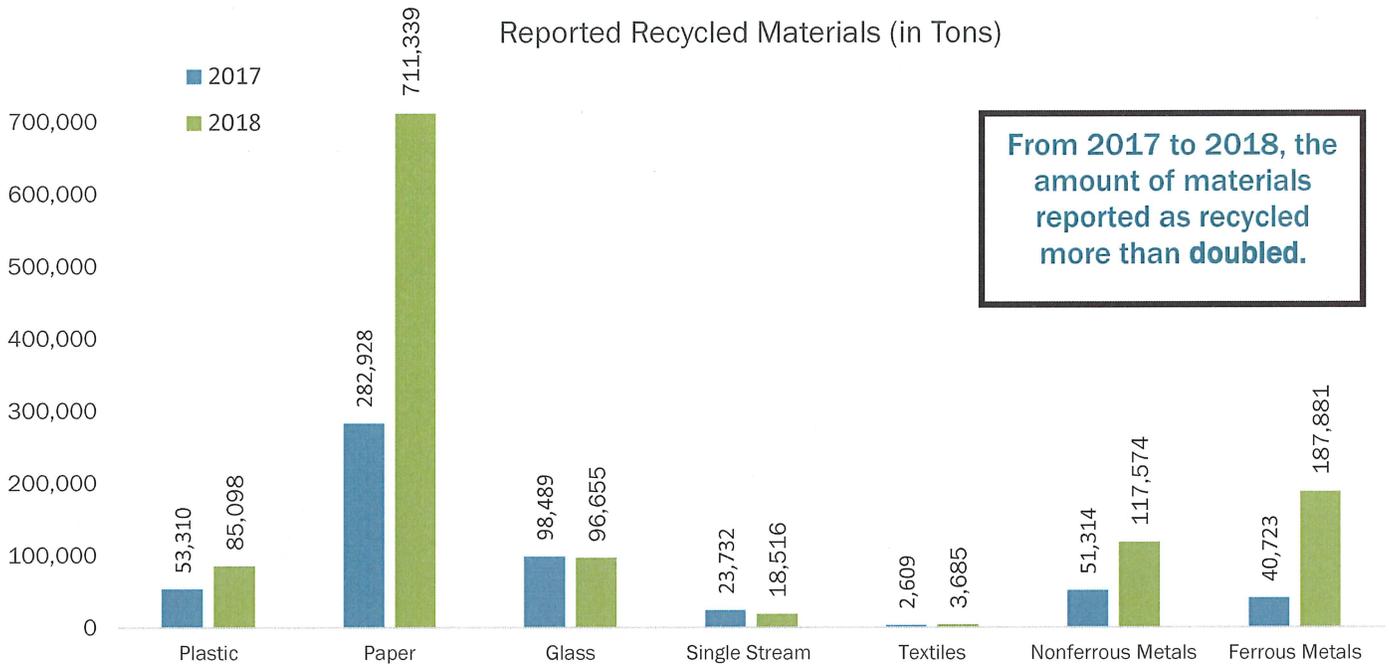
- Grow the recognition program for voluntary reporters through certificates, letters of appreciation, and public announcements at conferences, posts on the Web page, etc.
- Continue developing strategic partnerships with industry and emphasize outreach through all program partners.
- Update the law and the program through solid waste statutory amendments.
- Garner feedback through direct communication and surveys from participants to ensure the program has value.
- Create and update materials such as how-to guides, develop analytics for reporters to showcase their impact from recycling, and complete module updates as recommended by participants.

These efforts aim to clarify legal requirements, increase efficiency and value of the program, and further recycling market development efforts in conjunction with Michigan's recycling initiatives.



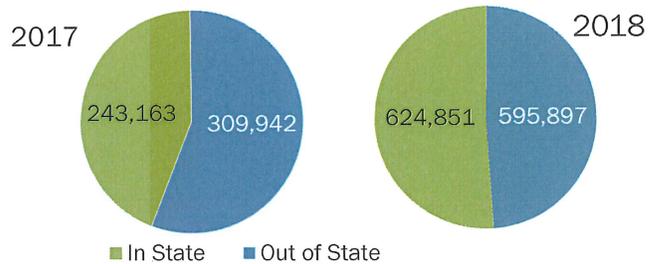
Recycling

Data from the first two years of the program show an increase in recycling of almost all materials reported as recycled from 2017 to 2018. A total of 553,105 tons of materials were reported as recycled in 2017, compared to 1,220,748 tons in 2018. This is an increase of 120 percent.



From 2017 to 2018, the amount of materials reported as recycled more than doubled.

The amount of material sent to in-state locations to be recycled also increased in 2018. A majority of materials were ultimately recycled in-state this year rather than sent out of state, which was a change from 2017.



Reaching Out

A survey was sent to reporters at the end of FY 18 to determine what was working well and what needed to be improved in the program for next year. The survey found:



Best method for getting the word out about the program: Conferences.



Most useful resource: Direct communication with DEQ staff.



Most worthwhile update for next year: Ability to download analytics.



Most needed guidance for next year: How to fill out the recycling report.