



Final Report

Michigan Department of Environmental Quality
2015 Community Pollution Prevention Grant program
Expansion of the Recycling Program in Mecosta County
(Project No. 430276-15)

Prepared by: Muskegon River Watershed Assembly

Executive Summary

The recycling rate in Mecosta County has increased by 14% since August 2015 because of the increased access to recycling and a continual public education campaign. The increase in recycling was initiated when the Muskegon River Watershed Assembly (MRWA) was awarded a Community Pollution Prevention Grant (CPPG) from the Michigan Department of Environmental Quality to expand the current Mecosta County recycling program and efforts for public education and outreach. Recycle of Mecosta County, the county's recycling center, and many community agencies and volunteers provided the catalyst to achieve project objectives. The CPPG funded multiple expansions to the county's recycling activities and included a monthly increase in hours of operation at Recycle of Mecosta County, the addition of two mobile recycling stations, special collections for tires and electronics and the development of a robust public education and outreach campaign. At the onset of the project it was believed the program could be sustained; this has become a reality as the increased hours of operation at Recycle of Mecosta County will be maintained. A Memorandum of Understanding was developed with Morley Township to continue mobile recycling and Recycle of Mecosta County is working with the township to achieve a continuation of services. Public outreach and support has developed into a viable and persistent activity for MRWA, Recycle of Mecosta County, and partners.

Project Goals and Objectives

1. A primary CPPG goal was to expand the county's current recycling program to increase recycling rates. This was accomplished through two objectives; 1) by starting two mobile recycling sites and increasing the number of hours at the permanent recycling facility and by 2) holding three tire and six electronic recycling collections throughout the county. The intent was to increase the convenience and availability of recycling in Mecosta County and improve household recycling rates.
2. Another goal was to increase community awareness of the recycling program through education. This was accomplished through three objectives; 1) by providing information to the public, 2) evaluating the recycling program and 3) by informing residents of project outcomes. This was accomplished through word of mouth, direct mailings, mass media, group meetings, classroom visits, a Water Fair, individual contacts and a survey.

Evaluation of Meeting Goals and Objectives

Through the CPPG, many new recycling opportunities were realized and each was successful in helping increase the annual recycling rate. Four new and one expanded recycling opportunities were created; 1) expanded hours at Recycle of Mecosta County, 2) two mobile recycling stations, 3) one cardboard recycling trailer, 4) electronic recycling collections and 5)

tire collections. For each of the opportunities an extensive public information campaign was initiated with newspaper articles, mailings, flyers, presentations to community groups and activities with school groups, and creation of prominent banners to be displayed at recycling collections (Figure 1).

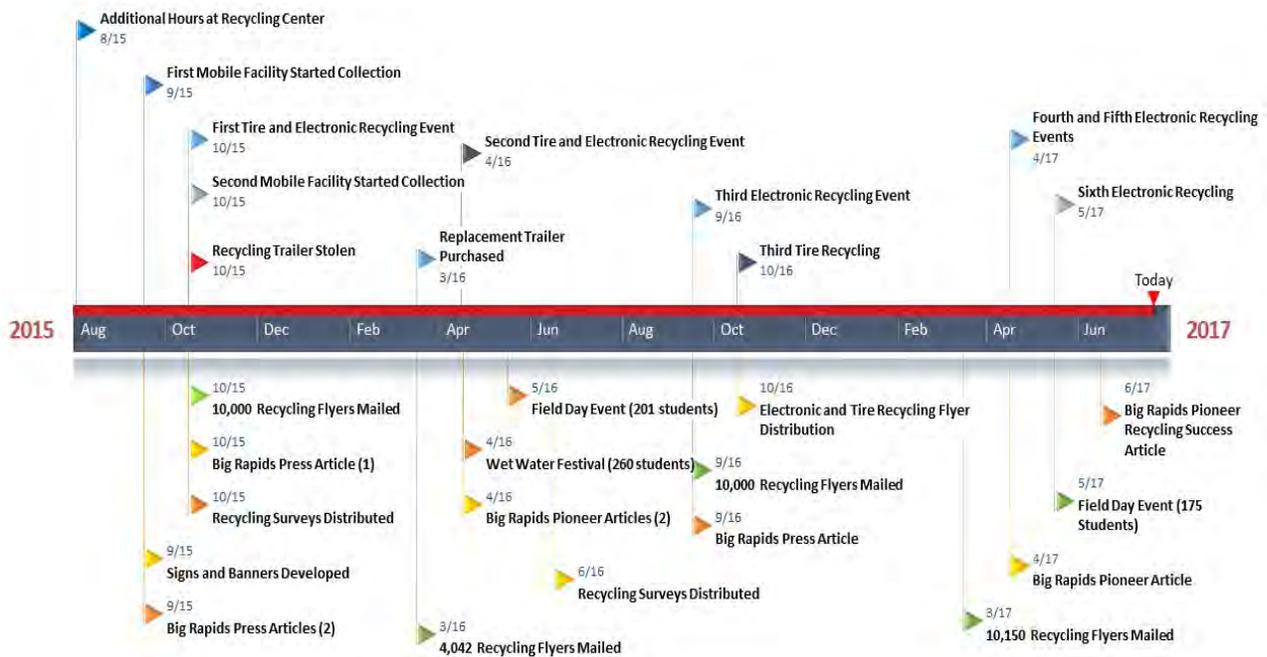


Figure 1. Timeline of recycling and public outreach activities. The upper section depicts the time of recycling events throughout the project period and the lower section depicts the public education and outreach.

To evaluate the increase in recycling rate we established a pre-project recycling rate and quantitative metrics. The following are descriptions of the metrics used throughout the report:

- **Pre-project recycling benchmark:** This was calculated as the weight in tons of recyclables collected at Recycle of Mecosta Counties permanent recycling center for one-year (August 2014 to July 2015) immediately prior to grant implementation.
- **Year one and year two recycling:** Metrics were calculated as the weight in tons of recyclables collected during Year 1 (August 2015 through July 2016) and Year 2 (August 2016 through June 2017). Weights were collected from Recycle of Mecosta County permanent recycling center, the two mobile recycling sites, and from six electronic and three tire collection events.
- **Recycling Rate:** The recycling rate for the three “yearly” time periods were calculated as average weight in tons per month. We used the monthly increment to evaluate the project because during Year 2 only 11 months were included for recycling efforts making the total annual recycling rate non-comparable to the 12-month pre-recycling benchmark or Year 1.

Overall Increase in Recycling:

The overall recycling rate increased 14% from the pre-project baseline. The baseline yearly rate was 54.1 tons while Year 1 and Year 2 were 62.4 and 63.1 tons respectively. During the project, we found that monthly recycling rates were higher than the pre-project baseline except for the first month of the project (Figure 2).

Increased Hours of Operation:

The hours for recycling at the county’s permanent recycling facility, Recycle of Mecosta County, were expanded from 8.5 hours to 25.5 hours per week. The intent was to substantially increase the convenience and availability of recycling in Mecosta County. The increased hours and public outreach through direct mailings of flyers and hand delivery of brochures produced higher monthly recycling rates for all but the first month of the project for collections occurring at the permanent recycling location (Figure 2). The lower rate for the first month may be due to the public not becoming familiar with the expanded hours until the second month of the project. These increased recycling rates demonstrate how a shift occurred in the behavior of county residents’ due to expanded hours of operation.

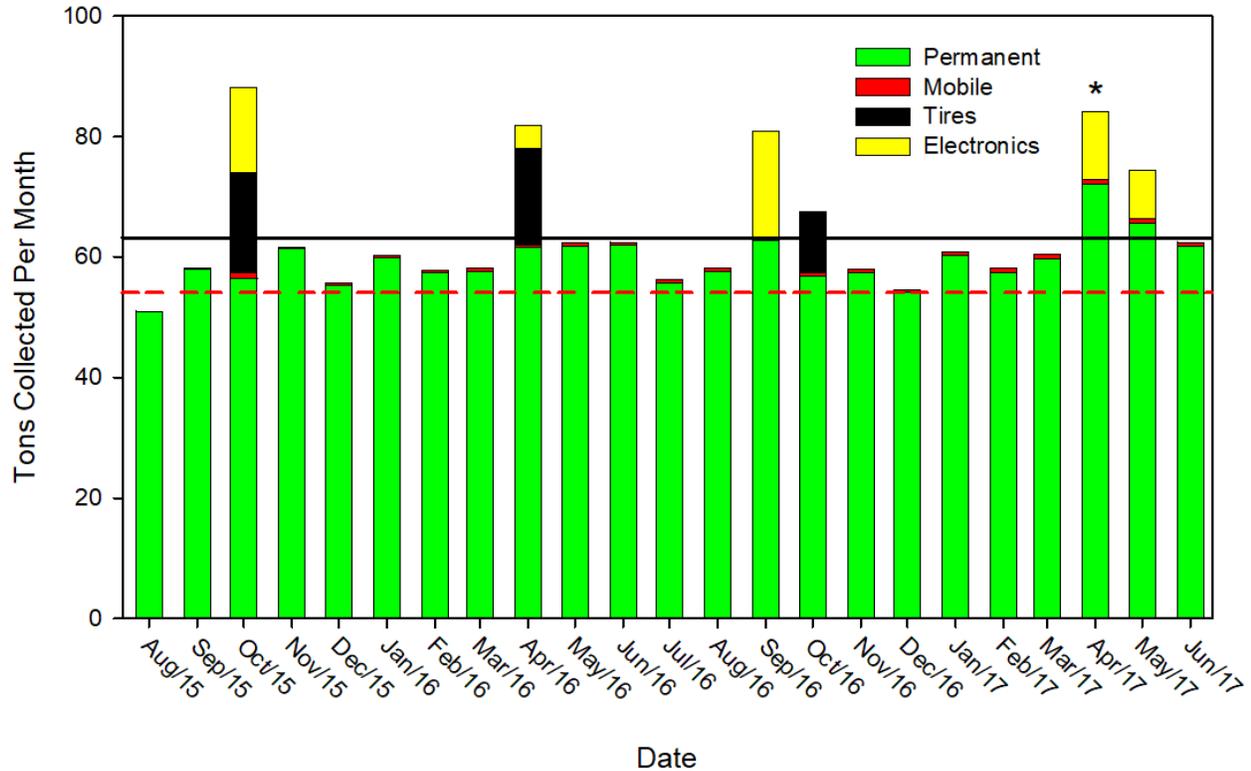


Figure 2. Monthly recycling rates at the permanent recycling facility, two mobile stations, and for the tire and electronic collections. The red horizontal line represents the pre-project baseline (tons/month) while the black horizontal line depicts the average monthly rate throughout the project period. * denotes two electronic recycling events were held in April 2017.

Mobile Stations: Recycle of Mecosta County offered full service mobile recycling by using a cargo trailer at two separate locations in the county. Recycling at these mobile stations throughout the project were offered for 150 hours and included at least one day per month. Locations included Village of Morley and Mecosta Township hall. During some months two to three collection events were available for each of the locations. These mobile stations contributed to a total of 11.6 tons recycled material collected during the project with a general trend of increased recycling occurring (Figure 3). In October 2016 the highest rate of mobile recycling was observed at Morley with just under 1 ton collected. The reason for the increase may be how



this was only the second month of the recycling opportunity and the aggressive public education campaign through mailings and flyers succeeded in building community awareness. Also, individuals in the community may have held on to recyclable material until it was convenient and an initial spike in recycling was observed. In December 2016 no recycling occurred at the Mecosta Township site due to the date falling on Christmas Eve. The township chose not to hold a December recycling event.

A cardboard specific collection was also available with a trailer stationed throughout Quarter 2 and Quarters 4-8 at a local furniture store. The cardboard recycling trailer was stolen early in the project and during Quarter 3 a cardboard specific trailer was not operated. However, even with the difficulty a total of 18 tons of cardboard was recycled with an average of 1 ton per month. The high rate of recycling at the cardboard collection site may be due to how the trailer was stationed every day and not moved.

On Earth Day (May 22nd, 2017) an electronic collection was combined with a mobile site collection event in Mecosta Township. MRWA and Recycle of Mecosta county partnered with Advanced Technology Recycling (ATR) who organized a campaign at 8 locations across the country to break a Guinness World Record in celebration on Earth Day 2017. The event called the “One Million Pound Challenge” and was aimed to keep over one million pounds of electronics out of landfills in 24 hours. The current record was 126,344 pounds and was achieved at Seven locations in the US and Canada on April 20, 2013. The one-million-pound target was achieved and all of the participants at Mecosta Township were given a certificate.

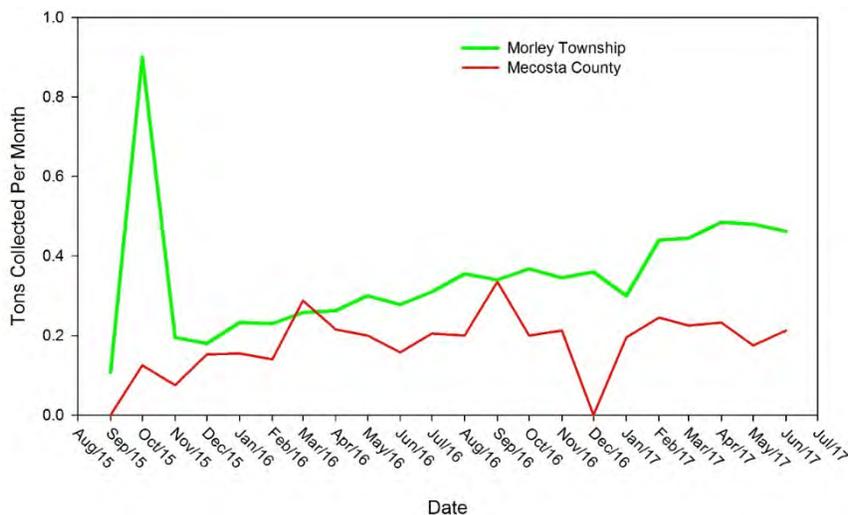


Figure 3. Monthly recycling rates (tons per month) for the two mobile recycling stations.

Electronic and Tire Recycling Collections:

The six electronic recycling collections were popular and well used by the public with collected tons ranging between 8 to 14. Items recycled included personal computers, printers, televisions and DVD games. The three tire collections were also well used by the public. A total of 42 tons of tires were collected over all events and ranged between 10 -16 tons per collection. The first electronic and tire recycling events were combined into a single event with a total of 289 vehicles being counted. Many individuals came through the collection site well before the opening time

with multiple vehicles lined up in the driveway. Many volunteers participated and unloaded tires and electronics from vehicles and were vital to the success of the event.



Survey Results:

Survey of Community Residents:

Two surveys were distributed to county residents and identified how they had learned of the new recycling opportunities. Most participants identified how they found out about the recycling program through word of mouth. This may explain the general increase in recycling at the mobile stations over the course of the CPPG because information through word of mouth would likely exhibit a lag. In rural communities, such as Mecosta County, this form of communication about the new recycling opportunities is not surprising. The newspaper is a well distributed and relied upon source of information and was the second most cited source of information to find out about the program (Figure 4).

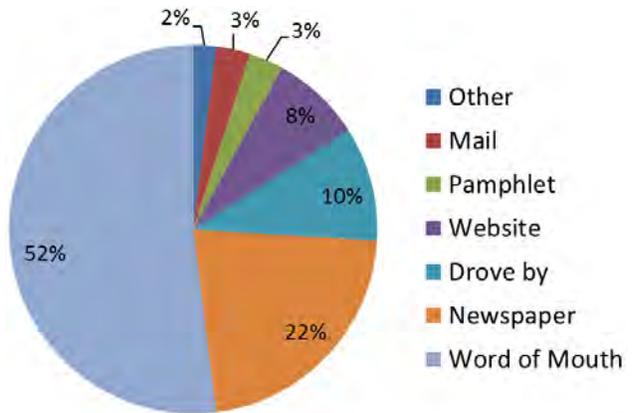


Figure 4. Survey results of how area residents found out about recycling opportunities in Mecosta County.

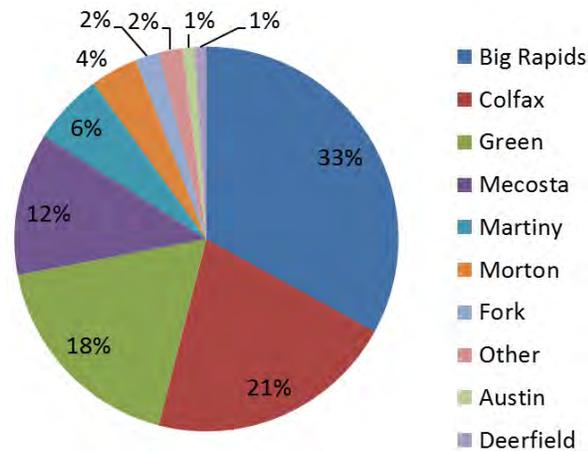


Figure 5. Results showing the township which participants who were recycling were from.

The expanded hours improved the ability of 98% of those surveyed to recycle. This coincides with survey results that indicated residents traveled an average of nine miles to recycle. Overall convenience was improved through implementation of the program though 70% of participants indicated that they had been recycling for over 5 years and 16% had been recycling for one to five years. Participants in the 2015 and 2016 recycling program preferred open days in the following sequence: 1st Saturday, 2nd Friday, 3rd Monday, 4th Thursday, and 5th Wednesday. Due to the system of trash removal in the county, 62% of participants indicated that recycling reduced their trash bill. With the multiple recycling centers, we had hoped to expand the reach of opportunity in a

rural county. Many participants were from Big Rapids Township (33%) however good representation from additional rural townships were also observed (Figure 5).

Project Sustainability

Overall, the CPPG allowed for the prototyping of multiple options for recycling in Mecosta County. Notable outcomes were achieved because of the project including Recycle of Mecosta County continuing to offer expanded hours of recycling. This is significant because 98% of those surveyed described how making recycling more convenient was important to them. Additionally, to continue mobile recycling an MOU was established with a local township for continued operation. Public support of mobile recycling is high and recently a local business owner approached Morley and Mecosta townships, and the Village of Morley, to gain a commitment to continue at the Morley Township location. All three of the government agencies voted to support a continuation and to split the cost of operation. Mobile recycling will continue to be offered beginning in August 2017 at Morley Township. Other options are being explored to determine if the Mecosta Township mobile recycling opportunity will continue. Discussions between Recycle of Mecosta County and local government officials are evaluating other opportunities to extend the geographic reach of the program in the future. The cardboard trailer will also be continued and Recycle of Mecosta County is determining the most appropriate location for it to be stationed. Finally, the number of volunteers and partners that were willing and available to contribute to the success of the project was large and from diverse groups and agencies. These relationships have been continued and will contribute to recycling efforts in the future.

Challenges and Obstacles to Success

During the project, a few obstacles and challenges were faced which likely are experienced in similar projects. Interestingly, success itself provided difficulties. Due to the success of the Quarter 1 tire and electronic collection the cost surpassed the budgeted amount. The tire collection was scheduled from 9:00 am to Noon but when cars were already backed up at 8:00 am the gates were opened early for the collections to occur. The semi-trailer for storing and transporting tire collectables was filled before the collection was scheduled to be over with some participants needing to be turned away. The electronic collection was similar and exceeded the budget because many of the items were either old style computers or televisions which increased the cost. For both the tire and electronic collections the contractors did not charge for the total amount of collectables to keep the cost down.

The mobile recycling was popular and the community expectation was that it would continue. The main difficulty for sustaining the program appears to be funding and the uncertainty if a financial commitment could be maintained. To address this issue multiple governmental agencies worked together to split the cost and maintain at least one of the mobile sites.

Another obstacle occurred when the recycling trailer was stolen from a mobile collection site. This was rectified by purchasing an additional trailer to replace it.

Significant outreach and education.

To promote a shift in the community's recycling behavior outreach about the importance of recycling and the new recycling opportunities was completed. Throughout the project over 34,000 brochures were direct mailed to county residents with 10,000 distributed immediately following the beginning of the project. Concurrently, thousands of flyers were distributed to local businesses and governmental offices and the information was posted on the MRWA website. We also used the local newspaper for informing the community of times and dates of recycling collections. Banners and signs were created as additional forms of promotion to inform people who were simply driving by the recycling sites. This informational strategy worked as an increase in the

recycling rate was sustained throughout the project at the permanent recycling station and we observed a general increase over time at the mobile recycling stations. The results from the two surveys support how each type of outreach technique contributed to notifying and activating the community in recycling. Notably “Word of mouth” was the highest rated area where people heard about the increased recycling opportunities and this suggests how it is important for an aggressive outreach campaign early in the process so “word of mouth” can be effective at the onset of the project. Also, 10% of people identified how they learned of the opportunity by driving by and observing signs and banners.

Three field trips for middle school students of Mecosta and Montcalm counties were held with hands-on recycling activities. At each of the events the importance of recycling was paired with concepts of watershed sustainability and ecosystem function.

- 2016: Wet Water Festival (260 3rd graders)
- 2016: Agriculture and Natural Resources field day (201 5th graders)
- 2017: Agriculture and Natural Resources field day (175 5th graders)



Effectiveness of Recycling Options

All recycling opportunities resulting from the grant were successful and contributed to an increase in the recycling rate throughout the county. The expanded hours at Recycle of Mecosta County measurably increased recycling from pre-project levels. The tire and electronic recycling provided a much-needed outlet and many tons were collected. This allowed for recycling that was not easily accessible in the county and represents material that may not have otherwise been recycled properly. The mobile facilities increased the recycling rate and geographically expanded recycling opportunities although the monthly rate was lower than other collections. When considering mobile recycling in the future an evaluation of cost versus number of collectibles should be considered.

List of all partners and their contribution

- Recycle of Mecosta County; Assisted in all aspects of the project which included in-kind match, organization of volunteers, distribution of flyers, transportation of mobile trailer, sorting and counting of recycled material, and provided monthly summaries. The project could not have been accomplished without their dedication and efforts.
- Mecosta County Department of Corrections; Provided fork lift driver and people to load recyclables during Morley Township and Mecosta County collections.
- CM Rubber Recycling; Contractor for recycling of tires.
- Ferris State University students from the Honors, Sustainability and Outdoor clubs; Volunteered for electronic and tire recycling events.
- Van Dries Home Furnishings; Provided location for cardboard recycling trailer.
- Village of Morley Township; Provided location for mobile recycling site and helped coordinate volunteers and activities for electronic recycling.
- Mecosta County; Provided location for mobile recycling site.
- AT Recycling; Contractor for electronic recycling material.
- Comprenew; Contractor for electronic recycling material
- Universal Rent It All; Supplied equipment for electronic recycling event.
- Tri County High School, Howard City, Michigan; Agriculture and Natural Resources Field Day.
- Mecosta County Conservation District; Provided support, materials and equipment for recycling events including the special electronic recycling events.
- Travis's Hardware; Provided a fork-lift and propane at no charge
- Wee Bee's Party Store; Provided Gaylord boxes and pallets
- Barryton Hardware; Donated gloves for volunteers
- Wade Caryl, Fork Township Supervisor; Provided and operated fork lift at Barryton collection.

Distributed Flyers or Hosted Meetings:

- Mecosta County Conservation District Office, Big Rapids
- Ewart City Hall
- Ewart Public Library
- Ewart Police Department
- Ewart Historical Museum
- Lamplighter Restaurant, Ewart
- Nawals Restaurant, Big Rapids
- Animal Shack, Big Rapids
- Old Pioneer Store, Big Rapids
- Artworks, Big Rapids
- Morley Village office
- Big Rapids Chamber of Commerce
- Big Rapids Library
- Mecosta County Conservation District office

All products generated during the project

Muskegon River Watershed Assembly Pollution Prevention Grant Products

First Quarter

- Recycle of Mecosta County Brochure
- Tire and Electronic Recycling Brochure
- Newspaper Article (Big Rapids Pioneer)
- Newspaper Article (Big Rapids Pioneer)
- MRWA – July Newsletter Article
- Recycle Banners

Second Quarter

- Newspaper Article (Big Rapids Pioneer)
- Recycling Survey
- Recycling Survey Results

Third Quarter

- Recycling Brochure (2)
- Tire and Electronic Recycling Brochure
- Township Newsletter Article
- MWRA Newsletter Article

Fourth Quarter

- Newspaper Notice of Event
- Newspaper Article (Big Rapids Pioneer)
- Recycling Survey
- Recycling Brochure (2)
- Recycling Trailer

Fifth Quarter

- Survey Results
- Newspaper Article (Big Rapids Pioneer)
- Recycling Electronics and Tires Brochure
- Recycling Brochure

Sixth Quarter

- No new products

Seventh Quarter

- Recycling Tire and Electronic Brochure
- Recycling Brochure

Eighth Quarter

- Newspaper Article (Big Rapids Pioneer)
- Electronic Collection Signs
- Recycling Electronics and Tires Brochure

FREE TIRE AND ELECTRONIC COLLECTION

RECYCLE OF MECOSTA COUNTY

424 N. 4th Avenue, Big Rapids, MI

Saturday, October 17, 2015

9:00 am - 12:00 pm



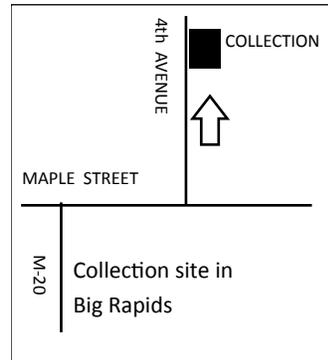
Tires

- Personal/non-business tires on or off the rim are accepted.
- No tires over 4 feet tall.
- Tires must be clean and free of debris.
- Limit 7 tires per vehicle.



Electronics

- Office and household electronics, computer components and accessories accepted.
- Anything with a cord is accepted.
- NO LARGE APPLIANCES



Sponsored by the Muskegon River Watershed Assembly in partnership with Recycle of Mecosta County.



www.mrwa.org

Announcing...

- * Free Tire & Electronic Waste Collection
- * New Recycling hours at Recycle of Mecosta County
- * New Mobile Recycling Sites



OF

MECOSTA COUNTY

424 N. 4th Avenue, Big Rapids
231-796-9872

“Help Save Landfill Space”

Take part in recycling
opportunities in
Mecosta County



Mecosta County

424 N. 4th Avenue, Big Rapids
231-796-9872

NEW HOURS

MONDAY

9:00 am - 11:00 am

WEDNESDAY

9:00 am - 5:30 pm

THURSDAY

3:00 pm - 5:30 pm

FRIDAY

9:00 am - 5:30 pm

and

SATURDAY

9:00 am - 1:00 pm

Mobile Recycle Site Locations and Times:

1st Saturday of the Month

VILLAGE OF BARRYTON
Community Building
9:00 am - 12:00 pm
2956 20 Mile Rd.
Barryton, MI

3rd Saturday of the Month

VILLAGE OF MORLEY
Village Parking lot
9:00 am - 12:00 pm
Corner of Cass St. and 3rd St.
Morley, MI

4th Saturday of the Month

Mecosta Township Hall
9:00 am - 12:00 pm
19729 11 Mile Rd.
Big Rapids, MI



Paper

Newspaper (in paper bag or tied)
White & Colored Office Paper
Magazines & Catalogs
Corrugated Cardboard
Fiberboard
Junk Mail
Books

Plastics

Plastic Bottles & Jugs
(#1 & #2 only)
(includes cloudy plastic milk
containers)
Styrofoam / Polystyrene

Glass

Glass Jars & Bottles
(colorless only)

Metal

Steel Tin Cans
Any Metal Pieces
Aluminum

*For additional information
or to volunteer, contact
the Muskegon River
Watershed Assembly
at 231-591-2320*

Recycle of Mecosta County

424 N. 4th Avenue, Big Rapids

NEW HOURS

MONDAY'S
9:00 am - 11:00 am
WEDNESDAY'S
9:00 am - 5:30 pm
THURSDAY'S
3:00 pm - 5:30 pm
FRIDAY'S
9:00 am - 5:30 pm
SATURDAY'S
9:00 am - 1:00 pm

Recycle Materials that we accept

Paper

Newspaper (in paper bag or tied)
White & Colored Office Paper
Magazines & Catalogs
Corrugated Cardboard
Fiberboard
Junk Mail
Books

Plastics

Plastic Bottles & Jugs (#1 & #2 only)
(includes cloudy plastic milk containers)
Styrofoam / Polystyrene

Glass

Glass Jars & Bottles (colorless only)

Metal

Tin Cans
Any Metal Pieces
Aluminum

Announcing:

- * Free Tire and Electronic Collection**
- * New Recycling Hours at Recycle of Mecosta County**
- * New Mobile Recycling Sites**

Mobile recycle site locations and times.

<u>1st Saturday of the Month</u>	<u>3rd Saturday of the Month</u>	<u>*4th Saturday of the Month</u>
VILLAGE OF BARRYTON Community Building 9:00 am - 12:00 pm 2956 20 Mile Rd. Barryton, MI	VILLAGE OF MORLEY Village Parking lot 9:00 am - 12:00 pm Corner of Cass St. and 3 rd St. Morley, MI	Mecosta Township Hall 9:00 am - 12:00 pm 19729 11 Mile Rd. Big Rapids, MI *Beginning in October

Free Tire and Electronic Collection

424 N. 4th Avenue, Big Rapids, MI

Saturday, October 17, 9:00 am - 12:00 pm

Tires

- Personal/non-business tires on or off rim are accepted.
- No tires over 4 feet tall.
- Tires must be clean and free of debris.
- Limit 7 tires per vehicle.



Electronics

- Office and household electronics and computer components and accessories accepted.



Sponsored by the
Muskegon River
Watershed
Assembly in
partnership with
Recycle of Mecosta
County.



www.mrwa.org

For additional information or to volunteer, contact the Muskegon River
Watershed Assembly at 231-591-2320 or projectmgr@ferris.edu



NEW RECYCLING OPTION: Dixie Ward, Muskegon River Watershed Assembly project manger, explains the details of participation in a mobile recycling program to the Mecosta Township Board of Trustees. (Pioneer photo/Adam Gac)

Lean and green

■ Mecosta Twp. OKs participation in recycling program

By ADAM GAC
PIONEER STAFF WRITER

MECOSTA TWP. — A new option for recycling and potential revisions to the planning commission's master plan were the topics of discussion when the Mecosta Township Board of Trustees met Wednesday.

During the meeting, Muskegon River Watershed Assembly Project Manager Dixie Ward presented trustees with a proposal for participation in a monthly mobile recycling program

organized by the assembly in cooperation with Recycle of Mecosta County. Trustees unanimously supported the proposal.

Funding for the program is being provided through a \$92,000 grant received from the Michigan Department of Environmental Quality to improve recycling in Mecosta County, Ward said.

The mobile recycling program will operate from 9 a.m. to noon on the fourth Saturday of each month at the Mecosta Township Hall. The DEQ grant provides for two years of operation and the program will accept recycling from non-residents of the township.

"What we'll do is bring in a semi-trailer on the morning of the fourth Saturday," Ward said. "A couple of workers will take recyclables from residents, and when they leave at noon they'll take everything with them — no mess."

In other business:

Every five years, the township is required to review its master plan. Before they begin the reviewing process, township officials are looking for input from residents, according to Trustee James Cain.

"If we talk to different people in the township who have concerns with the present master plan — ideas for things to change — we'll

know what to look at during the review," he said. "We want people to know if they have concerns with the master plan they should come into the planning commission, let us know so we're aware."

Mecosta Township Treasurer Mary Quinlan stressed the importance of receiving input from residents.

"If we want to consider any modifications based on needs it's helpful to have community input," she said. "It's just difficult to make the community aware."

The next meeting of the Mecosta Township Planning Commission will take place at 6 p.m. on Oct. 6 at the Mecosta Township Hall.

Thousands of tires, electronics recycled

MRWA collection receives 25,000 pounds of electronics, 1,100 tires

By ADAM GAC
PIONEER STAFF WRITER

BIG RAPIDS — The final numbers have been returned and the results are clear — area residents recycle.

More than 25,000 pounds of electronics and 1,100 tires that could have negatively affected the local environment were brought in to an electronic and tire collection on Oct. 17.

A total of 289 vehicles visited the collection site at Recycle of Mecosta County in Big Rapids for the recycling event supported by the Muskegon River Watershed Assembly. The event was funded by a grant from the Community Pollution Prevention Grant Program from the Michigan Department of Environmental Quality.

During the collection, area residents could recycle any

“The welfare of humans and the environment depends in part on proper management of society’s wastes.”

— DIXIE WARD
PROJECT MANAGER
MUSKEGON RIVER WATERSHED ASSEMBLY

electronics with a cord or battery and up to seven tires per vehicle. The community appeared eager to recycle these items, with cars lining up an hour before the collection started, according to Dixie Ward, MRWA project manager.

Volunteers, the majority from Ferris State University’s honors program, sustainability and outdoor clubs, unloaded electronics and tires from participants’ vehicles.

See **RECYCLE** 4

RECYCLE

CONTINUED FROM 1

Comprenew, a non-profit from Grand Rapids, collected the electronics. The company adheres to a strict zero-landfill policy for all electronic waste. Their electronic lifecycle management model focuses on minimizing environ-

mental impact by promoting reuse before recycling, Ward said in a press release.

According to Comprenew, electronic waste “is a growing concern that is exacerbated by our fast-paced consumer cycle and product innovation. Cadmium, mercury, lead, americium, arsenic, beryllium oxide and flame retardants are just a few hazardous

materials commonly found in electronic waste. It is vital that these harmful elements stay out of landfills where they contaminate ground water and release toxic chemicals into the atmosphere.”

CM Rubber Recycling collected the tires during the event. The company will use the materials, which were once considered junk, to create refined

end products, Ward said.

“Unlike disposing of scrap tires at a landfill, where they will forever sit as an untapped resource, CM will use the tires to manufacture environmentally-friendly products, including landscaping mulch, playground cover, a variety of mats, drain field aggregate and equestrian footing,” she said.

Area residents may

keep electronics and tires around because they do not know what to do with them, it’s important to provide opportunities for people to manage waste responsibly, Ward said.

“The welfare of humans and the environment depends in part on proper management of society’s wastes,” she said. “This program helps keep our

homes and environment safe.”

An additional tire and electronic recycling collection will take place in the spring. Anyone interested in the recycling events should contact Dixie Ward, Muskegon River Watershed Assembly Project Manager, at (231) 591-2320 or project_mgr@ferris.edu for more information.

Tire and electronic recycling provided for area residents Saturday

By ADAM GAC
PIONEER STAFF WRITER

BIG RAPIDS — Old computers, televisions and tires take up space — and only the tires can be reused as a swing.

All three forms of clutter can be recycled, however.

Area residents will be able to recycle electronics and up to seven tires from 9 a.m. to noon on Saturday, Oct. 17, at the Recycle of Mecosta County facility located at 424 N. Fourth Ave. in Big Rapids.

The collection is organized by the Muskegon River

Watershed Authority in conjunction with Recycle of Mecosta County. A \$92,000 grant from the Michigan Department of Environmental Quality Community Pollution Prevention program is funding expanded hours at the recycling facility and three tire and electronic recycling events over the next two years.

During the collection, residents can drop off electronics and small appliances, as well as tires on or off rims. Appliances that contain Freon will be accepted, provided they are not too large, according to

MRWA Project Manager Dixie Ward.

The recycling center will be open for normal operation during the tire and electronic collection, according to Recycle of Mecosta County coordinator Chris Luchies, who added the center is seeking volunteers for the event.

“We’d like to have about five or six volunteers,” he said. “We have two here, but with the tire collection I’m a little bit nervous about what we’re going to see.”

Anyone interested in volunteering to help during the

event should contact Luchies at (231) 679-2665.

For residents looking to recycle more common materials, such as paper, cardboard and plastic, the recycling center’s new hours of operation are as follows:

- Monday: 9 to 11 a.m.
- Tuesday: Closed
- Wednesday: 9 a.m. to 5:30 p.m.
- Thursday: 3 to 5:30 p.m.
- Friday: 9 a.m. to 5:30 p.m.
- Saturday: 9 a.m. to 1 p.m.
- Sunday: Closed



NETWORK OF INFORMATION: Gathered at the incident command center at Christ’s Harvest Ministries church, Big Rapids Department of Public Safety Director Andrea Nerbonne (right) speaks with Tim Haist, Big Rapids Public Schools superintendent, and Deb Tyson, BRPS director of human resources and curriculum. (Pioneer photos/Emily Grove-Davis)

CHILDREN

Article – Released in the MRWA’s July Newsletter

Expansion of the Recycling Program in Mecosta County

MRWA was awarded \$92,000 from the 2015 Community Pollution Prevention Grant Program. This is an exciting opportunity for the MRWA to get involved with new projects such as recycling. The project name is – Expansion of the recycling program in Mecosta County. This is a two year grant funded through the Michigan Department of Environmental Quality. The project will run from July 2015 through June 2017.

MRWA will partner with Recycle of Mecosta County to carry out the grant requirements and goals. Recycle of Mecosta County has been providing recycling services to residents in Mecosta County for 26 years. Services for this recycling program will be contracted with this non-profit organization. Recycle of Mecosta County will offer a full service mobile recycling program whereby it will gather certain recyclables including cardboard, paper, glass, plastic, and metal at (2) separate locations once each month throughout the County of Mecosta, as well as a permanent facility in the county. Recycle of Mecosta has gained many dedicated volunteers over the years. Volunteers will help ensure the success of the recycling program by providing an average of 80 hours of service per week.

One of the project goals, is to expand the county’s current recycling program to increase recycling rates. The mobile recycling will increase to (2) sites and the hours the permanent recycling facility is open to the public will increase from 8.5 hours to 23.5 hours per week. This will substantially increase the convenience, functionality and availability of recycling in Mecosta County which will help increase household recycling rates. Three tire and five electronic recycling collections will also be offered throughout the County during the grant period.

Another project goal, is to increase knowledge of the recycling program. Educational and informative information will be available to the public. The program will be promoted through the use of mass media, group meeting and individual contacts. There also will be three direct mailings to county residents which will increase awareness of recycling opportunities. The grant will allow the county to increase the number of mobile recycle sites and have increased hours at the permanent facility. The need for this expanded service is great and community support is overwhelming. The project will continue beyond the grant term with ongoing financial support from Mecosta County and Recycle of Mecosta County. The grant opportunity will ensure a long term partnership between MRWA and Recycle of Mecosta County that will establish collection opportunities for recyclable materials as well as community outreach and education.

The Billboard

Recycle

OPEN

TODAY



www.mrwa.org

Help us

Recycle



Recycle



Electronics



**Recycle
Tires**

RECYCLE

CONTINUED FROM 1

■ Friday: 9 a.m. to 5:30 p.m.

■ Saturday: 9 a.m. to 1 p.m.

■ Sunday: Closed

The grant also will support three tire collection events and five electronic collections. The first tire and electronic collection will take place from 9 a.m. to noon on Oct. 17, at Recycle of Mecosta County, 424. N Fourth Ave., Big Rapids.

"TVs and computer equipment will probably be the big sources of electronic recycling," Ward said. "We'll even take things with Freon, but no large appliances."

Both the tire and the electronic recycling will be free, and tires will be accepted on or off rims, she added.

Funding also has been provided to increase the number of mobile recycling collection events in Mecosta County. In addition to the collection from 9 a.m. to noon on the first Saturday of the month at the Community Building in Barryton, residents will be able to bring their recycling to the village of Morley offices from 9 a.m. to noon on the third Saturday of the month, which will begin Sept. 19. Starting in October, area residents will have a third option for mobile recycling, from 9 a.m. to noon on the



RECYCLE:

Recycle of Mecosta County part-time supervisor Thomas Hulsopple loads cardboard into a cart in order to process it during the recycling center's new Wednesday hours. (Pioneer photo/Adam Gac)

fourth Saturday of the month at Mecosta Township Hall, Ward said.

"They will be manned mobile sites," she said. "Somebody will be there to assist people with their recyclables. It would be helpful if they had the recyclables pre-sorted."

MRWA is working with the communities involved in the mobile recycling program to staff the once-a-month units with local workers, rather than Recycle of Mecosta County staff, according to Ward.

"Recycle of Mecosta is trying to get away from hiring additional staff to run the mobile sites," she said. "They would like the staffing to be done by the village or the

township, which they would then reimburse."

The grant funding also will bring a new recycling utility to the streets of Big Rapids, Ward said.

"We purchased a trailer for cardboard," she said. "So there will be an additional trailer for recycling cardboard in Big Rapids for area businesses."

The watershed assembly was very fortunate to receive the grant, Ward said.

"It was very competitive," she said. "There were a lot of applicants and 15 grants were awarded. Originally, we applied for \$100,000 but they knocked it down to \$92,000 because they were trying to give more awards out. They essentially

shaved a little bit off everyone's request to be able to afford more awards."

Recycle of Mecosta County is adjusting to the expanded hours, according to part-time supervisor Thomas Hulsopple.

"We've already had more of a response than I expected," he said. "On our first Wednesday, we had 58 customers."

The recycling center has hired an addition employee, Jeff Hurst, to help with the extra workload.

"Everyone says they are enjoying the new hours," Hurst said. "And the increase in hours means people have more time to check out the free books we have. There's a plethora of great stuff."

Grant expands recycling program

MRWA will use funds to support recycling events across county

By ADAM GAC

PIONEER STAFF WRITER

MECOSTA COUNTY — A \$92,000 grant will be used to change recycling in Mecosta County for the next two years.

Funding from the Michigan Department of Environmental Quality's Community Pollution Prevention grant program will be used to finance a project with the goal of expanding recycling in Mecosta County through September 2017. The grant was received by the Muskegon River Watershed Assembly, which will cooperate with Recycle of Mecosta County to deploy the program.

As part of the program, Recycle of Mecosta has added an additional 17 hours of operation, according to MRWA Project Manager Dixie Ward.

The new recycling center hours are as follows:

- Monday: 9 to 11 a.m.
- Tuesday: Closed
- Wednesday: 9 a.m. to 5:30 p.m.
- Thursday: 3 to 5:30 p.m.

See RECYCLE 4

Recycling Surveys

Your opinion counts!

How did you find out about recycling in Mecosta County?

Website _____ Mail _____ Newspaper _____ Pamphlet _____ Drove By _____

Word of Mouth _____ Other _____

How long have you been recycling?

Less than 6 months _____ less than 1 year _____ 1-5 years _____ 5+ years _____

Do the expanded hours make it easier to recycle?

Yes _____ NO _____

Comments about the recycling program:

Thank you for recycling!

Recycling Surveys

Your opinion counts!

How did you find out about recycling in Mecosta County?

Website _____ Mail _____ Newspaper _____ Pamphlet _____ Drove By _____

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How long have you been recycling?

Less than 6 months _____ less than 1 year _____ 1-5 years _____ 5+ years _____

Do the expanded hours make it easier to recycle?

Yes _____ NO _____

Comments about the recycling program:

Thank you for recycling!

Survey Results

December 2015

Total – **83 surveys**

1. How did you find out about Recycling in Mecosta County?

Website – 8%

Mail – 3%

Newspaper – 22%

Pamphlet – 3%

Drove by – 10%

Word of Mouth – 52%

Other – 2%

2. How long have you been recycling?

Less than 6 months – 2%

Less than 1 year – 2%

1-5 years – 16%

5+ years – 70%

3. Do the expanded hours make it easier to recycle?

Yes – 98%

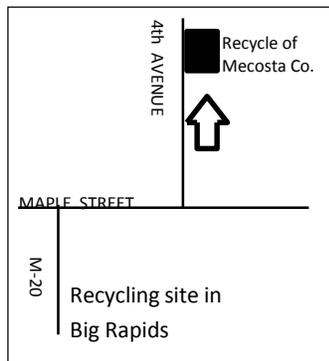
No – 2%

STATE OF MICHIGAN



DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENTAL QUALITY

These recycling opportunities are supported in part, through a grant from the Michigan DEQ Community Pollution Prevention Grant Program.



Sponsored by the Muskegon River Watershed Assembly in partnership with Recycle of Mecosta County.



www.mrwa.org

Announcing...

- * New Recycling hours at Recycle of Mecosta County
- * New Mobile Recycling Sites



424 N. 4th Avenue, Big Rapids
231-796-9872

“Have a Positive Impact”

Take part in recycling opportunities in Mecosta County



of

Mecosta County

424 N. 4th Avenue, Big Rapids
231-796-9872

NEW HOURS

Monday

9:00 am - 11:00 am

Wednesday

9:00 am - 5:30 pm

Thursday

3:00 pm - 5:30 pm

Friday

9:00 am - 5:30 pm

and

Saturday

9:00 am - 1:00 pm

Mobile Recycle Site Locations and Times:

1st Saturday of the Month

Village of Barryton
Community Building
9:00 am - 12:00 pm
2956 20 Mile Rd.
Barryton, MI

3rd Saturday of the Month

Village of Morley
Village Parking lot
9:00 am - 12:00 pm
Corner of Cass St. and 3rd St.
Morley, MI

4th Saturday of the Month

Mecosta Township Hall
9:00 am - 12:00 pm
19729 11 Mile Rd.
Big Rapids, MI



Paper

Newspaper (in paper bag or tied)
White & Colored Office Paper
Magazines & Catalogs
Corrugated Cardboard
Fiberboard
Junk Mail
Books

Plastics

Plastic Bottles & Jugs
(#1 & #2 only)
(includes cloudy plastic milk
containers)
Styrofoam / Polystyrene

Glass

Glass Jars & Bottles
(colorless only)

Metal

Steel Tin Cans
Any Metal Pieces
Aluminum

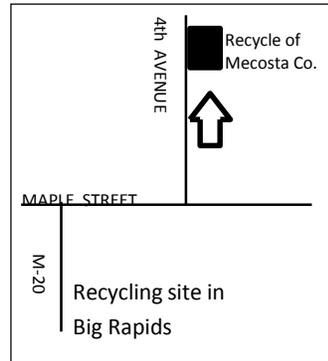
*For additional information
or to volunteer, contact
the Muskegon River
Watershed Assembly
at 231-591-2320*

STATE OF MICHIGAN



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www.mrwa.org



Take part in
recycling
opportunities
in Mecosta
County.



Of Mecosta County

“Have a Positive Impact”



Mecosta County

424 N. 4th Street, Big Rapids
231-796-9872

Hours

MONDAY'S – 9:00 AM – 11:00 AM

WEDNESDAY'S – 9:00 AM – 5:30 PM

THURSDAY'S – 3:00 PM – 5:30 PM

FRIDAYS – 9:00 AM – 5:30 PM

SATURDAY'S – 9:00 AM – 1:00 PM

Paper

Newspaper & Paper Bags
White & Colored Office Paper
Magazines & Catalogs
Corrugated Cardboard
Fiberboard
Junk Mail Books

Plastics

Plastic Bottles & Jugs
(#1 & #2 only)
Styrofoam / Polystyrene

Glass

Glass Jars & Bottles (colorless only)

Metal

Steel
Aluminum

Mobile Recycle Site Locations and Times:

1st Saturday of the Month

Village of Barryton
Community Building
9:00 am - 12:00 pm
2956 20 Mile Rd.
Barryton, MI

3rd Saturday of the Month

Village of Morley
Village Parking lot
9:00 am - 12:00 pm
Corner of Cass St. and 3rd St.
Morley, MI

4th Saturday of the Month

Mecosta Township Hall
9:00 am - 12:00 pm
19729 11 Mile Rd.
Big Rapids, MI



Tire & Electronic Collection

Saturday, April 30, 1:00 pm - 4:00 pm

Location: Mecosta County Fairgrounds

540 West Ave., Big

Rapids

Tires

Personal/non-business tires on or off rim are accepted.

No tires over 4 feet tall.

Tires must be clean and free of debris.

\$1.00 per tire/limit 10 tires

Electronics

- Office and household electronics and computer components and accessories accepted.
- All electronics are free to recycle except for the following:
- **Computer Monitors \$10 each,**
Televisions 27 inches and smaller \$10 each,
Televisions over 27 inches \$20.00 each
- **Items with Freon \$15.00 each / No Large Appliances**

*For additional
information, contact the
Muskegon River
Watershed Assembly
231-591-2320*

Recycle of Mecosta County
 424 N. 4th Avenue, Big Rapids
 231-796-9872

Hours

MONDAY'S
 9:00 am - 11:00 am

WEDNESDAYS
 9:00 am - 5:30 pm

THURSDAY'S
 3:00 pm - 5:30 pm

FRIDAY'S
 9:00 am - 5:30 pm

SATURDAY'S
 9:00 am - 1:00 pm

Materials that we accept

Paper
 Newspaper
 White & Colored Office Paper
 Magazines & Catalogs
 Corrugated Cardboard
 Fiberboard
 Junk Mail
 Books

Plastics
 Plastic Bottles & Jugs (#1 & #2 only)
 Styrofoam / Polystyrene

Glass
 Glass Jars & Bottles

Metal
 Tin Cans
 Any Metal Pieces, Aluminum

The Muskegon River Watershed Assembly is announcing the:

- *Spring Tire and Electronic Collection
- * Mobile Recycling Sites
- *Recycling Hours at Recycle of Mecosta County



Mobile Recycle Sites location and hours

<u>1st Saturday of the Month</u>	<u>3rd Saturday of the Month</u>	<u>*4th Saturday of the Month</u>
VILLAGE OF BARRYTON Community Building 9:00 am - 12:00 pm 2956 20 Mile Rd. Barryton, MI	VILLAGE OF MORLEY Village Parking lot 9:00 am - 12:00 pm Corner of Cass St. and 3rd St. Morley, MI	Mecosta Township Hall 9:00 am - 12:00 pm 19729 11 Mile Rd. Big Rapids, MI

Tire and Electronic Collection
 Saturday, April 30, 1:00 pm - 4:00 pm
 Mecosta County Fairgrounds , 540 West Ave., Big Rapids

Tires
 Personal/non-business tires on or off rim are accepted.
 No tires over 4 feet tall.
 Tires must be clean and free of debris.
\$1.00 per tire/limit 10 tires



Electronics

- Office and household electronics and computer components and accessories accepted.
- All electronics are free to recycle except for the following:
- **Computer Monitors \$10 each, Televisions 27 inches and smaller \$10 each, Televisions over 27 inches \$20.00 each**
- Items with Freon **\$15.00 each / No Large Appliances**





These recycling opportunities are supported in part, through a grant from the Michigan DEQ Community Pollution Prevention Grant Program

For additional information, contact The Muskegon River Watershed Assembly at 231-591-2320.

Building and Zoning

Building and Zoning hours are 8:30 to 2:00 p.m. Wednesdays until 4 p.m. You may call the township to set up inspections at 231-796-8935 X 1. Before beginning to build or make additions, please call our office for information concerning your building project. Please visit us at our website at www.mecostatwp.org to obtain information about building and zoning. There are also various forms available on our website.

Trash Burning Restrictions

On April 19, 2014 Public Act 102 of 2012 was signed into law, prohibiting the open burning of household trash that contains plastic, rubber, foam, chemically treated wood, textiles, electronics, chemicals or hazardous material. The burning of these household trash items poses a danger to human health and the environment. The law amends the open burning provisions contained in Section 11522 of the Natural Resources and Environmental Protection Act (Public Act 451 of 1994). The changes took effect on October 16, 2012 and contain penalty provisions, which may be enforced by local units of government. For more information visit: www.dnr.state.mi.us/burnpermits/

NEW 9 Hole Disc Golf Course!



Mecosta Township Planning Commission has been working diligently on our recreation plan and have received two grants. We now have a 9 Hole Disc Golf Course and will be adding playground equipment in the near future. Course map and score cards are available at the township hall during office hours.

The Planning Commission will also be reviewing our Master Plan in 2016 where considerations for future development will be discussed. Your input is **WELCOME**. Contact the Township office for more info. 231-796-8935 X 1

MOBILE RECYCLING AT MECOSTA TOWNSHIP

Also new to Mecosta Township is *Mobile Recycling the 4th Saturday of each* month from 9 1 12:00. We accept:

Paper

Newspaper (in a paper bag or tied)
White & Colored Office Paper
Magazines, Catalogs, and Junk Mail
Corrugated Cardboard & Fiberboard

Plastics

Plastic Bottles & Jugs (#1 & #2 only)
Styrofoam and Polystyrene

Glass

Glass Jars & Bottles (colorless only)

Metal

Tin Cans, Aluminum, Any Metal Pieces

Township Board Meetings

The Mecosta Township Board meets the second Wednesday of each month at 7:00p.m. The Planning Commission meets the first Tuesday of each month at 6:00 p.m. **We encourage you to become active in our township.** Additional information is on our website: www.mecostatwp.org



Happy Holidays!

Mary Quinlan,

Mecosta Township Treasurer

Major Funding Provided by:
The Wege Foundation, Fremont Area
Community Foundation, Community
Foundation for Muskegon County,
and Osceola County Community
Foundation. And Ferris State



News from the Mus-



Not your everyday recycling

By Dixie Ward, Project Manager

Last paper issue for those with e-mail .
Please send your e-mail address to
Patjarrett@ferris.edu so you don't miss a
single issue.

The Electronic and Tire Collection on October, 17th brought in 25,809 pounds of electronics and 1,103 tires that could have negatively affected the local environment.

A total of 289 vehicles came through the collection site at Recycle of Mecosta County in Big Rapids. This collection was supported by the Muskegon River Watershed Assembly through a Community Pollution Prevention Grant Program from the Department of Environmental Quality.

This event included any electronics with a cord or battery and up to 7 tires per vehicle. The community was eager to recycle these items with cars lining up an hour before the collection started. Volunteers from the community made the day a success by unloading electronics and tires from participants' vehicles. The majority of the volunteers were from Ferris State University's Honors, Sustainability and Outdoor Clubs.

Comprenew collected the electronics and adheres to a strict zero-landfill policy for all electronic waste and their electronic lifecycle management model minimizes environmental impact by promoting reuse before recycling. Electronic waste is a growing concern that is exacerbated by our fast-paced consumer cycle and product innovation. Cadmium, mercury, lead,

americium, arsenic, beryllium oxide, and flame retardants are just a few hazardous materials commonly found in e-waste. It is vital that these harmful elements stay out of landfills where they contaminate ground water and release toxic chemicals into the atmosphere.

CM Rubber Recycling collected the tires and will utilize materials that were once considered junk into refined end products. Unlike disposing of scrap tires at a landfill where they will forever sit as an untapped resource, they use the tires to manufacture environmentally friendly products including landscaping mulch, playground cover, a variety of mats, drain field aggregate, and equestrian footing.



Often, people keep electronics and tires around because they do not know what to do with them. The welfare of humans and the environment depends in part on proper management of society's wastes. This program helps keep our homes and environment safe. An additional tire and electronic recycling collection will be held in the spring of 2016 in Mecosta County.

MRWA Board of Directors

- Greg Mund, Chair
- Ken Johnson, Vice-chair
- Don Henning, Treasurer
- Nancy Burmeister, Secretary
- Jean LaLonde, Education Chair
- Kurt Ray, Finance Chair
- Ron Kadelsik, Resource Chair

Directors At-Large:

- Wayne Groesbeck
- Cindy Fitzwilliams-Heck,

MRWA Staff

- Julie Chamberlain, Executive Director
- Dixie Ward, Project Manager
- Pat Jarrett, Administrative Assistant
- MRWA



1009 Campus Dr. JOH303

Big Rapids, MI 49307-2280

Phone: (231) 591-2324

Fax: (231) 591-2306

E-mail: mrwa@ferris.edu

Website: www.mrwa.org

Facebook: www.facebook.com/MuskegonRiverWatershedAssembly

MRWA programs and services are open to all without regard to race, color, national origin, gender, religion, age, disability, political beliefs, sexual orientation and marital status. MRWA is an Equal Opportunity employer.

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News That Affects You

Tire and electronic collection to be held Saturday

Posted Today At 9:55am by Tim Burke



The Muskegon River Watershed Assembly is holding their Spring Tire and Electronic Collection. Project Manager Dixie Ward says if you have old tires cluttering up the place, bring them on down.

"Personal non-business tires are accepted, on or off the rim, and they cannot be over four feet tall."

The same thing goes for electronics, she says.

"Anything with a cord – we take any type of electronics, cell phones, all that kind of thing."

Most electronic items can be brought in for free but, due the cost of disposal for tires and some electronics, there will be some charges.

"The tires are \$1.00 per tire, and we do limit it to ten tires. Computer monitors are \$10.00 straight across the board, and then TV's 27" and smaller is \$10.00, over 27" is \$20.00," says Ward.

She adds that large appliances such as refrigerators, stoves, washers, and dryers aren't being accepted during this collection and there is also a \$15.00 charge to remove freon from some appliances such as window air conditioners.

Once you get all of your unwanted tires and electronics down to the site, Ward says don't worry about getting everything unloaded.

"Absolutely, we will have volunteers there to help unload."

The collection will run from 1:00 pm to 4:00 pm Saturday, April 30 at the Mecosta County Fairgrounds on West Avenue in Big Rapids.

For additional information, contact the Muskegon River Watershed Assembly at 231-591-2320.

[Read All](#)

Watershed assembly to host tire, electronic recycling event

By ADAM GAC
PIONEER STAFF WRITER

BIG RAPIDS — The Muskegon River Watershed Assembly will host a tire and electronic recycling event from 1 to 4 p.m. on Saturday, April 30, at the Mecosta County Fairgrounds.

The event is supported by the Michigan Department of Environmental Quality

Community Pollution Prevention Program, according to Dixie Ward, MRWA project manager.

"We'll be accepting passenger tires up to 4-feet tall and no wider than 12 inches. There are certain types of tires we can't take, construction loader, airplane or earth-moving equipment. They can't have any metal inside them," she

said.

Recycling tires helps reduce breeding grounds for mosquitoes and improve property aesthetics; while recycling electronics prevents heavy metals from contaminating the environment, Ward said. The program will charge \$1 per tire and \$10 to \$20 per monitor or television depending on size. Any items with freon

are \$15 to recycle. Large appliances, like refrigerators and washing machines, will not be accepted during the event.

"The goal of this program is to increase recycling rates in Michigan," Ward said. "Recycling things, like tires and electronic, helps increase the overall tonnage of items recycled in Michigan every year."

Recycling Surveys, June 2016

Recycle of Mecosta County strives to meet your recycling needs!

What Township do you live in? _____

How many miles do you travel to use the recycling facility? _____

What day(s) are you most likely to drop off items at the recycling facility?

Mon. _____ Wed. _____ Thurs. _____ Fri. _____ Sat. _____

Does recycling reduce your trash bill? Yes _____ No _____

Comments about the recycling program:

Thank you for recycling!

Recycling Surveys, June 2016

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What Township do you live in? _____

How many miles do you travel to use the recycling facility? _____

What day(s) are you most likely to drop off items at the recycling facility?

Mon. _____ Wed. _____ Thurs. _____ Fri. _____ Sat. _____

Does recycling reduce your trash bill? Yes _____ No _____

Comments about the recycling program:

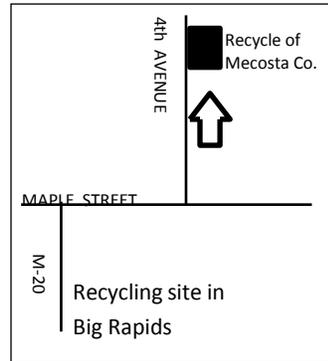
Thank you for recycling!

STATE OF MICHIGAN



DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENTAL QUALITY

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Sponsored by the Muskegon River Watershed Assembly in partnership with Recycle of Mecosta County.



www.mrwa.org

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opportunities
in Mecosta
County.



Of Mecosta County

“Have a Positive Impact”





Mecosta County

424 N. 4th Street, Big Rapids
231-796-9872

HOURS

Monday

9:00 am - 11:00 am

Wednesday

9:00 am - 5:30 pm

Thursday

3:00 pm - 5:30 pm

Friday

9:00 am - 5:30 pm

and

Saturday

9:00 am - 1:00 pm

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Barryton, MI

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Big Rapids, MI



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Junk Mail
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Glass Jars & Bottles
(colorless only)

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Steel
Aluminum

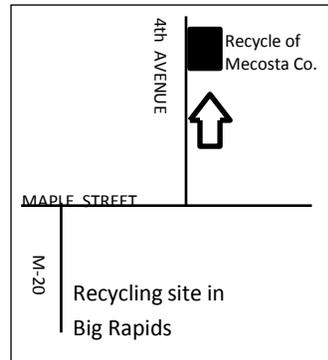
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19729 11 Mile Rd.
Big Rapids, MI



Tire & Electronic Collection

Saturday, April 30, 1:00 am - 4:00 pm

Location: Mecosta County Fairgrounds
540 West Ave., Big

Rapids

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Personal/non-business tires on or off rim are accepted.

No tires over 4 feet tall.

Tires must be clean and free of debris.

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Muskegon River
Watershed Assembly
231-591-2320*

LOOK
Trailers

**RECYCLE
CARDBOARD**



Results of 2016 June Surveys

- *Survey participants traveled an average of 9 miles to use the recycling facility in Big Rapids.*
- *Days listed in order that survey participants are most likely to use the recycling facility in Big Rapids.*

Saturday – Friday – Monday – Thursday – Wednesday

- *Recycling reduces the trash bill for 62% of survey participants.*
- *Percentage of survey participants that live in the following townships.*

Big Rapids – 33%

Colfax – 21%

Green – 18%

Mecosta – 12%

Martiny – 6%

Morton – 4%

Fork – 2%

Austin – 1%

Deerfield – 1%

Other Counties – 2%

Collecting to recycle

Muskegon River Watershed Assembly hosting electronic, tire collection days

By MEGHAN HAAS
PIONEER STAFF WRITER

BIG RAPIDS — Anyone with electronics congesting a drawer or closet, or tires piled up in the yard, is encouraged to bring these items out for collection days, hosted by the Muskegon River Watershed Assembly.

Dixie Ward, project manager for the assembly, said these collection days are to help increase recycling rates and keep people from throwing things in ditches, streams or in the garbage to end up in a landfill.

The collections are open to everyone, she said. The

COLLECTIONS

WHAT: Free electronic collection

WHEN: 9 a.m. to 1 p.m., Saturday

WHERE: Recycle of Mecosta County,
424 N. 4th Ave., Big Rapids

WHAT: Tire collection

WHEN: 9 a.m. to noon, Oct. 1

WHERE: Mecosta County
Fairgrounds, 540 West Ave.

free electronic collection will be from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. on Saturday, Sept. 24, at Recycle of Mecosta County, on 424 N. 4th Ave. The tire collection will be

from 9 a.m. to noon on Saturday, Oct. 1, at the Mecosta County Fairgrounds, on 540 West Ave.

Ward said there are separate collection days because the assembly is working with a new business this year, which will not charge people for electronic devices. However, the electronic collection day had to be in September, and Ward could not schedule a semi for the tires on the same day.

"We are not collecting things to go in a landfill, we are collecting to recycle," Ward said.

Any style of computer or TV is accepted, she said. Anything with a cord, or once had a battery, including cell phones, will be accepted. Ward asks for no large appliances.

Office and household electronics, computer components and accessories, including TVs and computer monitors, will be accepted at no charge.

Items not accepted include can openers, toaster ovens, coffee makers, toasters, smoke detectors, refrigerators, freezers, air conditioners, dehumidifiers or any unit containing Freon.

Stoves, washers and dryers, garbage compactors, dishwashers, office lighting or microwaves

WHAT: Tire collection
WHEN: 9 a.m. to noon, Oct. 1
WHERE: Mecosta County
Fairgrounds, 540 West Ave.

at Recycle
of Mecosta
County, on
424 N. 4th
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tion will be

from 9 a.m. to noon on Saturday, Oct. 1, at the Mecosta County Fairgrounds, on 540 West Ave.

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Stoves, washers and dryers, garbage compactors, dishwashers, office lighting or microwaves also will not be accepted.

While the electronic collection is free, the tire collection will cost \$1 per tire.

"Cargill, in Hersey, donated \$1,000 for the collection, but we still have to charge a dollar for it," Ward said.

See **COLLECTION 3**

COLLECTIONS

CONTINUED FROM
PAGE 1A

The money helps turn tires into something new, she said.

"Typically people cannot take tires to a landfill unless the tires are cut up in four pieces, and most people do not have means to do that. This helps people by getting rid of tires so they don't end up in ditches and streams," she said.

This is the third year for the tire collection, and

each year Ward is able to fill a semi full of tires. She hopes to fill another semi this year. The tires can be up to four feet tall and can include a rim. Volunteers will be on-site to help unload tires, or computer monitors.

Ward asks those looking to get rid of tires to make sure there is no debris or water in the tires, and suggests a limit of 10 tires.

The Muskegon River Watershed Assembly in partnership with Recycle of Mecosta County is announcing recycling opportunities for you.

Mobile Recycle Sites

1st Saturday of the Month

9:00 am—12:00 pm

VILLAGE OF BARRYTON, Community Building, 2956 20 Mile Rd. Barryton

3rd Saturday of the Month

9:00 am—12:00 pm

VILLAGE OF MORLEY, Village Parking Lot, Corner of Cass St. & 3rd St., Morley

4th Saturday of the Month

9:00 am—12:00 pm

MECOSTA TOWNSHIP HALL, 19729 11 Mile Rd. Big Rapids



These Recycling opportunities are supported in part, through a grant from the MI DEQ Community Pollution

Free Electronic Collection

Location: Recycle of Mecosta County, 424 N. 4th Avenue, Big Rapids

Saturday, September 24, 9:00 am — 1:00 pm

Office and household electronics, and computer components and accessories including TV's and computer monitors, WILL be accepted at no charge.

Items not accepted

- Can Openers, Toaster Ovens, Coffee Makers, Toasters, Smoke Detectors
- Refrigerators, Freezers, Air Conditioners, Dehumidifiers or any unit containing Freon
- Stoves, Washer/Dryers, Garbage Compactors, Dishwashers, Kitchen white goods
- Household Batteries, other than installed in equipment
- Fluorescent Lighting, bulbs, or Ballasts w/PCB's
- Light bulbs of any kind (including mercury lamps)
- Desk / Office Furniture or Lighting
- Microwaves



Tire Collection

Location: Mecosta County Fairgrounds , 540 West Ave., Big Rapids

Saturday, October 1, 9:00 am— 12:00 pm

- ◇ Personal/non-business tires on or off rim are accepted.
- ◇ No tires over 4 feet tall.
- ◇ Tires must be clean and free of debris.
- ◇ **\$1.00 per tire— suggested limit: 10 tires**



Recycle of Mecosta County

Permanent Recycling Facility

424 N. 4th Avenue, Big Rapids
231-796-9872

Hours

MONDAY 9:00 am - 11:00 am

WEDNESDAY 9:00 am - 5:30 pm

THURSDAY 3:00 pm - 5:30 pm

FRIDAY 9:00 am - 5:30 pm

SATURDAY 9:00 am - 1:00 pm

Materials accepted:

Paper— Newspaper, White & Colored Office Paper, Magazines & Catalogs, Corrugated Cardboard, Fiberboard, Junk Mail & Books

Plastics— Plastic Bottles & Jugs (#1 & #2 only) Styrofoam / Polystyrene

Glass— Glass Jars & Bottles (no colored glass)

Metal— Tin Cans , Aluminum & any Metal Pieces



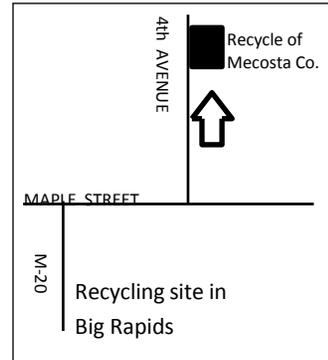
For questions about the electronic and tire collections, contact the Muskegon River Watershed Assembly at 231-591-2320 projectmgr@ferris.edu

STATE OF MICHIGAN



DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENTAL QUALITY

These recycling opportunities are supported in part, through a grant from the Michigan DEQ Community Pollution Prevention Grant Program.



Sponsored by the Muskegon River Watershed Assembly in partnership with Recycle of Mecosta County.



www.mrwa.org

For additional information, contact the Muskegon River Watershed Assembly at 231-591-2320
projectmgr@ferris.edu

Take part in recycling opportunities in Mecosta County.



Of Mecosta County

“Have a Positive Impact”



Mecosta County

Permanent Recycling facility

424 N. 4th Street, Big Rapids
231-796-9872

Hours

MONDAY'S – 9:00 AM – 11:00 AM
WEDNESDAY'S – 9:00 AM – 5:30 PM
THURSDAY'S – 3:00 PM – 5:30 PM
FRIDAYS – 9:00 AM – 5:30 PM
SATURDAY'S – 9:00 AM – 1:00 PM

Paper

Newspaper & Paper Bags
White & Colored Office Paper
Magazines & Catalogs
Corrugated Cardboard
Fiberboard
Junk Mail Books

Plastics

Plastic Bottles & Jugs
(#1 & #2 only)
Styrofoam / Polystyrene

Glass

Glass Jars & Bottles (colorless only)

Metal

Steel
Aluminum

Mobile Recycle Site Locations and Times:

1st Saturday of the Month

Village of Barryton
Community Building
9:00 am - 12:00 pm
2956 20 Mile Rd.
Barryton, MI

3rd Saturday of the Month

Village of Morley
Village Parking lot
9:00 am - 12:00 pm
Corner of Cass St. and 3rd St.
Morley, MI

4th Saturday of the Month

Mecosta Township Hall
9:00 am - 12:00 pm
19729 11 Mile Rd.
Big Rapids, MI



Free Electronic Collection

Location: Recycle of Mecosta County, 424 N. 4th Avenue, Big Rapids

Saturday, September 24, 9:00 am – 1:00 pm

Office and household electronics and computer components and accessories accepted.

Items not accepted

- Can Openers, Toaster Ovens, Coffee Makers, Toasters, Smoke Detectors
- Refrigerators, Freezers, Air Conditioners, Dehumidifiers or any unit containing Freon
- Stoves, Washer/Dryers, Garbage Compactors, Dishwashers, Kitchen white goods
- Household Batteries, other than installed in equipment
- Fluorescent Lighting, bulbs, or Ballasts w/PCB's
- Light bulbs of any kind (including mercury lamps)
- Desk / Office Furniture or Lighting
- Microwaves

Tire Collection

Location: Mecosta County Fairgrounds, 540 West Ave., Big Rapids

Saturday, October 1, 9:00 am – 12:00 pm

◇ Personal/non-business tires on or off rim are accepted.

◇ No tires over 4 feet tall.

◇ Tires must be clean and free of debris.

\$1.00 per tire/suggested limit - 10 tires



The Muskegon River Watershed Assembly in partnership with Recycle of Mecosta County is announcing recycling opportunities for you.

Monthly

Mobile Recycle Sites

1st Saturday of each Month

9:00 am—12:00 Noon

FORK TOWNSHIP, Community Building,
2956 20 Mile Rd. Barryton

3rd Saturday of each Month

9:00 am—12:00 Noon

VILLAGE OF MORLEY, Village Parking Lot,
Corner of Cass St. & 3rd St., Morley

4th Saturday of each Month

9:00 am—12:00 Noon

MECOSTA TOWNSHIP HALL,
19729 11 Mile Rd. Big Rapids

Materials accepted at the permanent facility are accepted at mobile recycle sites.



These Recycling opportunities are supported in part, through a grant from the MI DEQ Community Pollution Prevention Grant Program.

Three Upcoming Free Electronic Collections

Computers and Computer monitors and accessories, such as keyboards and mice, televisions, printers, stereo equipment, DVD players, cable boxes, VCRs, etc. WILL be accepted at no charge.

Items not accepted

- Freon bearing devices, Mercury devices and smoke detectors
- Large Appliances or copiers
- Medical equipment
- Microwaves or home appliances such as curling irons, coffee makers, vacuums, blenders, etc.



Locations and Times

Saturday, April 22nd 9 am – 12 Noon
Fire Station – Mecosta
167 E. Hayes Street, Mecosta

Saturday, April 29th 9 a.m. – 12 Noon
Morley Police Department
201 S. Cass. St., Morley

Saturday, May 6th 9 a.m. – 12 Noon
Fork Township, Community Building
2956 20 Mile Rd., Barryton

Recycle of Mecosta County

Permanent Recycling Facility
424 N. 4th Avenue, Big Rapids
231-796-9872

Current Hours

MONDAY 9:00 am - 11:00 am

WEDNESDAY 9:00 am - 5:30 pm

THURSDAY 3:00 pm - 5:30 pm

FRIDAY 9:00 am - 5:30 pm

SATURDAY 9:00 am - 1:00 pm

New Hours Beginning May 1, 2017

MONDAY 9:00 am - 5:30 pm

WEDNESDAY 9:00 am - 5:30 pm

FRIDAY 9:00 am - 5:30 pm

SATURDAY 9:00 am-1:00 pm

Materials accepted:

Paper— Newspaper, White & Colored Office Paper, Magazines & Catalogs, Corrugated Cardboard, Fiberboard, Junk Mail & Books

Plastics— Plastic Bottles & Jugs (#1 & #2 only)
Styrofoam / Polystyrene

Glass— Glass Jars & Bottles (no colored glass)

Metal— Tin Cans, Aluminum & Metal Pieces



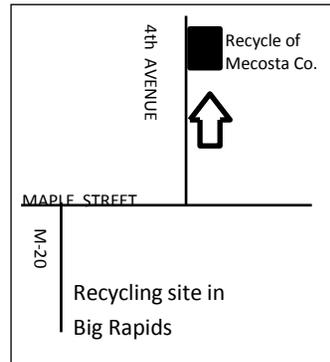
*For questions about the electronic recycling events, contact the Muskegon River Watershed Assembly at 231-591-2320
www.mrwa.org*

STATE OF MICHIGAN



DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENTAL QUALITY

These recycling opportunities are supported in part, through a grant from the Michigan DEQ Community Pollution Prevention Grant Program.



New Hours Beginning May 1, 2017

MONDAY 9:00 am - 5:30 pm

WEDNESDAY 9:00 am - 5:30 pm

FRIDAY 9:00 am - 5:30 pm

SATURDAY 9:00 am-1: 00 pm



Sponsored by the Muskegon River Watershed Assembly in partnership with Recycle of Mecosta County.



www.mrwa.org

Take part in
recycling
opportunities
in Mecosta
County.



Of Mecosta County

“Have a Positive Impact”



Mecosta County

424 N. 4th Street, Big Rapids
231-796-9872
(See map & new hours on back)

Current Hours

MONDAY – 9:00 AM – 11:00 AM
WEDNESDAY – 9:00 AM – 5:30 PM
THURSDAY – 3:00 PM – 5:30 PM
FRIDAY – 9:00 AM – 5:30 PM
SATURDAY – 9:00 AM – 1:00 PM

Please sort recyclables as follows:

Paper

Newspaper & Paper Bags
White & Colored Office Paper
Magazines & Catalogs
Corrugated Cardboard
Fiberboard
Junk Mail & Books

Plastics

Plastic Bottles & Jugs
(#1 & #2 only)
Styrofoam / Polystyrene
NO Plastic lids
Please Rinse Containers

Glass

Glass Jars & Bottles (colorless only)
Please Rinse Containers

Metal

Steel (sticks to a magnet)
Aluminum
Please separate Steel from Aluminum

Mobile Recycle Site Locations and Times:

1st Saturday of the Month

Village of Barryton
Community Building
9:00 am - 12:00 pm
2956 20 Mile Rd.
Barryton, MI

3rd Saturday of the Month

Village of Morley
Village Parking lot
9:00 am - 12:00 pm
Corner of Cass St. and 3rd St.
Morley, MI

4th Saturday of the Month

Mecosta Township Hall
9:00 am - 12:00 pm
19729 11 Mile Rd.
Big Rapids, MI



Three upcoming electronic collections

Computers and Computer monitors and accessories, such as keyboards and mice, televisions, printers, stereo equipment, DVD players, cable boxes, VCRs, etc. WILL be accepted at no charge.

Items not accepted

- Freon bearing devices, mercury devices & smoke detectors
- Large Appliances or large copiers
- Medical equipment
- Microwaves or home appliances such as curling irons, coffee makers, vacuums, blenders, etc.

Locations and Times

Saturday, April 22nd 9 am – 12 Noon
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Fork Township, Community Building
2956 20 Mile Rd., Barryton

*For additional information,
contact the Muskegon River
Watershed Assembly
231-591-2320*

city clean and looking nice."

Electronic collection days announced

April 21, 2017

By MEGHAN HAAS
PIONEER STAFF WRITER

MECOSTA COUNTY — Three upcoming collection days may help clear old electronics out of drawers or attics, as well as dispose of potentially dangerous material properly.

The collection days, funded through a Michigan Department of Environmental Quality grant program, are free and open to the public, regardless of which township or county the electronics come from.

The collection days are from 9 a.m. until noon on:

- Saturday, April 22, at Morton Township Fire Station One, located at 167 E. Hayes St., Mecosta
- Saturday, April 29, at the Morley Police Station, located at 201 S. Cass St., Morley
- Saturday, May 6, at the Fork Township Community Building, located at 2956 20 Mile Road, Barryton

"A lot of components in electronics are hazardous and should not be in a landfill," said Dixie Ward, Muskegon River Watershed Assembly project manager. "People don't always know what to do with old electronics. If people don't have an outlet for their unwanted electronics, we find them along roads or in ditches."

The MRWA is hosting the events, Ward said. Items accepted during the collections include computers, computer monitors and accessories such as keyboards and mice, printers, stereo equipment, DVD players, cable boxes, VCRs and televisions, old and new.

The MRWA will not accept freon- or mercury-bearing devices, smoke detectors, large appliances or copiers, medical equipment, microwaves or home appliances, such as curling irons, coffee makers, vacuums, etc.

Electronics collected during these days will be taken apart and data-bearing devices will be destroyed, Ward said.

Electronic Collection Signs



The Muskegon River Watershed Assembly in partnership with Recycle of Mecosta County is announcing recycling opportunities for you.

Monthly

Mobile Recycle Sites

1st Saturday of each Month

9:00 am—12:00 Noon

FORK TOWNSHIP, Community Building,
2956 20 Mile Rd. Barryton

3rd Saturday of each Month

9:00 am—12:00 Noon

VILLAGE OF MORLEY, Village Parking Lot,
Corner of Cass St. & 3rd St., Morley

4th Saturday of each Month

9:00 am—12:00 Noon

MECOSTA TOWNSHIP HALL,
19729 11 Mile Rd. Big Rapids

**Materials accepted at the permanent facility
are accepted at mobile recycle sites.**



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Three Upcoming Free Electronic Collections

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Fork Township, Community Building
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231-796-9872

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Plastics— Plastic Bottles & Jugs (#1 & #2 only)
Styrofoam / Polystyrene

Glass— Glass Jars & Bottles (no colored glass)

Metal— Tin Cans, Aluminum & Metal Pieces



*For questions about the electronic recycling events, contact the Muskegon River Watershed Assembly at 231-591-2320
www.mrwa.org*