

**Residential Recycling Initiative  
Department of Environmental Quality  
Status Report  
May 13, 2015**

Coming off a successful Governor's Recycling Summit, the Department of Environmental Quality (DEQ) staff and the Governor's Recycling Council members are making plans for the second year of the Residential Recycling Initiative (Initiative). Much has been accomplished thus far. To date focus has been applied to measuring recycling; providing outreach, education, and technical assistance; fostering strong recycling markets; increasing access and participation.

**Appropriation** – Fiscal year (FY) 2016 DEQ budget includes a \$1 million dollar appropriation to help to implement the Initiative. The budget has passed both appropriations committees and has been approved by the House. It is currently being considered by the full Senate, and is expected to be approved very soon.

The FY 2015 budget included an appropriation of \$1 million. Added to the general fund appropriation was the use of \$250,000 Community Pollution Prevention (P2) Fund monies. The funds are being used as follows:

- Up to \$635,500 in 2015 for Community P2 Grants to support the growing recycling access and participation and supporting outreach and recycling education at the local level.
- \$250,000 to grow recycling markets and ensure existing Michigan recycling markets are supplied with the valuable recycled commodities they need.
- The balance of the recycling funds have been used to fund DEQ staff working to implement the Initiative.

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

**Community Pollution Prevention grants FY 2014** – Three separate grants for FY 2014 (\$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 (Summit). The waste sorts are beginning this month. The benchmarking studies will be published near the end of the year.

**Community Pollution Prevention grants FY 2015** – The FY 2015 grants enhance local or regional recycling programs and lead to increases in the statewide recycling rate. The grant recipients were announced on May 5<sup>th</sup> at the Summit. 635,500 is awarded to 14 projects

including, infrastructure development, program start-up, program enhancement, education, and outreach.

- Bay Area Recycling for Charities \$65,000
- City of Detroit Department of Public Works \$95,000
- Comprenew \$67,500
- Eagle Harbor Township \$6,000
- Emmet County Department of Public Works \$82,000
- Houghton County \$92,000
- Northeast Michigan Council of Governments \$50,000
- Oceana Conservation District \$1,300
- Recycle Ann Arbor \$19,500
- RRRASOC \$8,200
- Tuscola County Recycling Material Recovery Facility \$22,000
- Village of Constantine \$3,000
- Washtenaw Intermediate School District \$32,000
- Muskegon River Watershed Assembly \$92,000
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**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. Most significant issues have been addresses and a draft bill is expected to be available soon.

**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 forms and surveys are being developed and will be ready by early spring. Additionally, the system will establish an easy to use directory for residents and businesses to find out where to recycle.

**DEQ staff resources** – The DEQ has established four field positions in the district offices to enhance recycling efforts. The specialist positions are providing on-site training, outreach, and technical assistance. The DEQ has realigned the existing Recycling Specialist position in Lansing so that it can take on the leadership role for developing markets for recycled materials and elevate the profile of recycling within the waste programs. Additionally, the DEQ is drawing upon the multiple existing staff to bring their diverse and unique abilities to support the Initiative. The recycling specialists’ high level of knowledge in the waste and recycling field has enabled them to make a quick positive impact.

**Solid Waste and Sustainability Advisory Panel** - The DEQ created a Solid Waste and Sustainability Advisory Panel (SWSAP) that will convene to address planning and other solid waste issues related to Part 115, Solid Waste Management, of the Natural Resources and Environmental Protection Act, 1994 PA 451, as amended, in a more holistic way. The Office of Waste Management and Radiological Protection is facilitating the SWSAP to assist with a broad and comprehensive review of Part 115 and other statute's related to furthering our solid waste and sustainability goals. The SWSAP 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](http://www.michigan.gov/deq/0,4561,7-135-3312_4123-352261--,00.html)

**Lead by example** – The DEQ has been engaged in discussions 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. Other efforts include work to expand recycling opportunities at state parks and rest areas.

**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

Additionally, The DEQ is working with the Michigan Economic Development Corporation to catalog existing business development tools that can be used to support the growth of the recycling industry.

The DEQ will be issuing a Request for Proposals in the coming weeks to seek a vendor to collect comprehensive end-use and supply chain data as well as expand the Market Directory.

**Recycle by Design** – The Recycle by Design competition was announced at the Summit. The DEQ, Michigan Recycling Coalition, and IMG Rebel have partnered up to bring innovation around increasing the recycling rate in Michigan. 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 is a design competition created to stir bottom-up energy and focus around innovative recycling solutions. A winning proposal would meet the following criteria:

- Implementation that contributes significantly to the increase of the recycling rate
- Presenting a solid business case and arranged finance (through private or public private funding)
- Ability and willingness to implement the proposal
- A proposal that addresses overall program goals and requirements that incorporate a focus on urban unemployment, minority participation, and disadvantaged youth services
- Shown active local participation in the design of the proposal and the demonstration that the final proposal has the buy-in of the local community or communities.

The DEQ is in the process of entering into a contract with Michigan Recycling Coalition to act as the responsible fiduciary party to organize the competition and seek additional partners.

**Recognition** – The DEQ recognized successful recycling programs at businesses, institutions, government agencies, nonprofits, and other organizations at the Summit on May 5, 2015. The Recycling Excellence in Recycling Awards celebrate success in the collection, processing, and utilization of recycled materials, as well as the creation of recycled products.

***RECYCLING RATE/MEASUREMENT AWARDS***

***BUSINESS CATEGORY AWARDEES***

Wexford Sand

Robert Bosch, LLC

***SPECIAL RECOGNITION***

Landscape Forms

Ford VanDyke Transmission Plant

***GOVERNMENT CATEGORY AWARDEE***

City of Huntington Woods

***SPECIAL RECOGNITION***

City of Pleasant Ridge

City of Farmington

City of Livonia

***OTHER CATEGORY AWARDEE***

United States Postal Service

***INCREASING ACCESS AWARDS***

***BUSINESS CATEGORY AWARDEE***

Dart Container Corporation

***INSTITUTION CATEGORY AWARDEE***

Michigan State University

***GOVERNMENT CATEGORY AWARDEES***

City of Detroit

Jefferson Township

***SPECIAL RECOGNITION***

Kent County Department of Public Works

City of St. Johns

***NPO CATEGORY AWARDEE***

Bay Area Recycling for Charities

***OUTREACH AND EDUCATION AWARDS***

***INSTITUTION CATEGORY AWARDEE***

Central Michigan University

***NPO CATEGORY AWARDEE***

Zero Waste Detroit (ZWD)

***BUSINESS CATEGORY AWARDEE***

General Motors Company (GM)

***GOVERNMENT CATEGORY AWARDEES***

City of Lansing

Capitol Area Recycling and Trash (CART)

***SPECIAL RECOGNITION***

City of Grand Rapids - Public Services Department

Southwest Michigan Solid Waste Consortium

**CLOSING THE LOOP AWARDS**  
**BUSINESS CATEGORY AWARDEES**  
Ford Motor Company's Dearborn  
Truck Plant and Dearborn Stamping Plant

**SPECIAL RECOGNITION**

Resolute Forest Products  
**NPO CATEGORY AWARDEE**  
Cass Community Social Services

**RECYCLING LEADERSHIP AWARDS**  
**GOVERNMENT CATEGORY AWARDEE**

Emmet County

**BUSINESS CATEGORY AWARDEES**

Herman Miller  
Steelcase

**Information and resources –**

- To view Michigan's Residential Recycling Plan and find other documents regarding the Governors Recycling Council visit [www.michigan.gov/mirecycles](http://www.michigan.gov/mirecycles) and search "recycling plan of action"
- For general recycling information visit [www.michigan.gov/deqrecycling](http://www.michigan.gov/deqrecycling)
- For more information about the grants program, visit [www.michigan.gov/deqp2grants](http://www.michigan.gov/deqp2grants).