

**Residential Recycling Initiative
Department of Environmental Quality
Status Report
July 14, 2015**

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

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

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

Community Pollution Prevention grants FY 2014 – Three separate grants for FY2014 (\$250,000 total) were awarded to collect data on Michigan’s recycling rate, percentage of population with convenient access to recycling, high performing recycling programs, composition of municipal solid waste currently landfilled and incinerated, and the economic value of this material. This data will assist local recycling programs identify best practices and aid the state to benchmark progress on the DEQ scorecard. The results of the recycling measurement grant were presented at the Governor’s Recycling Summit. The waste sorts have been completed with a report by the West Michigan Sustainable Business Forum due later this summer (some details and a video here http://www.mlive.com/news/grand-rapids/index.ssf/2015/07/trash_research_project.html) . The benchmarking studies will be published near the end of the year.

Community Pollution Prevention grants FY 2015 – The FY2015 grants enhance local or regional recycling programs and lead to increases in the statewide recycling rate. The grant recipients were announced on May 5th at the summit. A total of \$635,500 will be awarded for 14 projects that support infrastructure development, program start-up, program enhancement, and education and outreach.

- Bay Area Recycling for Charities \$65,000
Recycle Hub Michigan

- City of Detroit Department of Public Works \$95,000
P2 Grant Proposal

- Comprenew \$67,500

PureMAPP

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

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

Sustainability Grants 2016 – In an effort to coordinate all recycling related grant opportunities the DEQ is forming an umbrella outreach and notification campaign for 2016 grant opportunities. The grants currently under the sustainability umbrella are the scrap tire grants, the Community Pollution Prevention grant, and a newly developed residential recycling grant.

Scrap Tire Grants – Cleanup grants http://www.michigan.gov/deq/0,4561,7-135-3312_4122-176203--,00.html Scrap tire market development grants http://www.michigan.gov/deq/0,4561,7-135-3312_4122-82217--,00.html

Community P2 grants – Details to be announced.

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

Recycling measurement legislation - The DEQ has been working with interested parties to develop recycling measurement and reporting legislation. Significant work was undertaken to identify the acceptable scope of recycling data reporting and address diverse concerns. The DEQ recognizes the importance of recycling data and continues to work to on the issue. DEQ recently submitted measurement concepts to the Legislative Service Bureau to develop a draft from. Draft 1 was discussed and commented on by the DEQ, MWRA, and ISRI during a meeting last week. We are awaiting Draft 2, which will reflect those comments and requested updates. Our goal is to discuss Draft 2 with MRFs as soon as possible and to get feedback from them.

Electronic Recycling Reporting System - An electronic recycling reporting system (Re-TRAC) has been secured through a contract. This will allow recyclers to report data electronically. The directory for residents and businesses to find out where to recycle is currently live and ready to be populated with data. A webinar is scheduled for July 21st at 10 am. The electronic reporting forms are delayed because the DEQ is waiting for the recycling measurement legislation to be completed before finalizing the forms.

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

Lead by example – The DEQ is working with the Department of Technology Management and Budget (DTMB) and the Good Government Team regarding ways the state can better “lead by example”. The DTMB is in the process of issuing a request for proposals for recycling service providers to collect and manage the recycling at state office buildings. Additionally, the state leases will now request information from the bidders regarding the availability of recycling services at the property and whether they are included in the bid. Other efforts include work to expand recycling opportunities at state parks and rest areas. An RFP is being developed to purchase recycling bins for rest areas. A DEQ “Action Learning Team” is being formed to support the implementation of recycling at state parks.

Market Development – The DEQ is working to grow markets for difficult to recycle recycled commodities and ensure existing Michigan businesses are able to secure high-volume, clean, recycled commodities for their manufacturing processes. Work is focusing on the following areas:

- Commodity Specific End-use Market Development
- Sector Specific End-use Market Development
- Organics
- Recycled Materials Market Directory

- Inventory Existing End-use Markets
- Quantify existing and potential economic impact of the recycling supply chain
- Recycling Collection and Processing Capacity

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

- The development of an analysis and list of end-use markets utilizing recycled material collected from Michigan through residential recycling programs, commercial recycling, and industrial recycling systems.
- An economic analysis of the impacts of recycling on Michigan's economy.
- Management and maintenance of the Michigan Recycled Materials Market Directory.
- A market survey that will gather information, including but not limited to, capacity, throughput, types and amounts of input (by specification) and outputs (by product type), types of customers, actual and perceived market drivers, barriers, and opportunities for market expansion for a specific commodity including one or more of the following commodities including but not limited to tires, paper, metal, glass, plastic, or organics.

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

Organic waste and yard clippings – Through the Solid Waste and Sustainability Advisory Panel, a subcommittee on composting has been established. This subcommittee will continue to meet to discuss potential changes needed in legislation to address deficiencies within the current statute.

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

Use of Recycled Commodities in Transportation Projects – DEQ is working on putting together an issue paper on Transportation Projects and Recycling that came out of discussion at the May 13 GRC meeting. The GRC thinks they can serve as a platform to leverage this issue and promote increased utilization. The goal is to provide this issue paper to the DEQ's Deputy Director for his August 18 meeting with the MDOT Deputy Director to get the discussion of the use of these materials in the forefront again with MDOT. The paper covers several materials (glass, shingles, compost, foundry sand, coal ash, and scrap tires), previous efforts to promote use of these materials, what other state are doing regarding use of these materials, issues to overcome for each material in order to promote increased use and potential solutions, and parties who should be brought to the table in order to promote these uses. Glass has the most direct tie to the GRC's charge to increase residential recycling. While glass has seen some past use as an aggregate in sub-bases for roads or in producing asphalt (glassphalt). The DEQ does not know of any use in Michigan or other states since 2012. There is a need to find markets for glass and this use has the potential to consume large amounts of the material.

Technical assistance/Training – Residential Recycling Forums - In collaboration with Michigan Townships Association, Michigan Municipal League, Michigan Association of Counties, Michigan Recycling Coalition, and the Michigan Waste and Recycling Association, the DEQ is organizing 5 regional recycling forums in the Gaylord/Grayling area,

Mid Michigan, West Michigan, the U.P., Detroit, and Oakland County. The forums will have technical training and facilitated discussion and will be at a low cost.

June 11 Recycling Webinar, State of Recycling in Michigan report had 232 attendees. 94% of evaluation respondents indicated that the webinar improved their understanding of the report and 25% plan to make changes in their organization as a result of the webinar.

Outreach campaign/logo – The DEQ is moving forward with using the Recycle, Michigan signs and branding for state park and rest area recycling as well as will be exploring ways to incorporate the logo and brand into DEQ outreach efforts.

Recycle by Design – Recycle by Design is a competition created to incentivize and accelerate the development and implementation of innovative strategies to increase recycling in Michigan. Local, regional, and state level teams comprised of private and public sector partners will be supported in advancing leading-edge ideas that contribute to a more robust and resilient recycling infrastructure; bolstering local economies and ensuring valuable recaptured commodities find their way into new products. Recycle by Design is itself an innovative market development strategy aimed at achieving Governor Snyder's ambitious goal of doubling Michigan's residential recycling rate.

Recycle by Design is all about creating a platform for innovative new business proposals that contribute to achieving goals set by Governor Snyder for recycling in the state of Michigan. It's a competition created to stir bottom-up energy and focus around innovative recycling solutions. A winning proposal would meet the following criteria:

The competition will be kicked off November 2, 2015

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

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

Names for potential jurors are being identified.

Information and resources –

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