

Governor's Recycling Initiative
Department of Environmental Quality
Status Report
January 12, 2016

The second year of the Governor's Recycling Initiative is shaping up to be one full of big steps forward. The recycling measurement legislation is proceeding through the legislative process. Two new grants to increase recycling and food waste management are underway. Two new reports are nearing completion that sharpens the focus on our challenges and opportunities. The Recycling Specialists are assisting numerous local recycling initiatives around the state. Market Development work will be guided by a detailed market development study, and assistance will be provided through the work on the Recycled Materials Market Directory. Recycle by Design is ready to be kicked off so that local innovative public private partnerships can begin to grow. And projects are underway in state facilities so that state departments can begin to lead by example. These are just a handful of the activities the Department of Environmental Quality (DEQ), other state departments, and the Governor's Recycling Council (GRC) are working to increase recycling in Michigan.

Appropriation – Fiscal year (FY) 2016 DEQ has been appropriated \$1 million general fund to help to implement the Initiative.

Governor's Recycling Council – The GRC 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. The GRC 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, July 14, 2015 at Constitution Hall in Lansing, September 22, 2015 in Lansing, they met with Governor Snyder on September 23, 2015, and November 3, 2015 in Dearborn. Notes, agendas, and accompanying documents are available at http://www.michigan.gov/deq/0,4561,7-135-70153_69695-313206--,00.html.

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 to identify best practices and aid the state to benchmark progress.

- With a Community Pollution Prevention Grant to the Michigan Recycling Coalition we developed the Michigan Recycling Index to determine baseline recycling metrics.
- With a Community Pollution Prevention Grant to the Northeast Michigan Council of Governments we are developing best practices for successful recycling programs and conducting a statistical analysis of the waste composition in Michigan. We expect final results later this spring.
- With a Community Pollution Prevention Grant to the West Michigan Sustainable Business Forum we are determining the composition and economic value of waste disposed of in Michigan with final results expected later this spring.

Community Pollution Prevention Grants FY 2015 – The 2015 Community Pollution Prevention (P2) Grant Program awarded fourteen grants for a total of \$635,500 to enhance local and regional recycling programs that lead to increases in the statewide recycling rate. Grant projects are underway and include the development of recycling center infrastructure, enhancement of existing recycling programs, collection of electronic waste, delivery of education and outreach, and the startup of new services and facilities.

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Sustainability Grants 2016 – In an effort to coordinate all recycling related grant opportunities, the DEQ formed an umbrella outreach and notification process 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 – These grants will continue to focus on cleaning up scrap tire piles and developing markets in 2016. The FY 2016 grants are in process. Scrap Tire Cleanup Grants were awarded in 2015 totaling \$587,000 along with 21 Market Development Grants totaling \$2,812,827. 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 – A 2016 Community P2 Grant Program Request for Proposal was announced on December 23, 2015, for a total of \$250,000. The 2016 grants will focus on reducing and diverting food waste. The DEQ identified food waste as a significant waste stream with high potential for reduction. According to the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, food waste constitutes 21 percent of discarded municipal solid waste. A Webinar to assist with the grant application process will be held on February 3, 2016, and applications will be accepted until 5:00 p.m. on February 29, 2016. Successful grant applicants will be announced at the Governor's Recycling Summit on May 3, 2016. Additional information about the Community Pollution Prevention Grants Program can be found at www.michigan.gov/deqp2grants.

Residential Recycling Grant – One of the proven methods for increasing recycling is to ensure that residents have convenient access to recycling opportunities. Switching to recycling carts, as opposed to smaller bins, increases recycling rates. As part of the Governor's Recycling Initiative, the DEQ is offering up to \$450,000 to cities, villages, townships, charter townships, counties, tribal governments, and municipal solid waste or resource recovery authorities for the purchase of residential recycling carts. Communities seeking assistance are encouraged to form partnerships with for-profit or nonprofit organizations. There is no maximum or minimum amount that a grantee may request. Grantees receiving funds through the DEQ's 2016 Residential Recycling Grant Program will also receive technical assistance and educational resources from The Recycling Partnership, a national nonprofit focused on helping communities improve recycling programs

For more details, please see the 2016 Residential Recycling Program Request for Proposals:

http://www.michigan.gov/documents/deq/OWMRP_2016_Recycling_Grant_508557_7.pdf?20160104145914

An informational Webinar will be presented by the DEQ and The Recycling Partnership on January 19, 2016, 2:00-3:30pm, to discuss the details of the new 2016 Residential Recycling Grant Program. To register for the Webinar, visit: <https://attendee.gotowebinar.com/register/4596766017065237761>

Recycling measurement legislation - The first policy recommendation of the GRC was that legislative action was needed that requires reporting by entities that receive, process, or market recyclable materials from residential and commercial sources. Toward that end, the DEQ began working with the Michigan Waste and Recycling Association, the Institute of Scrap Recycling Industries, and a variety of materials recovery facilities to develop draft recycling measurement legislation, which was the basis for Senate Bill (SB) 507 (Senator Green). We are pleased that SB 507 passed the Senate in December and look forward to it passing the House and being signed by the Governor early in 2016. This legislation will provide a consistent method for gathering the data necessary to calculate the state's recycling rate.

Electronic Recycling Reporting System - Re-TRAC Michigan Recycling Directory System was developed and rolled out in early 2015. The system is functional and being used by communities to report their recycling activities. Updates are being discussed to support expanded reporting of recycling activities.

Electronic Waste - Proposed amendments to the Electronics Takeback Program were developed during 2015 using a stakeholder process. The amendments are awaiting legislative introduction by Senator Judy Emmons. The amendments will provide better reporting of product stewardship activities by the device manufacturers; better reporting of recycling activities by recyclers and communities; update recycler certification requirements and allow for limited financial support for rural communities interested in providing electronics recycling opportunities for their residents.

Solid Waste and Sustainability Advisory Panel - The DEQ created a Solid Waste and Sustainability Advisory Panel that is addressing 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 this panel to assist with a broad and comprehensive review of Part 115, 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), Department of Transportation, and Department of Natural Resources (DNR) to identify ways the state can better “lead by example”.

- DTMB continues to evaluate the best ways to increase recycling access in state office buildings. As of 2015, 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. An expanded pilot is underway in the Austin Building. Current vendor is evaluating ways to expand their recycling services to additional buildings. Signage, custodial staff training, space logistics, and integrating waste and recycling service contracts continue to be the biggest challenges but progress is being made.
- MDOT Rest Areas – Recycling bins have been purchased for 8 rest area pilots. Bins have been deployed at one additional rest area, with an additional 7 planned for

placement later this spring. Service contracts are being extended until May, 2017. Recycling specifications will be included in those service contracts.

- DNR - Recycling is an important part of DNR Parks and Recreation Division (PRD) operations and is well received by park visitors. Significant strides have been made in the last ten years to expand recycling opportunities, moving from a handful of facilities recycling only a few items in 2005 to over 50 percent of facilities offering recycling of up to 20 different recyclables at present. Access to recycling facilities, employee training on recycling best practices, and funding for onsite recycling containers are among the biggest challenges to further expansion. Employees recently expressed their commitment to the program by raising over \$3700 at a PRD Training event – the proceeds of which will be used towards the PRD Recycling Initiative.
- The Quality of Life Leadership Academy has an Action Learning Team is working to improve recycling programs at state parks, forest campgrounds, and harbors across Michigan. The Action Learning Team is working on:
 - Developing a toolkit of information on recycling resources for staff that shows what recycling is available to them locally. The toolkit will also include signage and promotional materials.
 - Creating an Interactive Map that will include regional recycling resources for each of the state parks, forest campgrounds, and harbors.
 - Messaging options for the DNR reservation system (CAMIS) to inform customers of any recycling options in each of the parks.
 - Creating a recycling education program that can be implemented by DNR Explorer Guides, Campground Hosts, Scouts, and interested staff at parks and harbors.

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

A contract to complete a market development study, and an evaluation of program focus, as well as a contract to update the Recycled Materials Market Directory has been entered into.

The contracts 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, 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.

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.

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 challenge 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 is a competition created to stir bottom-up energy and focus around innovative recycling solutions.

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”.
- General recycling information visit www.michigan.gov/degrecycling
- For more information about the grants program, visit www.michigan.gov/deqp2grants.