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GOVERNOR

STATE OF MICHIGAN
DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENTAL QUALITY
LANSING



C. HEIDI GREETHER
DIRECTOR

VIA E-MAIL

TO: Members of the Michigan Legislature
FROM: C. Heidi Grether, Director
DATE: March 30, 2018
SUBJECT: Report on Part 175, Reportable Recycling Materials

In accordance with Section 17505 of Part 175, Recycling Reporting, of the Natural Resources and Environmental Protection Act, 1994 PA 451, as amended, attached is the Department of Environmental Quality's (DEQ) report on recycling volumes for reportable recyclable materials for fiscal year 2017. This is the first report in accordance with this law, which was passed in March of 2016.

If you need further information, please contact Amy Lafferty, Environmental Quality Analyst, Waste Management and Radiological Protection Division, at 517-242-8324; or you may contact me at 517-284-6700.

Attachment

cc/att: Darin Ackerman, Governor's Office
Angela Ayers, Governor's Office
Amy Epkey, Administration Deputy Director, DEQ
Susan Leeming, External Relations Deputy Director, DEQ
Michael McClellan, Environment Deputy Director, DEQ
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Part 175, Recycling Reporting, of the Natural Resources and Environmental Protection Act, 1994 PA 451, as amended, was passed by the Michigan Legislature in 2016. The law applies to only a portion of the materials that should be counted to calculate a statewide recycling rate. This is a summary of what was reported into the system during the first year of the program.

The law focuses on the data of waste diversion and recycling collection for seven commonly recycled materials: paper, plastic, glass, ferrous and nonferrous metals, textiles, and single stream recyclables. The law requires specific facilities to register and report on their waste diversion activities.

To introduce the program and encourage reporting, the Department of Environmental Quality (DEQ) implemented a robust education and outreach system. Outreach was completed through various partnerships, e-mail blasts, GovDelivery listservs, phone calls, individual visits, and training webinars.

At the end of the first year (November 2017), 73 companies had registered through the online Michigan Recycling Reporting module. Registering with the program allows a company to identify themselves as a recycling establishment and provides them access to reporting forms.

Currently 55 of the 73 registered companies are reporting data through the system. Those companies include:

- Landfills
- Local government
- Non-profit environmental groups
- Material recovery facilities
- Waste haulers

The implementation of Part 175 has provided the DEQ and its partners with a greater understanding of recycling networks in Michigan. However, three issues impacting the effectiveness of the law have emerged. These include lack of partnerships with sustainably-minded companies, the need to acknowledge the efforts of reporting partners, and the complexities of maintaining cooperative efforts with stakeholders. To address some of these issues, going forward the DEQ plans to:

- Establish a recognition program
- Develop strategic partnerships with industry to encourage reporting
- Emphasize outreach through industry partners
- Recommend updates to the law

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



Recycling

In fiscal year 2017, establishments reported recycling:



309,942 tons of
Materials Recycled Out-of-State

For a total of 553,105 tons!

243,163 tons of
Materials Recycled In-State

Registering and Reporting

55 total Reporters
30 Mandatory
25 Voluntary

30 Materials Recovery Facilities
20 Drop-Off Locations
5 Third-Party Reporters

Reaching Out



and multiple other materials such as banners, pamphlets, frequently asked questions, logos, summaries, and more were created to assist with recycling reporting program efforts.

www.michigan.gov/recyclingreporting