



Part 175, Recycling Reporting, of the Natural Resources and Environmental Protection Act, 1994 PA 451, as amended (NREPA), requires recycling establishments to report each year on a portion of commonly recycled materials that contribute to calculating a statewide recycling rate. This is a summary of what was reported to the online Michigan Recycling Reporting Module (Module) during the third year of the program.

The law focuses on the data of waste diversion and recycling collection for seven types of materials: paper, plastic, glass, ferrous and nonferrous metals, textiles, and single stream recyclables. In addition to recycling establishments who are required to report, additional facility types can also opt in to report voluntarily through the program. However, many voluntary reporters have adopted a “wait and see” approach, pending anticipated Part 115 amendments.

As of November 1, 2019, 85 organizations registered with the Module. Of the registered organizations, 86 percent (73 of 85) reported their recycling data through the system. The most common organizations to report include: materials recovery facilities, municipalities, and scrap metal/salvage yards. Efforts continue to promote the Module to external stakeholders (i.e., the automobile and furniture industries and utility companies).



Efforts have been made to increase the quality and accuracy of registrations and reports. A complete system overhaul is anticipated to be completed by the next fiscal year, so the focus has been on developing the new system, rather than increasing the number of participants in the program, which may have different requirements in the future. Communication with existing and new reporters was essential to ensure complete and accurate registrations and reports this year and engage with existing partners on proposed changes to reporting expansion. This involved methods such as: direct contact with organizations via phone and e-mail; e-mail blasts; listservs; individual visits; and handouts explaining reporting of recyclables. These activities led to an increase in the participants’ understanding of the reporting process and why it is important.

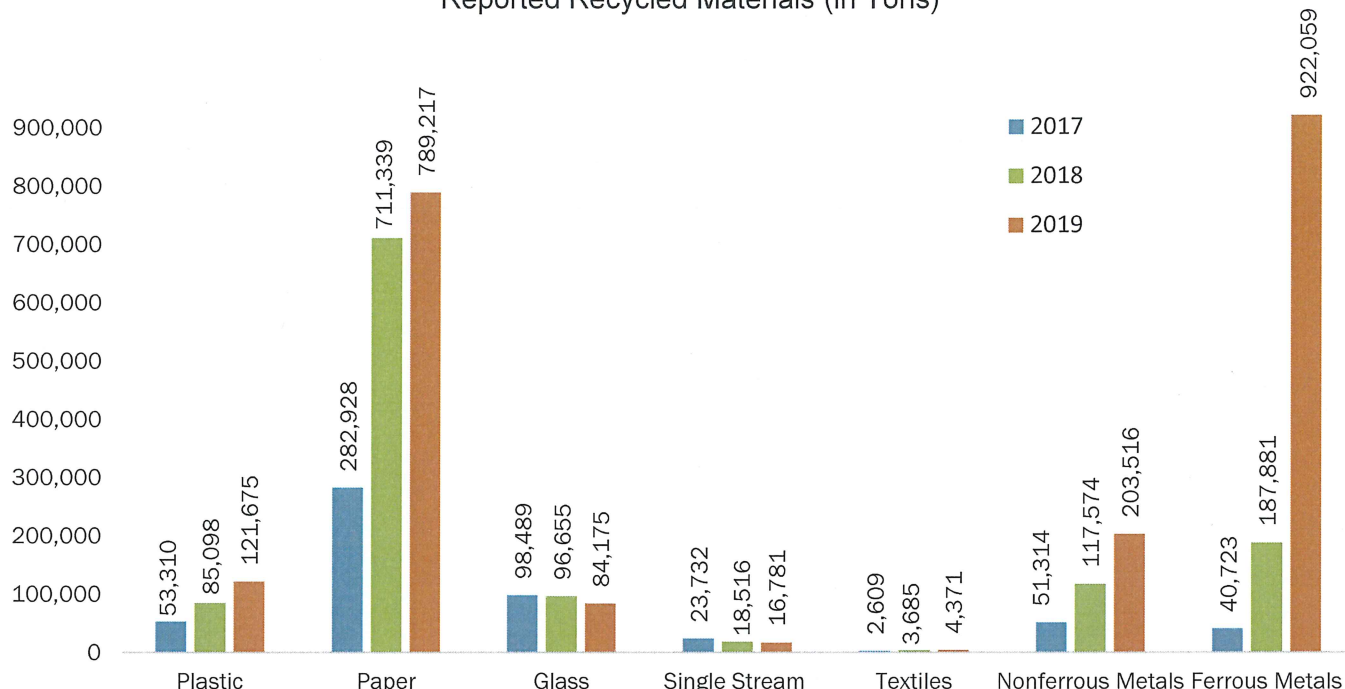
Data analysis has also been refined through specialized analytics developed throughout the past year to minimize duplicate counting and ensure all recycled materials are accounted for. However, some issues impacting the effectiveness of the law remain. To encourage continuous improvement in participation and ensure organizations in the program continue their involvement, EGLE plans to continue with or enact the following activities:

- Maintain the recognition program for reporters through certificates and letters of appreciation.
- Continue developing strategic partnerships, emphasize outreach through program partners, and ensure reporters’ understanding of anticipated future program changes.
- Update the program in accordance with anticipated amendments to Part 115, Solid Waste Management, of the NREPA.
- Create and update materials such as how-to guides, develop analytics for reporters to showcase their impact from recycling, and complete module updates as recommended by participants.

These efforts aim to clarify legal requirements, increase efficiency and value of the program, and further recycling market development efforts in conjunction with Michigan’s recycling goals.

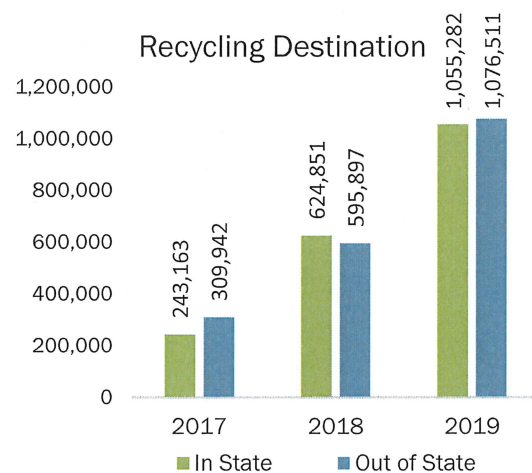
RECYCLING

Reported Recycled Materials (in Tons)



Data shows an increase in the recycling of most materials reported from 2017 to 2019. A total of 2,131,793 tons of recyclables were reported as recycled in 2019, which is an increase of 75 percent from what was reported in 2018. Much of this large increase can be attributed to the addition of organizations who also process and report commercial material (i.e., 700,000 tons of ferrous metals) through the system, in addition to their already reported residential material. This gives a more accurate depiction of the overall recycling occurring in Michigan.

The amount of material sent to in-state locations to be recycled versus out-of-state locations also increased from 2018 to 2019. However, just over half of the materials were ultimately recycled out-of-state this year, rather than recycled in-state, which highlights the need to continue focusing on market development opportunities within Michigan.



MOVING FORWARD

Changes to Part 115 are proposed for the next fiscal year. These statutory changes would further impact Part 175 by strengthening and expanding it to include:



Reports from additional types of facilities in one platform.



An interactive, easy to follow online notification and reporting system.



The ability to download analytics and reports to see progress.



An easy platform for facilities to determine compliance requirements.

For more information, visit: Michigan.gov/RecyclingReporting