

GOGEBIC COUNTY

PROFILE | SEPTEMBER 2023



MICHIGAN DEPARTMENT OF
ENVIRONMENT, GREAT LAKES, AND ENERGY

OVERVIEW

Michigan Department of Environment, Great Lakes, and Energy (EGLE) has shifted their focus from disposal as the primary effort towards a circular economy where all waste materials find their highest and best use. Michigan took its first steps towards materials management a few years ago by securing funding to support an economy that reuses and recycles resources. An important component of that funding is for Solid Waste Management Planning – also referred to as Materials Management Planning. Materials management plans form the foundation of the changes the state is preparing to make.

To support this new era of materials management and future planning activities, EGLE initiated a massive data collection project to document and inventory the current state of materials management systems in all municipalities within Michigan's 83 counties. The primary objective of the Michigan Materials Management Infrastructure and Program project, also known as Mega Data, is to provide the baseline of data necessary for counties to develop future materials management plans and provide a roadmap for materials management moving forward. The data collected through the project would also be applied to the Benchmark Recycling Standard analysis developed by EGLE to help understand access to recycling services in the state, where gaps exist, and where EGLE may focus their support to improve access and infrastructure in the state.

EGLE contracted with Resource Recycling Systems (RRS) to support this large undertaking to gather, compile and analyze information from across the state.

PURPOSE OF THE COUNTY PROFILE

The County Profile was developed for two purposes. First, the profiles provided the opportunity to summarize all the information collected for all 83 counties and their municipalities to date as a project milestone. Second, despite the extensive research and information collection, RRS acknowledges that the information presented here may be incomplete. The County Profiles offered the opportunity for each county to review, edit and add to their county's profile information before finalizing as a deliverable for the Mega Data project. Later in the process, EGLE added the review of the County Profile as a requirement of the Materials Management County Engagement Grants (MMCE).

COUNTY PROFILE DEVELOPMENT

The County Profiles contain information that reflects research and outreach to understand programs and services available at the county and municipal levels. The information summarized here corresponds to information required in the state's Solid Waste Management Plan format and will assist counties and designated planning agencies with plan development. This profile focuses on residential programs and services. The information for the Profiles was collected from the following sources:

- Approved Solid Waste Management Plans
- EGLE's Waste Data System (WDS)
- EGLE's Recycle Search tool
- EGLE's Recycling Specialist staff
- Interviews with County program coordinators and designated planning agents
- County Run Measurement Program Survey via ReTRAC
- Municipal Measurement Program Survey via ReTRAC
- Information obtained through Freedom of Information Act requests
- Direct outreach through phone calls, emails, and letters to all target audiences and related groups or organizations with access to target audiences
- Web research
- Participation by Counties in the MMCE Grant Program

DISCLAIMER

This information presented here was gathered and compiled over several years by RRS on behalf of EGLE for the Mega Data project. The profile was originally developed as a tool to summarize information collected and engage counties in review of the information

for finalization. The profile is not intended for use as a reference guide for residents or purposes other than to provide counties with information to support future materials management planning. Information, programs, and services can change frequently and therefore information presented here may be out of date. If information has been omitted or requires update, please contact RRS at alynott@recycle.com.

ACCESS AND COLLECTION

COUNTY PROGRAM OVERVIEW

The Gogebic Range Solid Waste Management Authority (GRSWMA) is a separate entity from the county and does provide services within the county such as trash collection in its member communities and a trash transfer station that is open to the public. This site also collects yard waste. At times, the Authority has offered recycling drop-off, but there are often a lot of challenges with both the drop-off site itself and the ability to collect enough material to send to market cost effectively. Cardboard is the material they can most effectively collect and move to market. However, as of September 2023, no recyclables are being collected until further notice.

MUNICIPAL PROGRAM AND SERVICES OVERVIEW

Programs and services offered or provided by municipalities for their residents are summarized by material type and then in two tables. One table features curbside services, and the other table features drop-off services.

TRASH

Most of the county does have access to curbside trash collection services provided by both the public and private sectors. Drop-off for trash is available through two township transfer stations (for township residents only) and the Authority.

RECYCLING

Two communities provide curbside recycling services, which cover about 50% of the population in the county. GRSWMA has accepted recycling via drop-off in the past, but as of June 2023 was not accepting recyclable materials. Several municipalities mentioned a small business that accepts scrap metal called WUP Recycling. Both RRS and WUPPDR were unable to verify information from this facility and therefore they are not included in the facilities list.

YARD WASTE

Collection of yard waste is limited in the region. As one local explained it, people have a lot of property so there is not much of a need.

HOUSEHOLD HAZARDOUS WASTE

There are no household hazardous waste collection events or permanent sites in the County. The Authority accepts materials like tires and some electronics. The Watersmeet facility accepts TV/Electronics and appliances with freon.

OTHER

No information obtained about Other programs.

LIST OF ACTIVE HAULERS

- Republic Services Inc.
- Gogebic Range Solid Waste Management Authority
- Municipal

CURBSIDE SERVICES BY COMMUNITY

MUNICIPALITY NAME	TRASH COLLECTOR	RECYCLING COLLECTOR	YARD WASTE COLLECTOR	OTHER CURBSIDE SERVICES
Bessemer city	Republic Services Inc.	Republic Services Inc.		
Bessemer township	Gogebic Range Solid Waste Management Authority		Bessemer Township Spring Clean Up	
Erwin township				
Ironwood charter township	Gogebic Range Solid Waste Authority			
Ironwood city	Republic Services	Republic Services		
Marenisco CDP	Gogebic Range Solid Waste Management Authority			
Marenisco township	Gogebic Range Solid Waste Management Authority		Marenisco Township	
Watersmeet township	Gogebic Range Solid Waste Management Authority			
Wakefield city	Gogebic Range Solid Waste Management Authority			
Wakefield township	Gogebic Range Solid Waste Management Authority			
Watersmeet CDP				
Lac Vieux Desert Tribe	Republic Services			

DROP-OFF SERVICES BY COMMUNITY

MUNICIPALITY NAME	TRASH DROP-OFF SERVICES (PERMANENT)	RECYCLING DROP-OFF SERVICES (PERMANENT)	YARD WASTE OR OTHER ORGANICS DROP-OFF (PERMANENT)	OTHER PERMANENT DROP-OFF SERVICES	TEMPORARY DROP-OFF SERVICES
Bessemer city	Gogebic Range Solid Waste Management Authority		Bessemer City yard debris		
Bessemer township	Gogebic Range Solid Waste Management Authority	Gogebic Range Solid Waste Management Authority (when accepting materials)			
Erwin township	Gogebic Range Solid Waste Management Authority Erwin Township Transfer Station Garage	Erwin Township Transfer Station Garage			
Ironwood charter township	Gogebic Range Solid Waste Management Authority	Gogebic Range Solid Waste Management Authority (when accepting materials)			
Ironwood city	Gogebic Range Solid Waste Management Authority		City of Ironwood Compost Site		
Marenisco CDP	Gogebic Range Solid Waste Management Authority	Gogebic Range Solid Waste Management Authority (when accepting materials)			
Marenisco township	Gogebic Range Solid Waste	Gogebic Range Solid Waste Management Authority (when	Township Property near sewage lagoons		

	Management Authority	accepting materials)			
Watersmeet township	Watersmeet Township Transfer Station	Watersmeet Township Transfer Station			
Wakefield city	Gogebic Range Solid Waste Management Authority	Gogebic Range Solid Waste Management Authority (when accepting materials)			
Wakefield township	Gogebic Range Solid Waste Management Authority Transfer Station				
Watersmeet CDP	Gogebic Range Solid Waste Management Authority	Watersmeet Township Transfer Station			
Lac Vieux Desert Tribe	Watersmeet Township Transfer Station				

FACILITIES

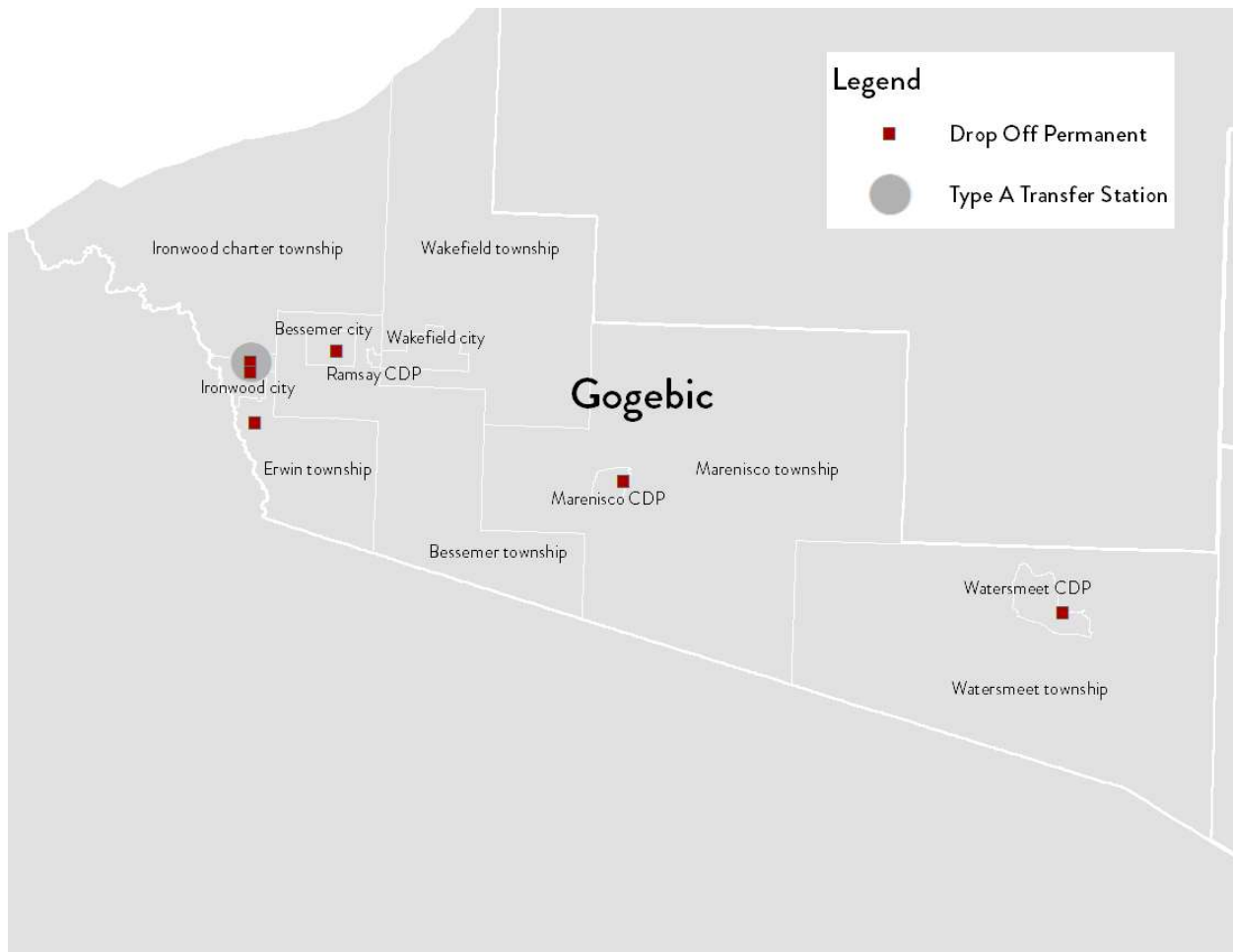
MATERIALS MANAGEMENT FACILITIES IN COUNTY

FACILITY SUMMARY TABLE

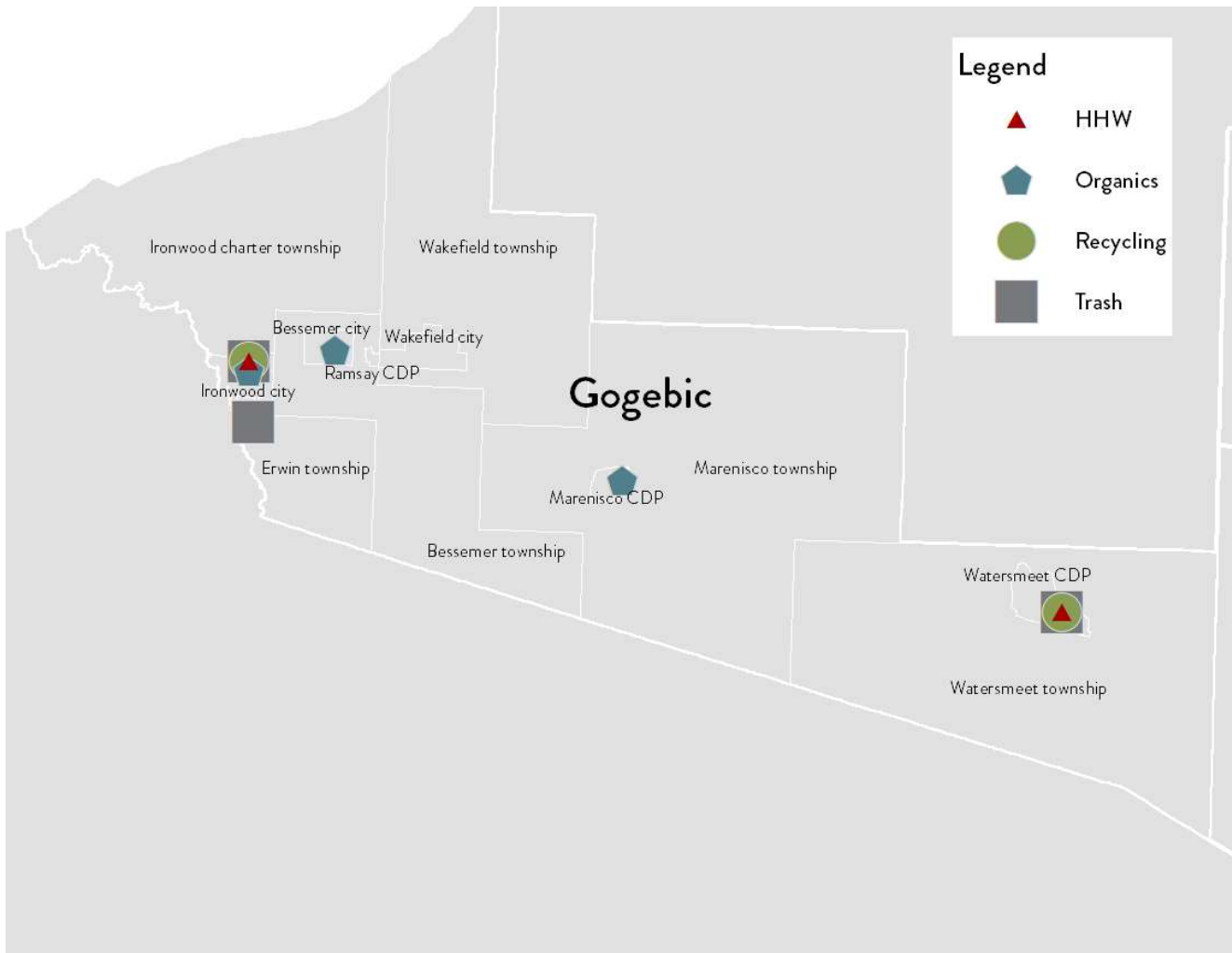
FACILITY TYPE	FACILITY NAME	FACILITY ADDRESS	CITY	PERMANENT OR TEMPORARY
Drop-off (B, T)	Erwin Township Transfer Station	8990 Van Buskirk Rd	Ironwood	Permanent Drop-off
Drop-off (WDC, B, T, NT, C&D)	Gogebic Range Solid Waste Management Authority	E5917 Hwy, US-2	Ironwood	Permanent Drop-off
Drop-off (WDC, B, T, C&D)	Watersmeet Township Transfer Station	E23975 (Choate) Transfer Station Road	Watersmeet	Permanent Drop-off
Drop-off (O)	City of Ironwood Department of Public Works	200 Penokee Road	Ironwood	Permanent Drop-off
Drop-off (O)	Marenisco Township Spring-Fall Organics Drop-off	314 Hall Street	Marenisco	Permanent Drop-off
Drop-off (O)	Bessemer City Organics Drop-off	Osrose Rd, at Snow Dump Site	Bessemer	Permanent Drop-off
Transfer Station – Type A	Gogebic Range Solid Waste Management Authority	E5917 Hwy, US-2	Ironwood	

Drop-off Facility Types: B = Transfer Station Type B; C&D = Construction & Demolition; NT = Source-Separated Recycling Drop-off Non-Traditional; T = Source-Separated Recycling Traditional; O = Organics; WDC = Waste Diversion Center

FACILITY SUMMARY MAP



FACILITY MATERIALS MAP



POLICY

MUNICIPAL ORDINANCES

Municipality	Policy type	Requirement
Bessemer	Ordinance	Rules for garbage disposal and placement; hauler licensing; burn ban within city limits (No, 363)
Bessemer Township	Ordinance	Collection and Deliver of Solid Waste (No. 123)
Marenisco township	Ordinance	Bag for Waste; Recycling Container Location;
Ironwood city	Ordinance	Can for Waste; Recycling Container Location; (Sec. 27)
Ironwood Charter Township	Ordinance	Waste collection regulations (No. 31)
Wakefield township	Ordinance	Refuse collection regulations and charges (No. 1-2006)

MUNICIPAL FUNDING MECHANISMS

Municipality	Waste Collection	Recycling Collection	Organics Collection	Bulky Item Collection
Watersmeet CDP	Legislatively Authorized Millages			
Bessemer city	Municipal Utility/Service Fees			
Wakefield city	Municipal Utility/Service Fees			

COUNTY ORDINANCES

No county ordinances obtained.

COUNTY FUNDING MECHANISMS

No county funding mechanisms were obtained.

DATA

REPORTED DATA

No reported data.

RESIDENTIAL WASTE PROJECTIONS

Municipality	Population	Total Waste Generation (Tons) ¹	Total Recyclable Diversion (Tons)	Total Organics Diversion (Tons)	Total Requiring Disposal (Tons)
Bessemer city	1,659	828	130	63	635
Bessemer township	921	388	0	35	352
Erwin township	336	141	0	13	129
Ironwood charter township	2,261	951	0	86	865
Ironwood city	4,925	2,459	387	188	1,885
Marenisco CDP	179	75	0	7	68
Marenisco township	856	360	0	33	328
Ramsay CDP	282	119	0	11	108
Wakefield city	1,669	702	0	64	639
Wakefield township	435	183	0	17	166
Watersmeet CDP	253	106	0	10	97
Watersmeet township	939	426	30	36	359
TOTAL	14,715	6,739	548	561	5,631

COMMERCIAL WASTE PROJECTIONS

County	Approximate Number of Employees	Total Waste Generation (Tons)	Total Diversion (Tons)	Total Requiring Disposal (Tons)
Gogebic	2,873	7,463	489	6,974

TOTAL WASTE GENERATED PROJECTIONS

County	Total Waste Generation (Tons) ^{Error!} <small>Bookmark not defined.</small>	Total Diversion (Tons)	Total Requiring Disposal (Tons)
Gogebic	14,202	1,598	12,605

¹ Due to rounding, total waste generation tonnages may not equal the sum of the total diversion and disposal tonnages.