



MICHIGAN DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENT, GREAT LAKES, AND ENERGY

Michigan 2023 Recycling: State of the State

Michiganders are recycling more than ever thanks to historic EGLE recycling infrastructure investments and the Know It Before You Throw It education campaign

OVERVIEW

The Michigan Department of Environment, Great Lakes, and Energy (EGLE) is proud to report recycling in Michigan is now at an all-time high since the 2019 launch of the national award-winning Know It Before You Throw It education and awareness campaign featuring the Recycling Raccoon Squad.

That was the aim when the Michigan Legislature with strong bipartisan support created the Renew Michigan Fund in 2019 to bolster the state's recycling efforts.

EGLE RECYCLING GRANT PROGRAMS FOCUS ON:

- Increasing access to services.
- Informing Michigan residents to promote recycling best practices.
- Expanding material processing capacity.
- Growing Michigan end-use recycling markets.

HIGHLIGHTS

- In 2022, EGLE awarded \$16 million in grants to communities, nonprofits, and businesses across the state.
- The total amount of residential recycled materials reported for fiscal year 2022 was 620,494 tons – that's over 66,000 tons more than the previous record set the year prior.
- The record-setting amount of materials Michiganders recycled last year would fill Ford Field in Detroit, Michigan State University's Spartan Stadium in East Lansing and the Big House at the University of Michigan in Ann Arbor.
- Since 2019, the state has nearly doubled the number of households with available curbside recycling carts and drop-off sites.
- Nearly 3 million households – 75% of the state's population – now have access to recycling in their communities.
- Four in five Michiganders report taking action and changing their recycling behavior for the better following the Know It Before You Throw It campaign.



KEY TAKEAWAYS

According to a study by the Michigan Sustainable Business Forum, over 80% of the municipal solid waste disposed of in Michigan landfills could be recovered and put back into use in local economies.



Recycling prevents the generation of greenhouse gases at several points along the life cycle of a product, including avoided energy consumption associated with the mining and extraction of virgin materials and reduced methane emissions from landfills.



Recycling is important in facilitating the safe management of waste materials and helping to maintain the flow of vital raw materials for Michigan manufacturing by supporting domestic supply chains.



Additionally, survey results show that Michiganders believe that recycling is a service that should be available to everyone, regardless of where they live.



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How Michigan's recycling measurement law helps inform and improve data analysis statewide

OVERVIEW

The Michigan Department of Environment, Great Lakes, and Energy has a goal of increasing equitable access to recycling, supporting Michigan manufacturers and building the foundation for a decarbonized and thriving Michigan economy.

PART 175 IMPACT

Key to EGLE's recycling success is its commitment to improving recycling data collection. That is why the Michigan Legislature gave bipartisan approval to Part 175, Recycling Reporting, of the Natural Resources and Environmental Protection Act, 1994 PA 451, as amended (NREPA) – commonly known as the recycling measurement law. Prior to this 2016 law, there was no way for EGLE to collect data to measure Michigan's recycling rate.

For more information about Part 175, visit: [EGLEPart175](#).

DATA COLLECTED THROUGH THIS LAW IS USED TO:

- Help calculate Michigan's recycling rate.
- Drive decisions and direct resources to help meet needs in communities.
- Provide equitable solutions.
- Improve material recovery for a stronger economy and cleaner environment.



POLICY RECOMMENDATIONS

EGLE's recommendations for changes to the Part 175 law to improve efficiency include:

1. Extend the annual report deadline to give reporting entities more time at year-end to submit their data.
2. Implement portions of the law that call for industry stakeholder meetings to gather feedback about how to better engage with the private sector.

KEY TAKEAWAYS

In 2022, EGLE improved data quality by developing relationships with recycling establishments and coalitions to increase the number of mandatory reporters providing data.



EGLE ensures data quality by analysis of each individual report.



Annual recycled material data is becoming more accurate.



However, there remain non-reporters whose information could greatly impact the data set. EGLE plans to continue developing key stakeholder relations to improve data quality for FY 2023.

Appendix

Trends and Comparisons From 2022 Reporting Year



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METRIC	REPORTED IN FY 2022	REPORT IN FY 2021
Recycled Materials	620,494.07 tons	553,697 tons
Ferrous Metals, including white goods	109,628.77 tons	20,187 tons
Nonferrous Metals	44,533.88 tons	32,992 tons
Glass	71,556.83 tons	65,633 tons
Paper and Paper Products	339,473.39 tons	376,176 tons
Plastic and Plastic Products	45,326.57 tons	43,108 tons
Single Stream Recyclable Materials	6,647.67 tons	13,584 tons
Textiles	3,326.96 tons	2,017 tons
Recycled In State	415,745.62 tons	338,477 tons
Recycled Out of State	204,747.45 tons	215,220 tons

In 2022, 71 organizations identified themselves as engaging in recycling activities by registering their locations with the online Michigan Recycling Reporting Program. This list of registered recyclers is composed of both mandatory reporters and voluntary reporters who have completed their annual data submission. Mandatory reporter refers to a Recycling Establishment, as defined under Part 175, who is required to report under the law. A voluntary reporter is a facility not required to under the statute but have chosen to voluntarily report. In FY 2021, 66 organizations registered their locations online.