MICHIGAN DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENT, GREAT LAKES, AND ENERGY

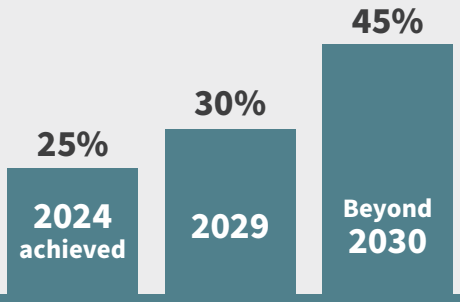
Materials Management Planning
Achieving Benchmark Recycling Standards

ABOUT BENCHMARK RECYCLING STANDARDS

- **Benchmark Recycling Standards (BRS) are intended to be a minimal and achievable level of access to residential recycling**
- Determining whether your planning area meets the BRS is an excellent practice in identifying your recycling access strengths and weaknesses
- The standards are not written or designed to penalize, but instead should provide useful, local baseline metrics for success
- **Materials Management Plans (MMP) should set individualized targets above and beyond the BRS** that are appropriate to the unique situations within the communities included in the plan
- **Curbside Recycling Access** should be calculated for each municipality within the planning area that is either in an urban area or has a resident population greater than 5,000. If any of these municipalities do not meet the BRS of 90% curbside access, the MMP should identify action steps to make progress towards achieving the BRS

MICHIGAN'S STATEWIDE RECYCLING RATE GOALS

30% by 2029
45% beyond 2030



DEADLINES TO ACHIEVE BENCHMARK RECYCLING STANDARDS

January 1, 2026: Urban Areas

January 1, 2028: Municipalities with more than 5,000

January 1, 2032: Counties will be required to provide a number of drop off locations according to the population of residents in the county without access to curbside recycling

CURBSIDE RECYCLING

90 percent of single-family dwellings must have access to curbside recycling

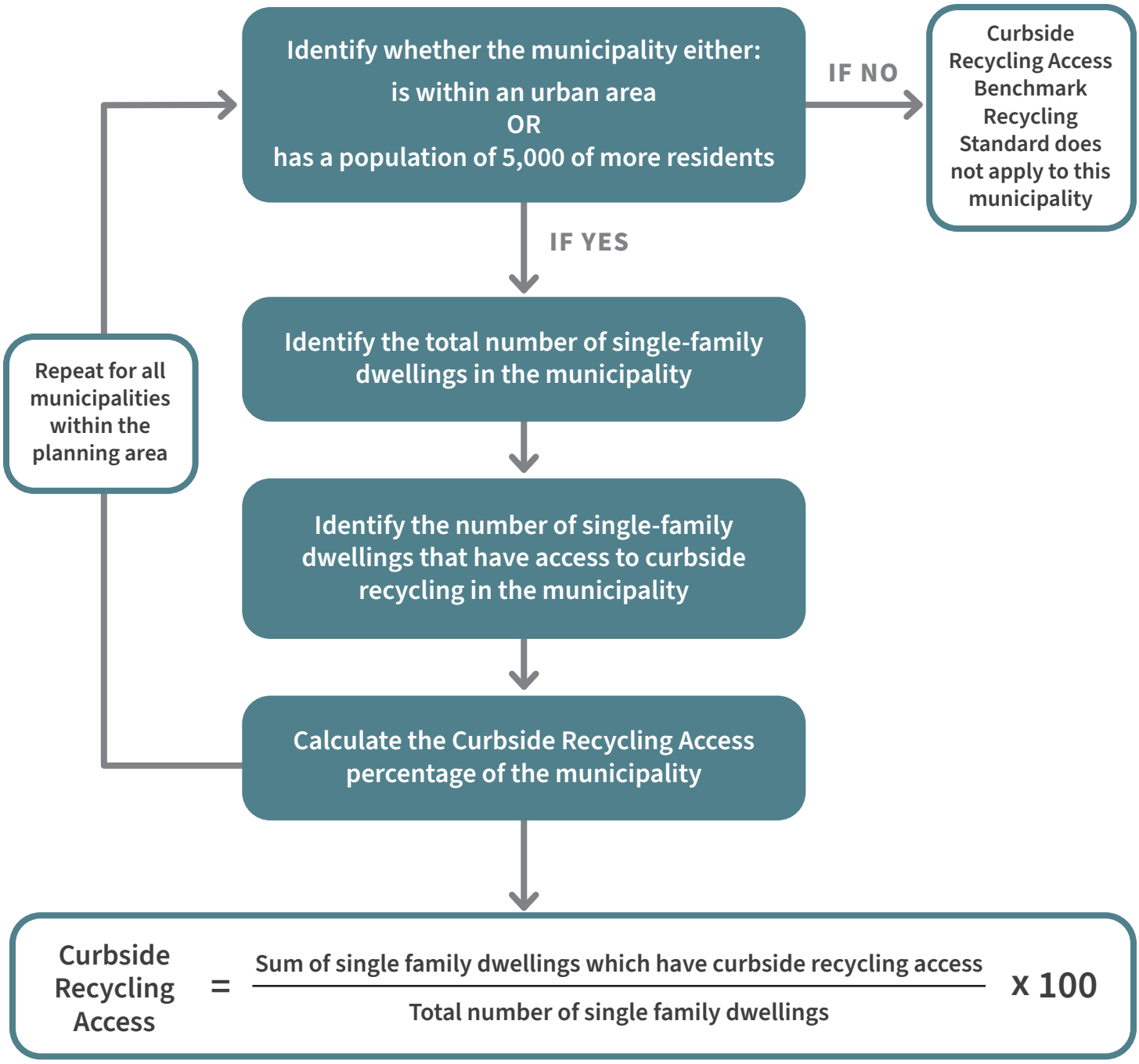
DROP OFF RECYCLING

Locations are available at least 24 hours per month

To review the statutory language referred to throughout this document, please see Part 115, Solid Waste Management, of the Natural Resources and Environmental Protection Act, 1994 PA 451, Subpart 11, Materials Management Plans.

Calculating Curbside Recycling Access Across The Planning Area

Curbside Recycling Access should be calculated for each municipality within the planning area that is either in an urban area or has a resident population greater than 5,000. If any municipalities within the planning area do not meet the BRS of 90% curbside access, the MMP should identify action steps to make progress towards achieving the BRS. To calculate, utilize data from the most recent federal decennial census, and follow these steps:



CURBSIDE RECYCLING – BENCHMARK RECYCLING STANDARDS

90% of single-family dwellings in a municipality must have access to curbside recycling, where recyclable materials are collected directly from households, in **urban areas (by 2026)** and in **municipalities with more than 5,000 residents (by 2028).**

Defining Curbside Recycling Access and Service Specifications

- Curbside recycling collected at least twice a month
- Curbside recycling provided by the municipality, or the resident has the ability to choose a curbside recycling hauler
- Mixed recyclables must be delivered to a compliant materials recovery facility
- If recycling and waste are commingled, loads must be delivered to a compliant facility for sorting
- Must include one or more recyclable materials, as determined by the county's material management plan, that are typically collected through curbside recycling programs

Curbside Recycling Service Provision May Include (But Are Not Limited To)

- Fee-based service provided by private sector waste haulers to residents (subscription based)
- Municipality-provided curbside recycling services
- Municipal contract with a private sector waste hauler

Additional Considerations For Successful Curbside Recycling Programs

- How often do residents with curbside recycling access receive information about recycling benefits and rules?
- How easy is it for residents to find information about what is (or is not) recyclable?
- If residents have recycling access through a subscription based (opt-in) service, how can participation in this service be increased?
- Are there significant barriers to participating in curbside recycling service, even if residents have access? How can those barriers be reduced? (Barriers may include costs, registration process, language barriers, accessibility concerns, etc.)

DROP OFF RECYCLING – BENCHMARK RECYCLING STANDARDS

Counties will be required to provide a number of drop off locations according to the population of residents in the county without access to curbside recycling.

Defining Drop Off Recycling Sites That Meet Benchmark Standards

- Recycling drop offs are locations where residents may take specific recyclable materials
- Drop-off services should be available at least 24 hours per month by 2032
- The number of drop off facilities required is determined by population size

Calculating the Number of Drop Offs Your Community Needs

- Determine the population of your county which does not have access to curbside recycling
- This may include (but is not limited to) residents in single-family or multifamily dwellings that do not have access to curbside recycling service
- Utilize data from the most recent federal decennial census

In counties with a population of **less than 100,000**:
At least 1 drop-off location **for each 10,000 residents** without access to curbside recycling.

$$\text{Number of Drop Offs} = \frac{\text{Number of residents without access to curbside recycling}}{10{,}000}$$

In counties with a population of **100,000 or more**:
At least 1 drop-off location **for each 50,000 residents** without access to curbside recycling.

$$\text{Number of Drop Offs} = \frac{\text{Number of residents without access to curbside recycling}}{50{,}000}$$

Additional Considerations For Successful Drop Offs

- Are there existing drop-off sites in neighboring communities which may benefit residents through the adoption of an agreement between municipalities?
- How far do residents need to travel to access the drop off site?
- What locations would provide an ideal drop-off site in order to contribute to an effective hub-and-spoke model for recycling?

EGLE MICHIGAN DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENT, GREAT LAKES, AND ENERGY

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