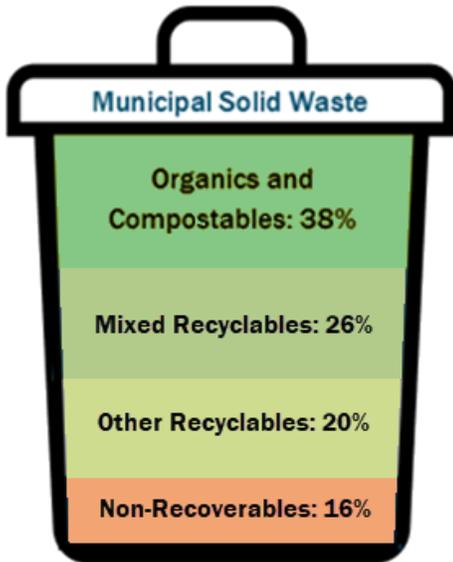


# County Solid Waste and Materials Management Planning 101



Represents reusable materials landfilled in 2019

This document provides a **quick overview** of what the Michigan Solid Waste Planning Program (a.k.a. Michigan’s Materials Management Planning Program) is, why it is important, how it is implemented, and state and county responsibilities.

The two names above reflect the transition occurring in the states and nationally in how we view our “trash.” Currently mandated Solid Waste Management Plans focus primarily on landfilling and incineration of waste. The transition is focusing on reuse, recycling, food rescue, composting, and other sustainable practices, an approach called “Materials Management” in government circles and the “Circular Economy” in industry. Recirculating materials in the economy through these sustainable practices will develop and increase Michigan’s materials management **infrastructure**; create new and **additional supply chains**; spawn new **markets**; keep **revenue** in the region; and promote **economic growth**.

This transition is reflected in proposed legislation amending relevant statute, that is currently under consideration in the Senate.

## WHY DO I NEED TO KNOW ABOUT COUNTY SOLID WASTE MANAGEMENT PLANNING NOW?

- Funding opportunities for recycling materials management and County Solid Waste/Materials Management Planning are available.
- Amendments to Part 115 have been introduced [see [HB 4454 - 4461](#)].
- There is a shift of focus from solid waste disposal and landfilling to materials management.
- Prepare and engage counties for future planning activities.
- This shift to materials management aligns with Michigan’s [MI Healthy Climate Plan](#).

## WHAT IS A COUNTY SOLID WASTE MANAGEMENT PLAN (PLAN)?

Each county is required by law to have a Plan that ensures adequate waste disposal capacity and assures that all non-hazardous solid waste generated within the county is collected and recovered, processed, or disposed at facilities that comply with state laws and rules. Specifically, Part 115, Solid Waste Management, of the Natural Resources and Environmental Protection Act, 1994 PA 451, as amended, and the administrative rules promulgated pursuant to Part 115. Plans also identify and regulate local criteria for siting of solid waste facilities such as landfills, transfer stations and processing facilities.

## HOW DO PLANS HELP A COUNTY?

- ✓ It is the tool that gives a county its authority over solid waste related activities within their county.
- ✓ Allow for mechanisms to fund and promote materials management methods like recycling and composting.
- ✓ Create and understand the county's solid waste and materials management infrastructure (existing and new).
- ✓ Define county or regional needs, goals, and identify possible areas of growth.
- ✓ Encourage collaboration through partnerships to manage materials that are generated.

## WHERE CAN I FIND MY PLAN?

[Michigan.gov/EGLESWMP](http://Michigan.gov/EGLESWMP) [scroll to the bottom of the page; use search box to find the appropriate county link].

## WHO IS RESPONSIBLE FOR IMPLEMENTING AND ENFORCING THE PLAN?

Ultimately it is the County Board of Commissioners (BOC)/County Executive's responsibility to adopt, implement and enforce their Plan.

## WHO ELSE IS INVOLVED IN PLANNING ACTIVITIES?

- Each county has appointed a [Designated Planning Agency \(DPA\) Contact](#).
- Locally appointed Solid Waste Management Planning Committee.

## WHAT IS A SOLID WASTE MANAGEMENT PLANNING COMMITTEE (SWMPC)? IS IT AN ADVISORY GROUP OR VOTING BODY?

- A County SWMPC is a local voting body made up of a 14-member committee.
- Main role is to develop and approve the Plan for submission to the BOC for adoption. The SWMPC is also required in the Plan approval process.

## WHAT ARE THE IMPORTANT SECTIONS TO UNDERSTAND IN YOUR PLAN?

- Siting and development of local siting criteria for solid waste facilities.

**NOTE:** This section of the Plan preempts local zoning restrictions

- Landfill disposal capacity certifications.
- Import/export authorizations of for solid waste disposal.
- Ordinances and contracts that control solid waste facilities.
- Plan enforcement mechanisms/entity.

## WHAT RESOURCES ARE AVAILABLE?

- Funding Opportunities (see [Planning Website](#)).
- [EGLE Planning Staff](#) and [Recycling Specialists](#).
- [Regional Planning Agencies](#).
- [County DPA Contacts](#).

## HOW MUCH TIME DOES IT TAKE TO IMPLEMENT, DEVELOP, OR AMEND A PLAN?

- Implementation is an **ongoing** activity depending on the needs of the county.
- The Plan should be reviewed **periodically** to ensure the goals of the county are being met.
- The amendment **development time varies** depending on the complexity of the changes being pursued. For more information see [Plan Amendment Approval Process Flowchart](#).
- Once the amendment has been developed the amendment may take **approximately 1 ½ years** to complete the **approval** process.
- EGLE staff and stakeholders are encouraging counties to either **start or continue** to **engage** with surrounding counties and municipalities regarding materials management planning and related activities.

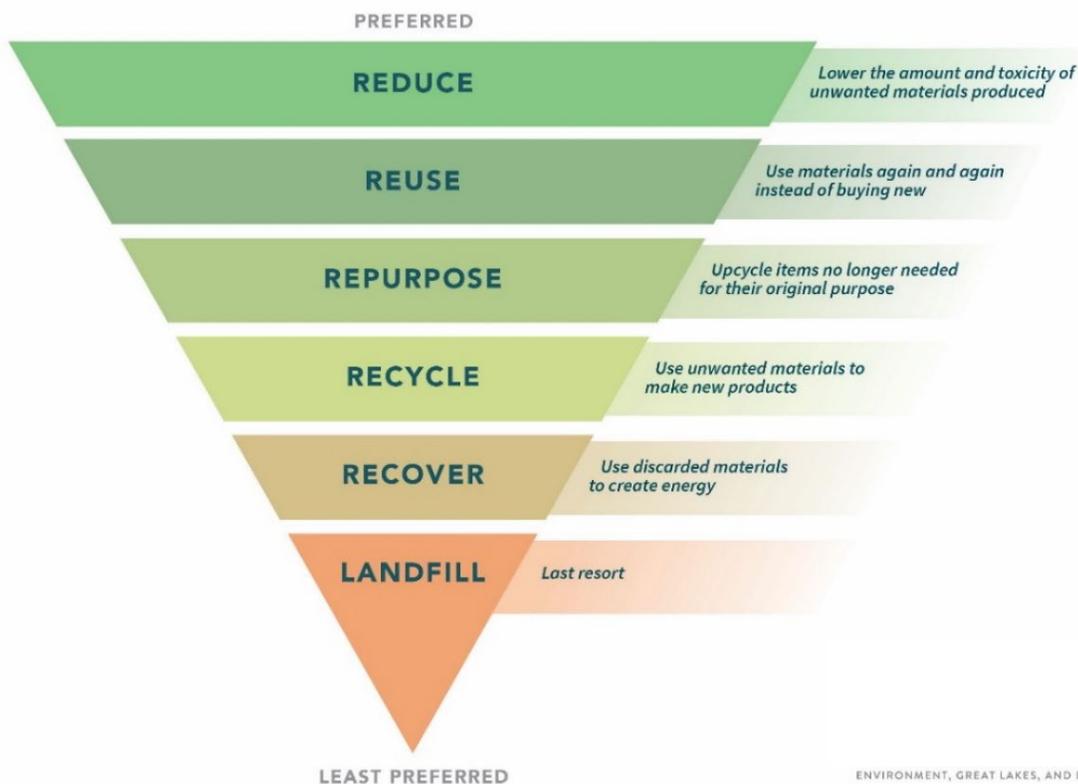
## HOW DO I AMEND MY PLAN?

- It is the same development and approval process as developing your currently approved plan. For more information see the [Plan Amendment Frequently Asked Questions](#).
- **NOTE:** All activities related to your Plan and its approval is public.

## WHAT ARE SOME OF THE ITEMS REQUIRED OF THE NEW MATERIALS MANAGEMENT PLANNING PROGRAM FROM THE INTRODUCED PART 115 AMENDMENTS PACKAGE?

- Identify **all** materials management facilities and capacity.
  - Solid waste facilities; recycling and organics management facilities.
- Focus on **utilization** capacity (recyclable and organics management).

# SUSTAINABLE MATERIALS MANAGEMENT



- Promote **regional** planning.
- Develop **goals** for utilization and recycling.
- Provides avenue for siting of **NEW types** of facilities (material recovery, facilities, compost facilities, anaerobic digesters, and other source separated facilities).
- Annual Materials Management Planning **grants**.
- **NO import/export** authorization requirement.
- **Reconfigured** Materials Management Planning Committee.
- Approval process with specified **timeframes**.
- **Fast-track** amendment process.

For more information, visit [Michigan.gov/EGLESWMP](https://Michigan.gov/EGLESWMP), refer to [Materials Management Planning - Introduced Legislation](#), or contact [EGLE-MaterialsManagementPlanning@Michigan.gov](mailto:EGLE-MaterialsManagementPlanning@Michigan.gov).

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