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LANSING



DANIEL EICHINGER
ACTING DIRECTOR

VIA EMAIL

TO: Members of the Michigan Legislature

FROM: Daniel Eichinger, Acting Director

DATE: April 19, 2023

SUBJECT: Report on Part 175, Recycling Reporting

In accordance with Section 17505(2) of Part 175, Recycling Reporting, of the Natural Resources and Environmental Protection Act, 1994 PA 451, as amended, attached is the Department of Environment, Great Lakes, and Energy's (EGLE) report on recycling volumes for reportable recyclable materials for fiscal year 2022.

If you need further information, please contact Elizabeth M. Browne, Director, Materials Management Division, at 517-242-2746; or you may contact me at 517-512-5992.

Attachment

cc/att: Curtis Hertel Jr., Director of Legislative Affairs, Governor's Office
Marc Rehmann, Policy Director, Governor's Office
Aaron B. Keatley, Chief Deputy Director, EGLE
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MICHIGAN DEPARTMENT OF
ENVIRONMENT, GREAT LAKES, AND ENERGY

Legislative Report

Part 175, Recycling Reporting

Report Period:
Fiscal Year 2022

Authority:
**Part 175, Recycling Reporting, of the Natural Resources and
Environmental Protection Act, 1994 PA 451, as Amended**

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

According to a study by the Michigan Sustainable Business Forum, over 80 percent 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 lifecycle of a product, including the 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.

The Michigan Legislature created the Renew Michigan Fund in 2019 to bolster the state's recycling efforts. EGLE recycling grant programs focus on increasing access to services, educating Michigan residents, expanding material processing capacity, and growing Michigan's end-use recycling markets. EGLE awarded \$16 million in [grants](#) to communities, non-profits, and businesses across the state in fiscal year (FY) 2022.

Since 2019, the state has nearly doubled the number of households with available curbside recycling carts and drop-off sites. Nearly 3 million households — three-quarters of the state's population — now have access to recycling in their communities. Four in five Michiganders report having taken action, [changing their recycling behavior for the better](#).

Part 175, Recycling Reporting, of the Natural Resources and Environmental Protection Act, 1994 PA 451, as amended, requires recycling establishments to report each year on the amount of commonly recycled materials collected and processed. The [list of registered reporters](#) is updated annually.

The total amount of residential recycled materials being reported for FY 2022 was 620,494.07 tons, which is over 66,000 tons more than the year prior. To put it into perspective, this increase is equivalent to the capacity of an entire recycling processing facility.

Data collected through this law is used to help calculate Michigan's recycling rate, as well as drive decisions and direct resources to help meet needs in communities, provide equitable solutions, and improve material recovery for a stronger economy and cleaner environment. EGLE has improved data quality in FY 2022 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 are still non-reporters whose information could greatly impact the dataset. EGLE plans to continue developing key stakeholder relations to improve the quality of reporting for FY 2023. Details of the FY 2022 reporting data can be found in Appendix A.

EGLE has one recommendation for a change to the law to improve efficiency:

Extend the annual report deadline to give reporting entities more time at year-end to submit their data.

Appendix A: Trends and Comparisons from the FY 2022 Reporting Year

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 FY 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 has chosen to voluntarily report. In FY 2021, 66 organizations registered their locations online.

For more information about the EGLE Recycling Program, please contact Emily Freeman, Supervisor, Recycling Unit, Sustainability Section, Materials Management Division, EGLE, at 517-256-9466 or FreemanE@Michigan.gov.