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STATE OF MICHIGAN
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LANSING



PHILLIP D. ROOS
DIRECTOR

VIA EMAIL

TO: Members of the Michigan Legislature

FROM: Phillip D. Roos, Director 

DATE: March 11, 2024

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 2023.

If you need further information, please contact Julie Staveland, Assistant Director, Materials Management Division, at 517-420-8544 or StavelandJ@Michigan.gov; or you may contact me at 517-614-6873.

Attachment

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MICHIGAN DEPARTMENT OF
ENVIRONMENT, GREAT LAKES, AND ENERGY

Legislative Report

Report on Part 175, Recycling Reporting

Report Period:
Fiscal Year 2023

Authority:
MCL 324.17505(2)

If you need this information in an alternate format, contact EGLE-Accessibility@Michigan.gov or call 800-662-9278.

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The Michigan Department of Environment, Great Lakes, and Energy (EGLE) has a goal 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 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's 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 \$5.2 million in [grants](#) to communities, non-profits, and businesses across the state in fiscal year (FY) 2023. More Michigan households have access to recycling than ever before, and four in five Michiganders report [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 Recyclers](#) is updated annually.

The total amount of residential recycled materials being reported for FY 2023 was 701,278.43 tons, which is over 80,000 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 2023, 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 dataset. EGLE plans to continue developing key stakeholder relations to improve the quality for FY 2024. Details of the FY 2023 reporting data can be found in Appendix A.

EGLE has two recommendations for changes to the law to improve efficiency:

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.

Appendix A: Trends and Comparisons from the FY 2023 Reporting Year

Metric	Reported in FY 2023	Reported in FY 2022
Recycled Materials	701,278.43 tons	620,494.07 tons
Ferrous Metals, Including White Goods	175,004.08 tons	109,628.77 tons
Nonferrous Metals	62,145.00 tons	44,533.88 tons
Glass	67,470.54 tons	71,556.83 tons
Paper and Paper Products	315,719.62 tons	339,473.39 tons
Plastic and Plastic Products	58,077.36 tons	45,326.57 tons
Single Stream Recyclable Materials	18,527.38 tons	6,647.67 tons
Textiles	4,334.45 tons	3,326.96 tons
Recycled In-State	392,847.10 tons	415,745.62 tons
Recycled Out of State	277,017.48 tons	204,747.45 tons
Unknown Sent to Location	31,413.85 tons	N/A

In FY 2023, 64 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 2022, 71 organizations registered their locations online.

For more information about the EGLE Recycling Program, please contact Julie Staveland, Assistant Director, Materials Management Division, EGLE, at 517-420-8544 or StavelandJ@Michigan.gov.