



RecycleSmart

Resource Recovery Department 2012 Solid Waste Report

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Executive Summary

Landfill is Down and Recycling is Up

“This country must make every effort to stem the rising tide of garbage and industrial waste through a more aggressive use of waste minimization and recycling practices. America as a nation is filling landfills faster than it can establish new ones. The waste problem is not going away, and it can no longer be neglected.”

-- George Bush, 41st President

“There must be a reason why some people can afford to live well. They must have worked for it. I only feel angry when I see waste. When I see people throwing away things we could use.”

-- Mother Teresa

“To waste, to destroy, our natural resources, to skin and exhaust the land instead of using it so as to increase its usefulness, will result in undermining in the days of our children the very prosperity which we ought by right to hand down to them.”

-- Theodore Roosevelt

To The Residents of Grand Traverse County...

The Grand Traverse County Resource Recovery Department strives to promote waste reduction, recycling and safe disposal options for residents of the County.

Four collection events were held in 2012 to provide safe disposal options for household hazardous waste like antifreeze, gasoline, paint, pesticides, solvents, etc.

Many residents accessed our RecycleSmart website or called the hotline to get information on how and what they can reuse or recycle. These efforts have paid off – landfill is down and recycling is up.

In this report, we highlight the accomplishments of the Resource Recovery Department. But we would be remiss if we did not acknowledge that our accomplishments are tied to the communities, businesses and individuals who share our desire to reduce, reuse and recycle.

Bob Osterhart,

Resource Recovery Manager

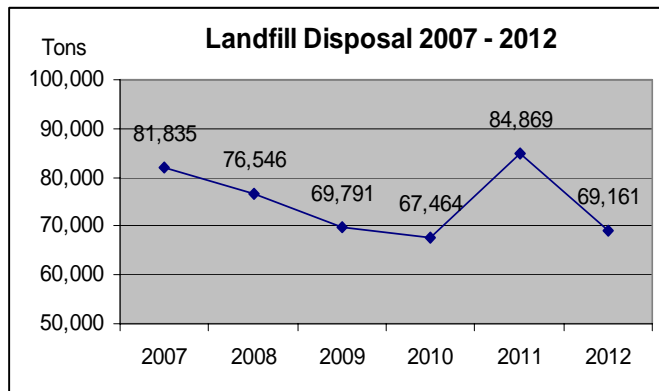


Landfill Disposal

Landfill Volumes Decline 15,708 tons in 2012

Residential, commercial and industrial customers landfilled 69,161 tons of solid waste in 2012. 20,079 tons came from residential customers, 32,567 tons came from commercial customers and 16,515 tons came from industrial customers.

American Waste reported landfilling 31,140 tons of waste, Waste Management 30,369 tons, and Republic Waste Services 7,652 tons.

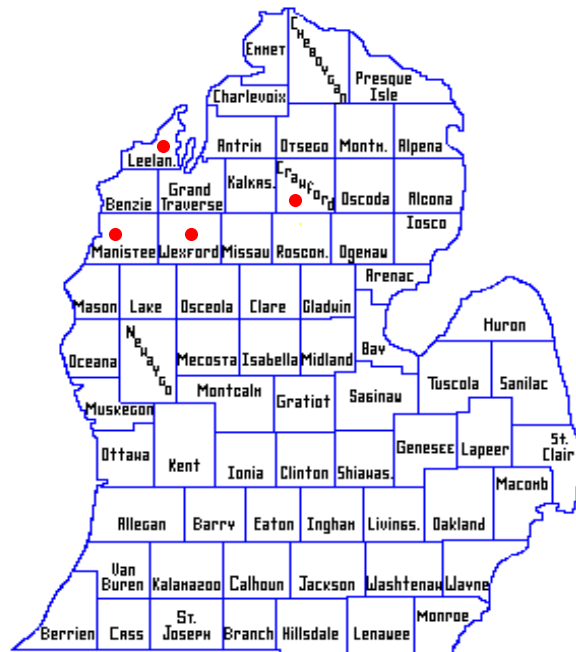


Grand Traverse County does not have a landfill. Our Waste is sent to another County for Disposal

Where Our Waste Goes?

In Grand Traverse County, we do a great job of reducing what we send to landfills through recycling and composting, but we still rely on landfills for our waste disposal needs. Last year, Grand Traverse County sent 69,161 tons of solid waste to 4 sanitary landfills located outside of the County.

- Manistee County* **Manistee Landfill**
- Leelanau County* **Glen's Landfill**
- Crawford County* **Waters Landfill**
- Wexford County* **Wexford Landfill**



Landfills Receiving Grand Traverse County Solid Waste in 2012

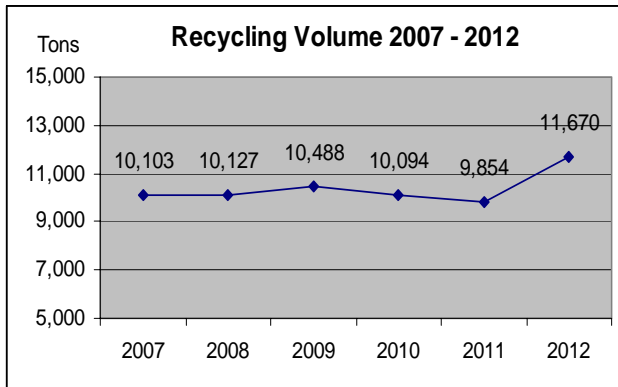


Resource Recovery

Recycle Volumes Increase 1,816 tons in 2012

Residential, commercial and industrial customers recycled 11,670 tons of materials in 2012. 3,661 tons came from residential curbside customers, 5,294 tons came from commercial customers, 684 tons came from industrial customers and 2,031 tons came from drop-off stations.

American Waste reported recycling 6,448 tons of materials, Waste Management 2,871 tons, Republic Services 1,208 tons, Profile 783 tons, Bay Area Recycling for Charities 188 tons and Royal Oak Recycling 172 tons.



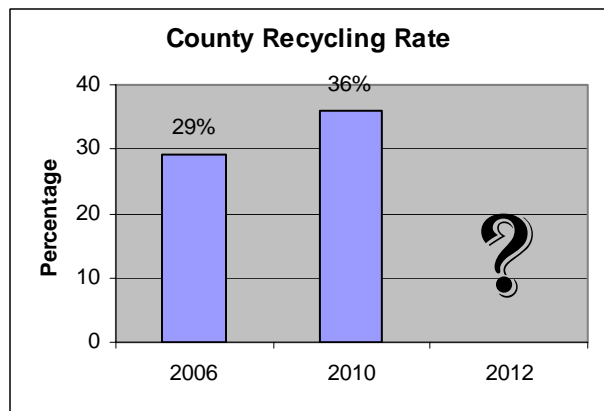
Note: Recycle volume in chart does not include commercial/industrial businesses that engage in back hauling of recyclable materials or otherwise operate outside the County reporting structure.

How Are We Doing?

The last time the County wide recycling rate was calculated was in 2010 where it was determined to be 36.23%.

Grand Traverse County is doing better than the State recycling rate of 20% and the National rate of 32%.

The Resource Recovery Department is in the process of calculating the 2012 County wide recycling rate.



**BEAT THE RISING COST OF GAS
GO CURBSIDE!**





Collection Programs

63,000 lbs of HHW, Batteries and 10,000 Fluorescent Lamps Collected in 2012

Household Hazardous Waste

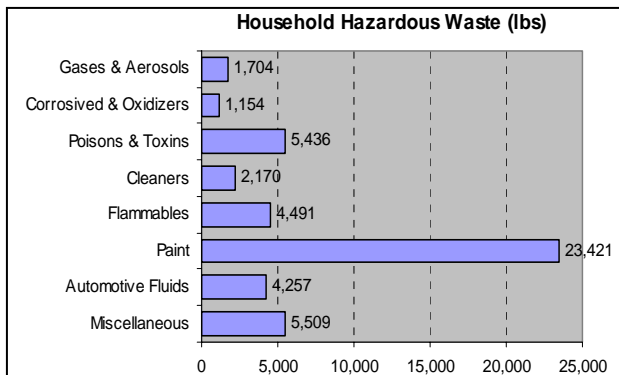
The County conducted 4 Household Hazardous Waste drop-off events collecting 50,000 lbs of material from 600+ residents and businesses.

Materials collected included motor oil, oil-based paints, pesticides, mercury, gasoline, solvents, etc.

These events help prevent the improper disposal of poisonous and toxic materials that can end up in our storm drains, waterways and landfills.



Household Hazardous Waste Collection Event



Household Batteries

The Resource Recovery Department collected, packaged and contracted with a licensed vendor to pickup and recycle 13,000 pounds of household batteries.

The batteries were collected from five drop-off sites located throughout the County.



Gaylords of Household Batteries

Fluorescent Lamps

The Resource Recovery Department collected, packaged and contracted with a licensed vendor to pickup and recycle 8,000 fluorescent lamps and 2,000 CFL bulbs.

The lamps and bulbs were collected from the "Take It Back" recycling program.



Pallets of Fluorescent Lamps



Organics Management

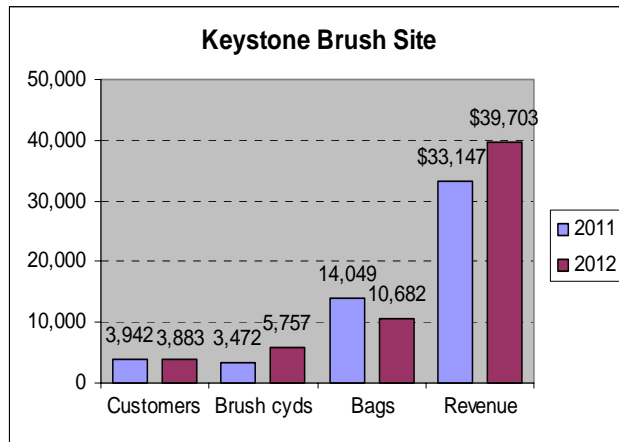
3,880 Residents Used Keystone Brush Site in 2012 Revenue Increases \$6,556

Due to a late season snow storm, the Keystone Brush Site opened early to help residents cleanup damaged and downed trees.

A number of changes were made at the site in 2012 including a new gate attendant and new signs.

Brush volume increased 66% or 2,285 cubic yards. The increase in brush volume resulted in additional revenue of \$6,556.

Due to a dry summer and wet fall bagged leaves and grass declined by 24%



Leaves, grass and brush less than 4 feet in length and 2 inches in diameter are banned from the landfill.

What Happens to Our Organics?

Brush collected at the site is ground into reusable product. If the grind material is free of dirt it can be sent to a power plant for use as an alternate fuel. Otherwise it is used as mulch or land applied by local cherry growers.



Grinding of Brush

Grass and leaves are mixed and placed in windrows to make compost. Finished compost is sold locally and given out during Earth Day.



Grass and Leaves in Windrows



Community Outreach

48,000 Residents Reached Through RecycleSmart Website and Hotline in 2012

In addition to our website and hotline, the Resource Recovery Department works to educate the public about the benefits of waste reduction, recycling and composting through special events, training and presentations.

RecycleSmart Bingo



Earth Day



RecycleSmart Kids Garage Sale



Downtown Recycling Traverse City



Cherry Festival Green Day





Department Finances

2012 Expenses \$64,004 less than budget resulting in net Revenue of \$58,233

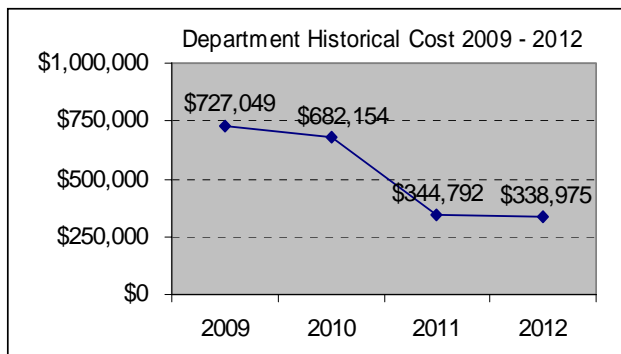
The Resource Recovery Department is funded by a “landfill surcharge” which is a \$4 fee levied on each ton of solid waste generated in Grand Traverse County that is sent to the landfill.

Revenues

Landfill Surcharge	\$308,312
Charges for Services	\$ 48,856
Clean Sweep Grant	\$ 35,193
Contributions	\$ 3,047
Sale of Fixed Assets	\$ 1,800
Total	\$397,208

Expenditures

Administration	\$147,487
Education & Outreach	\$ 74,725
HHW Collections	\$ 48,165
Clean Sweep	\$ 35,193
Keystone Brush Site	\$ 33,406
Total	\$338,975



What Services Does The Department Provide?

Recycling Information

RecycleSmart hotline, web site, brochures, e-newsletter.

Special Waste Collections

Household hazardous waste, household batteries, fluorescent lamps.

Local Government Support

Solid waste/recycling consulting services.

Keystone Brush Site

Drop-off site for yard waste, brush, clean wood.

Education Programs

RecycleSmart Bingo, teacher workshops, community recycling presentations.

Business Community Support

Solid waste/recycling consulting services, “Take It Back” recycling program, special waste disposal, downtown recycling.

Community Events

Earth Day, Cherry Festival Green Day, Kids Garage Sale, Illegal Dump site cleanup.

Solid Waste Administration

Solid waste planning, Ordinance 17, data collection and reporting, hauler and designated facility licensing, contracts and RFP’s.