



RecycleSmart
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Resource Recovery Department 2014 Annual Solid Waste Report

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RecycleSmart Mission

MISSION:

The mission of the Resource Recovery Department is to protect the public health and environment of our community by efficiently managing waste materials with a focus on resource conservation.

VISION:

The Resource Recovery Department's vision for Grand Traverse County is to be a state leader in resource conservation by promoting reduction, reuse and recycling programs that exceed the state recycling goal of 50%.

Ongoing efforts to fulfill the RecycleSmart Mission and Vision include:

Administration and monitoring of waste reduction programs according to the targets identified in the Solid Waste Management Plan for Grand Traverse County.

Providing Household Hazardous Waste collection services for residents and small businesses.

Providing convenient drop-off locations for collection and recycling of household batteries.

Delivering accessible recycling and waste management information and education through the RecycleSmart website, hotline and e-newsletter.

Collaborating on illegal dumping cleanups with other community partners including the "Adopt a Forest" program, cleanup groups and individual volunteers. Prevention of illegal dumping through education and enforcement.

Administration of the Take It Back Program to provide a convenient product return infrastructure for items outside of the regular recycling stream.

Delivering educational presentations about proper solid and hazardous waste management to residents, businesses, community groups and schoolchildren.

Operating of a public drop-off for yard waste and clean wood debris from residents and businesses at the Keystone Brush Drop-Off Site.

Facilitating recycling expansion through business recycling program planning and implementation, education through waste assessments and expanded public space recycling infrastructure.

Supporting the waste diversion efforts of community partners including businesses, organizations, municipal bodies and commercial waste and recycling operations



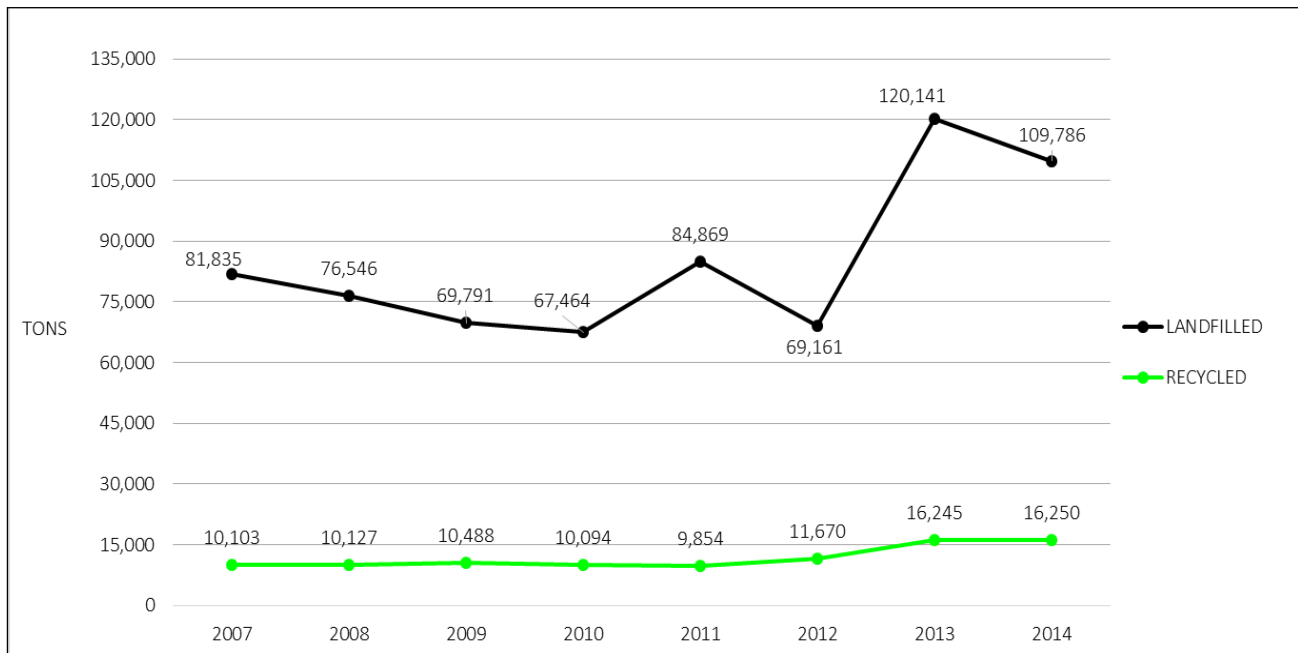
Landfill vs. Recycling

Following a significant increase in commercial and industrial waste in 2013, the volume of Municipal Solid Waste sent to landfill in 2014 dropped to 109,786 tons, a decrease of 10,355 tons from 2013, but substantially greater than the volumes of 2007 through 2012. Higher waste volumes are likely related to the increased economic activity, including development projects, occurring within Grand Traverse County since 2012.

2014	Landfill Waste	Recycling	Recycling Drop-Offs
Residential	23,184	7,088	3,285
Commercial	80,571	5,197	
Industrial	6,031	680	
Total	109,786	12,965	3,285

Recycling volumes increased in both 2013 and 2014 from previous years, with the residential sector diverting the largest proportion of material.

Tons Landfilled vs. Tons Recycled* For 2007 to 2014
at Grand Traverse County Designated Facilities & Recycling Drop-Offs**



* Recycling data from Designated Recycling Facilities and Recycling Drop-Offs is combined.

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



Waste Diversion

It is the goal of Grand Traverse County to increase the waste diversion rate to 50%. Methods to achieve this goal include:

- Promoting increased curbside recycling participation, use of recycling carts at homes and commercial establishments and use of recycling drop-off stations.
- Educating residents, businesses and community organizations on the range of waste diversion programs available and the environmental and economic benefits to be that may be achieved through greater recovery of valuable materials.
- Supporting and expanding programs that offer greater diversion of recyclables and exclusion of food scraps from the waste stream.

Overall diversion rate calculations made by Grand Traverse County follow the EPA methodology: "Measuring Recycling – A Guide for State and Local Governments. The calculation uses locally derived data from several sources to determine the rate, including County Designated Recycling and Disposal Facility reports, Drop-Off Recycling reports, Business Recycling reports, Keystone Brush Site volumes and Household Hazardous Waste collection volumes. General data from EPA Municipal Solid Waste reporting, the US Census and the Michigan Soft Drink Association and Department of Treasury are also used to develop the calculation.

The County-wide diversion rate was determined to be 29% in 2006, and 36% in 2010. The calculation completed for calendar year 2014 resulted in an overall waste diversion rate of 34%.

A recent study completed for the State of Michigan found that the overall diversion rate for Michigan was just 15%, below that of other Great Lakes states and one of the lowest in the country. It has been estimated that the lost market value of the recyclable metal, plastic and glass sent by Michigan households to landfills every year is \$435 million, and this lost economic value has helped drive the Governor's Residential Recycling Plan to dramatically increase resource recovery in Michigan by doubling the overall rate.



The recycling infrastructure located within Grand Traverse County and the initiative of County residents to keep valuable materials from the landfill allows Grand Traverse County to achieve a greater diversion rate than the overall Michigan rate, but additional community effort will be necessary to reach our target of 50%.

GTC 2014 Rate = 34% GTC GOAL = 50%



HHW & Battery Programs

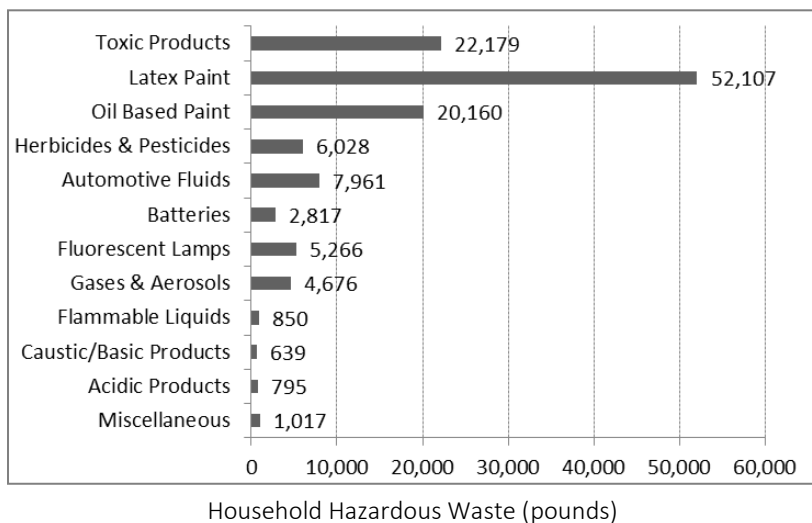
HOUSEHOLD HAZARDOUS WASTE COLLECTION EVENTS

The Resource Recovery Department held four Household Hazardous Waste Collection Events during 2014, drawing 853 participants. Residents, small businesses, schools, churches and non-profit organizations dropped off a total of 124,495 pounds (over 62 tons) of hazardous material for safe and environmentally appropriate disposal.

Disposal costs for pesticides and mercury collected at these events were paid for by a recurring grant from the State of Michigan that allows residents to drop off these items at no charge. The average per-participant cost, after grants, donations by participants and charges for volumes over 150 pounds were calculated, was \$45, an expense funded by the landfill surcharge charged on each ton of waste sent for landfill disposal.

These events help prevent the improper disposal of toxic materials into storm drains, waterways and landfills.

The chart displays the weight in pounds of the various types of hazardous material collected at Household Hazardous Waste events in 2014.



HOUSEHOLD BATTERY DROP-OFF LOCATIONS



Battery Drop-Off at Grand Traverse County Public Services Building (2650 LaFranier Road)

The Resource Recovery Department maintains several public battery drop-off bins at municipal locations throughout the County. During 2014, residents dropped off 10,481 pounds of household batteries for recycling, keeping heavy metals such as lithium from the landfill.



Community Outreach

WEBSITE, HOTLINE & E-NEWSLETTER

The RecycleSmart website and hotline continue to be a popular resource for residents of Grand Traverse County. With 57,136 page views in 2014, the RecycleSmart website is consistently in the top 5 of all County department website viewership reports. There were 3,086 calls to the RecycleSmart hotline during 2014, from residents looking for recycling information and solutions to bookings for Household Hazardous Waste events.

The Resource Recovery Department publishes a monthly e-newsletter providing information about upcoming events and the latest recycling resources available in Grand Traverse County.



COMMUNITY EVENTS

2014 community events offered by RecycleSmart included the RecycleSmart Kids Garage Sale, the Earth for Earth Day Free Compost Event (held jointly with the City of Traverse City) and Clean Out Your Files Week in downtown Traverse City.

The Resource Recovery Department also supports the ongoing Downtown Recycling Project on Front Street, which provides recycling receptacles for the public along one of Traverse City's busiest corridors.

ILLEGAL DUMPING CLEANUP

Throughout 2014, the department worked with staff from the Michigan Department of Natural Resources Clean Forests Program to locate and clean illegal dump sites and to support clean ups undertaken by individual residents and volunteer groups. The Grand Traverse Road Commission and the Grand Traverse Conservation District also contributed resources to help clean over 50 illegal dumpsites. Grand Traverse County ended the year as one of Michigan's 'cleanest' counties.





Department Finances

RESOURCE RECOVERY FINANCIAL REPORT

The Resource Recovery Department is funded by a \$2.00 per ton landfill surcharge (set by the County Board of Commissioners) which is a fee levied on each ton of solid waste generated in Grand Traverse County that is sent to landfill.

REVENUES

Landfill Surcharge	\$219,567
Clean Sweep Grant	\$ 39,847
Brush Drop-Off Fees	\$ 28,045
Fund Balance	\$ 14,820
Charges for Services	\$ 11,958
Contributions	\$ 2,178
Filing Fees	\$ 1,850
Rents & Reimbursements	\$ 79
Total	<u>\$318,344</u>

EXPENDITURES

Administration	\$112,913
Education & Outreach	\$ 90,260
HHW Collections	\$ 68,316
Clean Sweep	\$ 39,847
Keystone Brush Site	<u>\$ 7,008</u>
Total	<u>\$318,344</u>

FUNDED DEPARTMENT SERVICES:

Recycling Information

RecycleSmart hotline, website, e-newsletter.

Special Waste Collections

Household hazardous waste events and household battery drop-off locations.

Local Government Support

Solid waste/recycling consulting services.

Keystone Brush Site

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

Education Programs

RecycleSmart Bingo, teacher workshops, community recycling presentations.

Business Community Support

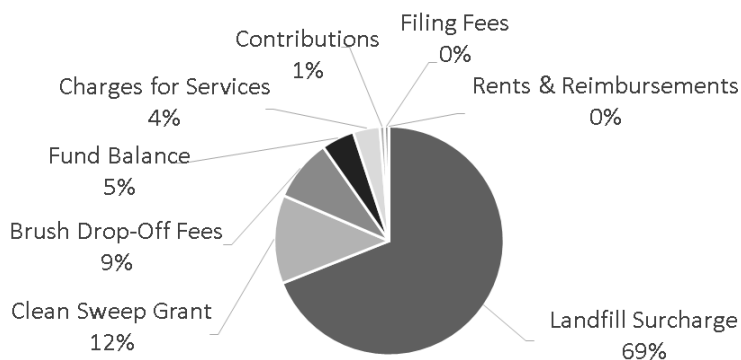
Solid waste/recycling support services, "Take It Back" recycling program, downtown recycling.

Community Events & Outreach

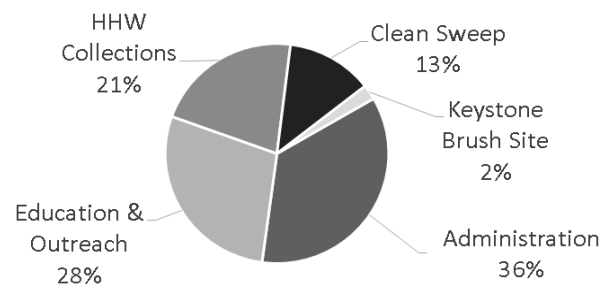
Earth Day Events, Kids Garage Sale, Illegal Dumpsite cleanup.

Solid Waste Administration

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



Revenue Distribution



Expenditure Distribution