



Annual Report 2015

The mission of the Dearborn County Solid Waste Management District is to foster a sense of responsibility and inspire action by Dearborn County residents to reduce solid waste by creating an awareness and commitment to reduction, reuse and recycling programs.

10700 Prospect Lane, Aurora, IN 47001
812-926-9963 — DearbornCountyRecycles.com



Contents



DCF Grant	4
Household Hazardous & Nuisance Wastes	5
General & Commercial Recycling	6-7
Education & Outreach	8
Reuse	9
Boards	10
Financial Summary	11

A Year of Change

2015 began with the retirement of long-time District Director Barbara Ault, who was hired in 2001. During her tenure, the District purchased the property that would become the Recycling Center in 2004, Creation Station was started, the We-Cycle shop opened and the Green Garden was created. Ault contributed to the District in many ways during her 12 years as Director.

As the year drew to a close the District's Board of Directors hired Sandy Whitehead, former District Educator (2007-11) as Director. The autumn saw the additions of a new Reuse Coordinator as well as a new Operations Manager. Julie Robinson assumed the role vacated by long-time employee Betty O'Banion while Ray Hopping moved up from his former position as Assistant Operation Manager upon the retirement of Lorel O'Banion.

Along with changes in staff, the District worked in 2015 to ensure the accessibility of services for residents. Changes were made to operating hours for the Drive-Thru, increasing open hours from seven to thirty-nine.

The District also increased services and improved efficiency for the Residential Recycling Program and the Commercial Recycling Program by use of equipment received from a Dearborn Community Foundation Grant.

Dearborn Community Foundation Grant

The Dearborn Community Foundation generously awarded the District a grant in the amount of \$99,470 in the autumn of 2014.

The goal of this grant-funded project was to “allow for the expansion of the Commercial Recycling Program and to ensure the continued availability of convenient recycling options for residents of Dearborn County.” The outcomes of this grant project have met and exceeded the goals that were set for it.



The 2015 Chevy Silverado purchased through this grant has been in continual use since its purchase. It has allowed for the safe and efficient hauling of residential recycling trailers.



The heavy duty straight deck cargo trailer purchased through this grant has proven to be extremely beneficial to the Commercial Recycling Program. It is responsible for the collection of one ton of corrugated cardboard daily.

Both the 95 and 65 gallon varieties of the Rehrig Pacific rolling containers purchased with grant funds have proven to be useful. Collecting glass from customers has become safer, as the smaller capacity 65 gallon containers ensure

appropriate and manageable weights. 34 of the 54 containers purchased have been placed. The 95 gallon containers have allowed for the collection of more materials at continued customer locations. 55 of the 60 purchased are in use, with 5 remaining for future placement.

The program's expansion has come in the form of increased tonnages. Rather than picking up more locations, the District has been able to collect more materials from existing customers, which has improved efficiency and reduced wear on equipment.



Refurbishment of residential recycling trailers and the addition of modified corrugated cardboard containers have resulted in improved efficiencies. The trailers can now be easily emptied without the threat of injury to employees (as was the case with the old faulty lid design).

HHW & Nuisance Wastes

For over a decade the Drive-Thru at the Dearborn County Recycling Center was open on Fridays from 12pm-6pm and Saturdays 9am-1pm. After an extensive analysis of customer patterns, in May of 2015, hours of operation changed to Monday, Tuesday and Thursday 9am-4pm, Wednesday and Friday 9am-6pm. The change provided an additional 28 hours of time for residents to utilize the service.



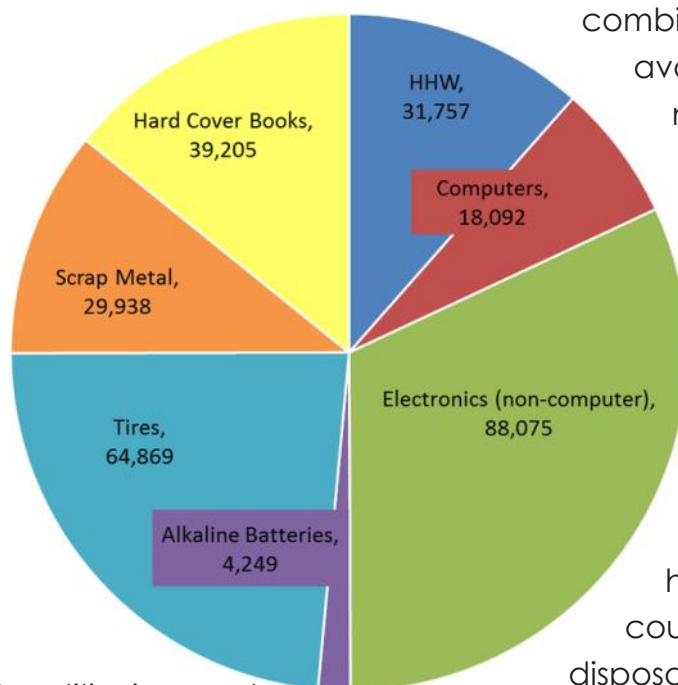
The extended hours proved to be convenient for the public, 2,990 of whom dropped off materials in 2015. The number of customers frequenting the Drive-Thru rose by 34% over 2014.



With the increased number of people utilizing the Drive-Thru service came an increase in materials collected, namely computers and other electronics. The chart below expresses the types and quantities of Nuisance Wastes collected as well as the weights collected as part of the

Household Hazardous Waste program.

In 2015 the Recycling Center continued with its practices of holding three special collection dates for Household Hazardous Wastes and allowing residents to make HHW appointments. This



Quantities in pounds.

General Recycling

The term "general recycling" refers to materials that are readily accepted for recycling and are commonly diverted from landfilling by individuals and businesses. They include paper, corrugated cardboard, glass containers, metal and aluminum cans as well as plastic bottles. Materials in this category are collected in the Drive-Thru Recycling Center, at drop-off locations, from city curbside programs and through the District's Commercial Recycling Program.



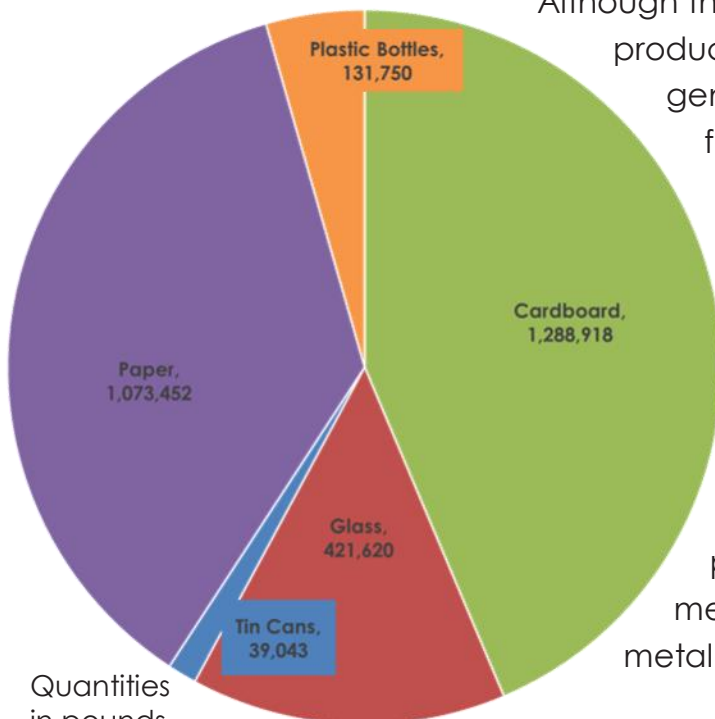
2015 was a good year for general recycling. 2,983,404 pounds (1,491.7 tons) of materials were sorted, packaged and shipped for recycling through a variety of vendors. An additional 127,296 pounds (63.65 tons) of material were sorted and packaged but not shipped before the end of the year. General

recyclables sold in 2015 increased by over 200,000 pounds. Including materials not-yet-shipped, by the end of 2015, the District had increased general recycling tonnage by 12%.



Although the

products produced by Dearborn County's general recyclables varies, in 2015 the following goods were manufactured from County recyclables: corrugated cardboard was manufactured into new corrugated cardboard, paper was made into boxes, tissues and other paper goods, glass containers were made into beverage containers, #1 plastic bottles were made into strapping and bottles, #2 plastic bottles made new milk jugs, and metal cans were manufactured into new metal cans.



2015 saw the first full year of operation for the curbside recycling program implemented by the City of Aurora. Neighboring City of Lawrenceburg also worked toward polishing its curbside collection of recyclables. Although weights collected through these programs are not tracked separately from other general recyclables, they certainly contributed to the increase of tonnages in 2015 for the District.



Solid waste districts are tasked with diverting useful, recyclable material from landfills. Materials categorized as general recyclables, nuisance wastes and Household Hazardous Wastes are included as diversion. In order to calculate Dearborn County's diversion rate, numbers from waste haulers and other recyclers are needed. The total weight is taken as a percentage of the total weight of material disposed of in the year. Based on available data, the 2015 diversion rate for Dearborn County is just under 10%.

Commercial Recycling



The Commercial Recycling Program provides collection of general recyclables for 194 businesses and schools. Two full-time staff members drive daily routes to collect materials. Through the generosity of a Dearborn Community Foundation Grant, the District was able to add rolling carts for the collection of various commodities as well as a new cargo trailer to the commercial program. The additions improved

efficiencies in 2015 and have set up conditions for continued growth.

In 2014 commercial customers contributed 1,316,000 pounds (638 tons) of materials to the year's total. In 2015, that number increased by 42% (nearly 600,000 pounds), bringing the year's total to 1,874,418 pounds (937 tons).

All of the District's commercial customers played important roles in helping reach the year's increase, but some of the most significant contributors were MSW Packaging (Aurora), Lawrenceburg Eagles, Orscheln Farm & Home and Dearborn Country Club.

The City of Lawrenceburg also contributed to the overall increase in general recycling collected in 2015. It collects corrugated cardboard from large generators within the municipality and delivers the material to the Recycling Center twice per week. The material is then sorted and baled with the corrugated collected through other District programs.



Education and Outreach



The District offers free education and outreach programs to County residents of all ages. Educational programs stress the importance of reducing, reusing and recycling as the best ways to decrease waste and preserve the environment. Outreach programs and events use a

project-based approach to engage participants.

A total of 168 educational programs were given in and out of classrooms in 2015, reaching 3,672 students and 1,460 adults. The most popular program for students was *Renewable is Doable*, while *Green Shopping* was presented most for adults.



Tours of the Recycling Center offer participants information about the property and the services provided to residents. In 2015 tours were given to 57 students and 44 adults. Each tour concluded with a project or game.

Offering outreach programs at community events provides opportunities to meet adults and to share information about District services. The longest and most attended of these events is the Dearborn County 4-H Fair, which is held for a week each June. This year the Recycling Center's booth featured many great prizes



including a horse tire swing, recycling bins, a hand chair and a 95 gallon rain barrel. During the Fair, 928 people played the District's "Recycling Trivia" game and won recycled content prizes.



Reuse

Dearborn County's reuse center, Creation Station, opened in December of 2004. Its mission is to divert



reusable materials from landfills while supplying non-profit educators with valuable resources. Materials are donated during Drive-Thru hours by individuals and local businesses. They are made available to classroom teachers, homeschool parents, non-traditional educators, 4-H leaders, Scout leaders, and more. Each year the program grows in participants and materials available, thus it also grows in tonnage diverted from landfills.



In 2015 many new educators came to Creation Station, adding to the total of 539 customers who either donated or received items for reuse. A very impressive 8,522 pounds of materials were taken for projects this year. This addition brings the recorded lifetime total tonnage diverted through Creation Station to over 44 tons.



ReProm is a reuse program for formal wear that began in the spring of 2013. It offers a way for prom-goers to swap their once-worn formal gowns for a new or *new-to-you* option without creating the waste or financial burden of buying something new. Gowns have been donated by individuals and stores. Many dresses available through the program are either new or have only been worn once. Throughout the year,

51 individuals utilized the service for proms, weddings and other formal events.

Costume Swap was held for the 5th time in October 2015. The



event drew a crowd of 188 people from Dearborn and surrounding counties. Costumes for adults and children are made available for this program through swapping and through the donations of individuals and area retailers.



Boards

Board of Directors

Shane McHenry, President
County Commissioner

Dennis Carr, Vice President
Mayor of Lawrenceburg

Art Little, Board Secretary
County Commissioner

Doug Hedrick
Mayor of Greendale

Kevin Lynch
County Commissioner

Randy Lyness
County Council

Jane Pope
Lawrenceburg City Council

Doug Garner
Attorney



Citizens Advisory Committee

Paul Filter, Chairman

Phil Piche, Vice Chairman

Bernadine Ickenroth

Bob Brookbank

George Gardner

Leon Werner

Nancy Lillie

Patty Bourquein

Ralph Thompson

Steve Lieland



Special Thanks to Greendale Mayor

Doug Hedrick

for nearly two decades of service to the District.

Mayor Hedrick served from 1996 until his retirement in 2015.

Financial Summary

Cash Balance (January 1, 2015)

\$360,854

Income

Taxes:	Property	\$671,058	
	Other (CVET)	\$672	
	Taxes Total		\$671,730
Grants			\$0
Sales:	Recyclables	\$65,184	
	Hand Chairs	\$89	
	Bins	\$387	
	Mulch	\$920	
	We-Cycle Shop	\$0	
	Sales Total		\$66,580
Donations			\$117
Interest			\$232
Recycling Fees			\$7,293
Refunds			\$841
Additional Appropriation Transfers			\$0
Total Income			\$746,794

Expenses

Personal Services			\$461,352
Supplies:	Office supplies	\$5,558	
	Processing supplies	\$6,978	
	Equipment expense	\$1,350	
	Fuel expense	\$26,893	
	Safety supplies	\$1,146	
	Other	\$3,352	
	Supplies Total		\$45,277
Services & Charges:	Advertising	\$15,147	
	Insurance	\$29,418	
	Utilities	\$25,633	
	Equipment repairs	\$20,829	
	Loan expense	\$41,745	
	Education	\$16,155	
	HHW disposal	\$10,075	
	Non-haz disposal	\$14,914	
	Other	\$24,813	
	Services & Charges Total		\$198,729
Capital Outlay	Buildings	\$9,800	
	Equipment	\$6,400	
	Vehicles	\$95,139	
	Capital Outlay Total		\$111,338

Total Expenses

\$816,696

Transfers

Rainy Day Fund

\$0

Cash Balance (December 31, 2015)

\$290,952

