



DUPAGE COUNTY WASTE AND RECYCLING REPORT 2018



Since 1991, all counties of the State of Illinois are mandated to collect and report waste and recycling information to the Illinois Environmental Protection Agency under the Solid Waste Planning and Recycling Act (SWPRA). The Act empowered counties and the City of Chicago with solid waste planning and set recycling goals. This Report provides data collected from DuPage municipalities and townships. This report attempts to more thoroughly measure recycling within the County by incorporating special event collections into the overall recycling rate.



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BACKGROUND

DuPage County collected waste and recycling data from municipal and township entities that provided waste hauling services to households during the time frame January 1, 2018 – December 31, 2018. This data provides information on residential recycling and waste tendencies in the County along with comparative data for hauling contracts between municipalities. Information will be utilized to track trends and provide insight into behaviors of County residents.

2018 WASTE AND RECYCLING DATA

DuPage County municipalities and townships contract with private haulers to conduct traditional curbside collection of materials such as paper, metals, plastics, landscape, and other special collection waste. Waste management companies track and provide weights of materials collected to either the municipality or township through obligations in contracts, or upon request. Table 1 provides a summary of the responses received from the 2018 waste and recycling survey. Data from 28 communities was received and reviewed. The amount of refuse collected from the curb was aggregated and measured 264,436 tons. The curbside recycling reported totaled 102,024 tons, and landscape waste was reported at 35,309 tons. Total tons of recycled material were 137,333 tons which was calculated by combining landscape waste with curbside recycling. The total amount of curbside material (waste and recycling) generated was 399,771 tons.

Number of municipalities included	Refuse collected in tons	Recycling collected in tons
28	262,439	102,024

Table 1: Curbside and Waste Collection in Tons

A breakdown of each respondent is provided in Appendix A. The recycling rate has been calculated by dividing the total recycled tonnage by the total waste tonnage. The average recycling rate based on the respondents is 34%. Three municipalities exceeded a 40% recycling rate, with the Village of Woodridge reporting the highest recycling rate at 52%.

WASTE INDUSTRY TRENDS

Recycling continued to face significant challenges in 2018. China has further restricted recycling imports creating a strain on the market and forcing several states and communities to landfill or store recycled materials long-term. Those most affected by the National Sword, discussed in the Annual Waste and Recycling 2017 Report, appear to be coastal states with a notable, but less dire effect in the Midwest. There have been no reports of either landfilling or storage by local material recovery facilities (MRFs) accepting DuPage based materials in response to the import bans in place. This, however, is not the case in all areas of Illinois. Keep Northern Illinois Beautiful is reportedly storing more than 7 tons of plastic



in its Rockford facility¹ along with Southern Recycling which is holding 400,000 tons of mixed plastic and has told large clients to stop sending new material.² With stories similar to those above, it is not a surprise that increasing contamination rates and stagnant pricing are hindering local recycling markets.³ In response to the struggling recycling sector, several entities came together to brainstorm possible solutions.

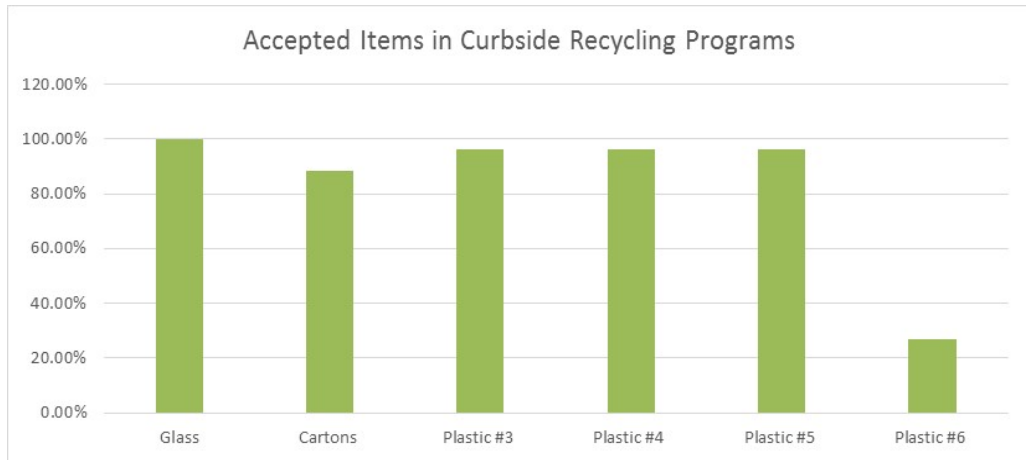


Figure 1: Accepted Items in Curbside Recycling

On June 6, 2018, County staff participated in an interorganizational meeting focused on recycling contamination on behalf of the Solid Waste Association of North American (SWANA), Illinois Chapter. The informal group was dubbed the Recycling Task Force (Task Force). The Task Force is comprised of haulers, recyclers, non-profit, government entities and other stakeholders with the goals of;

- Developing consistent messaging to curbside residential participants to decrease the amount of contamination in residential recyclables and to increase the marketability of recyclables from residential programs, and
- Increasing participation in residential recycling programs (both curbside and drop-off) and increase the quantity of recyclables.

Three additional meetings took place in 2018 and resulted in an initiative to simplify messaging and education for recycling. An example of the outreach material mutually agreed upon can be found in Appendix B. The group continues to meet regularly to devise additional resources to assist in reducing contamination in residential recycling.

In conjunction with the Task Force, Illinois Environmental Protection Agency (IEPA) has added staff and enhanced resources to the Waste Reduction and Compliance Section of the Bureau of Land. One such resource was the roll-out of the “[Find a Collection Location](#)” map and a “[Curbside Recycling Guide](#)” based on the input and discussions from the Task Force using data provided by counties throughout the State.

¹ Kolkey, Jeff. (2018, November 23) *Tons of plastic piling up nearly a year after China’s ban*. Retrieved from <https://www.rstar.com>

² *How Recycling is Changing in all 50 States* (2019, February 1). Retrieved from <https://www.wastedive.com>

³ *The latest pricing for post-consumer recyclables*. (2018, October 16). Retrieved from <https://resource-recycling.com>

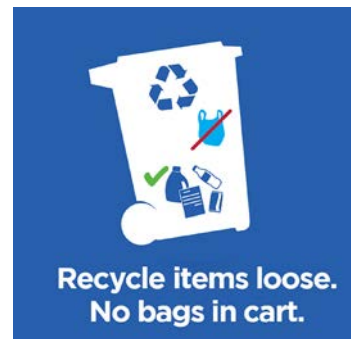


DU PAGE CURBSIDE RECYCLING

DuPage County has tracked the acceptance of various items in local programs (Fig. 1.) Due to the multitude of material packaging, and differences in material acceptance between haulers and municipalities, contamination is an ongoing concern. In general, most communities collect glass, cartons and most plastics #1-5. Seven communities accept the more restricted plastic #6, polystyrene.

Recycling #6 polystyrene must be done via special drop off or mail-in programs. Additionally, for those in the western portion of DuPage County, DART Container has a public 24-hour drop-off available in North Aurora for polystyrene foam. This drop-off accepts both foam food-service containers and packaging. Over the last three years the County has offered a seasonal polystyrene foam drop off location at the Woodridge Waste Water Treatment Facility located off Route 53 in Woodridge, Illinois. This collection site has accepted block packaging materials in a trailer on site. The collection has recycled an estimated 40 cubic yards of the packaging.

To further reduce confusion around the recyclability of items in curbside programs, staff worked diligently to beta test a County specific version of the IEPA curbside recycling webpage in the fall of 2018. The County has continued to focus efforts on the dos and don'ts of curbside recycling bins with regular social media updates and online resources. Using this information, a recycling postcard was developed that has been well received in the community due to its simple pictorial messaging.



SPECIAL COLLECTIONS

In addition to curbside waste and recycling collections, municipalities are supplying other opportunities to dispose or recycle specific commodity goods. These goods can vary and are prevented from being landfilled either through other recycling means or by necessity of a ban. In most cases the special collections result in pre-sorted high volumes of a single item that is more valuable to a recycler. Figure 2 provides insight into the types of special recycling collections occurring in municipalities and the number of respondent communities providing these services.

Communities across DuPage have adopted one-day recycling events as well as seasonal collections for certain items. One day events can include document shredding, paint collection, electronics and other miscellaneous goods such as eye glasses, flags, bikes and propane tanks. The items collected vary by community. Nineteen communities reported that they had provided this opportunity to their residents. In addition to typical recyclables, many communities also have an Rx Box within their community to assist residents with the proper disposal of medications.



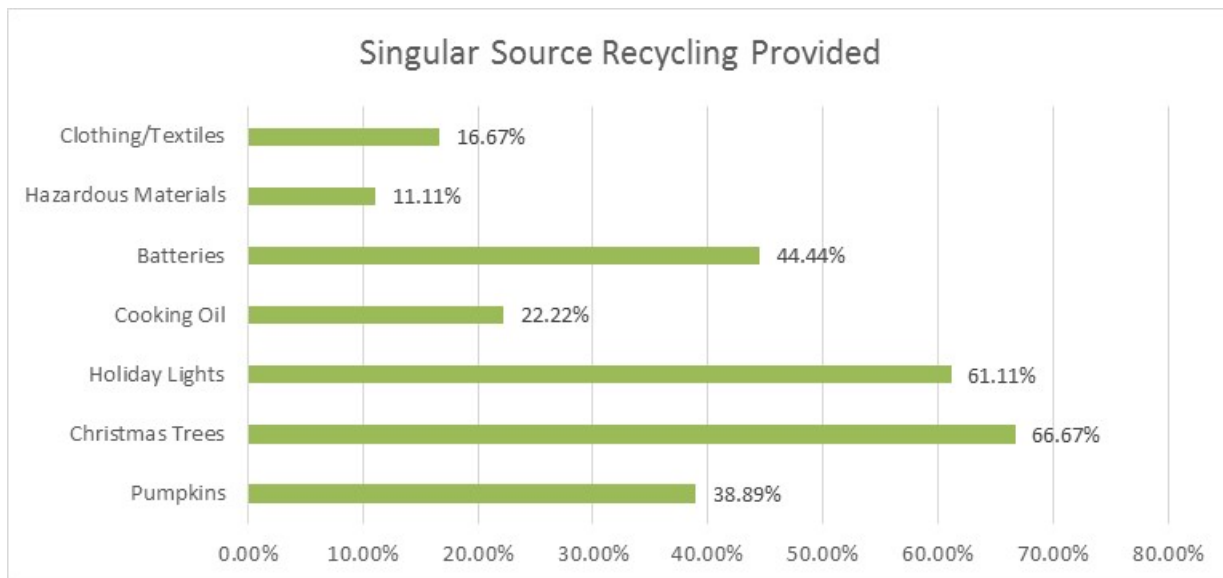


Figure 2: Percentage of respondent communities providing single source recycling

In 2018, eighteen communities participated in the RxBox program through the DuPage County Health Department. Additional sites not participating in the Health Departments program can be found on the County website at <https://gis.dupageco.org/rxboxlocations/>. The Health Department reported that RxBox sites collected 15,625 pounds of medicine in 2018. This medicine was disposed of through the Illinois EPA’s hazardous waste contractor in lieu of being disposed by households in garbage or down the drain. Proper handling of the medicine reduces the misuse and abuse of the substances. It also improves water quality with the avoidance of disposal within the wastewater systems, which are currently not equipped to remove the substances.

CONSTRUCTION AND DEMOLITION DEBRIS RECYCLING

Construction and Demolition debris recycling (C&D) sites accept various building materials generated during the construction or demolition of built infrastructure. DuPage County has two locations that conduct C&D recycling. To encourage greater recycling of building materials, the Environmental Division created a C&D recycling brochure that is provided by the DuPage Building Division to any person applying for a construction or demolition permit. In addition to directly handing out the brochure, staff distributed it to all municipalities and has also provided it online and at special events. The brochure can be accessed through the [recycling portion of the website](#).

HOUSEHOLD HAZARDOUS WASTE

Household hazardous waste (HHW) was a difficult topic in 2018. Early 2018 Illinois EPA notified permanent HHW sites, that funding was capped for the fiscal year. Currently DuPage County supports the Naperville site with \$100,000 annually. After several months of discussions, the IEPA set an overall cap for the sites combined with the opportunity to exceed if other program funding came in lower than expected. The four sites, Naperville, Chicago, Lake County and Rockford, have committed to best



practices and will be instituting operational changes to reduce costs.

The Regional HHW Facility in Naperville exceeded 22,400 drop offs in 2018, with DuPage residents making up 13,886 of the participants. The site collected 78,355 gallons of household hazardous waste, which was an increase of more than 4,100 gallons from 2017. A breakdown of the materials collected is found in Appendix C.

ELECTRONICS

Since 2008, the County has been participating in various electronics recycling events and programs. 2018 was the last year under the previous electronics recycling law with part of the year spent preparing for the implementation of the Consumer Electronics Recycling Act (CERA) effective January 1, 2019. The County continued its partnership with the four collection locations: Burr Ridge, Lisle, Naperville and Wheaton. One-day events were held in a few locations as well. These collection sites accepted more than 1.5 million pounds of electronics.



Collection in 2019 may result in a reduction in pounds since the CERA covers fewer categories of electronics in addition to recycling markets fluctuating to significantly lower numbers than in past years however, an additional site was added, City of Elmhurst which may negate the loss.

FOOD SCRAP COLLECTION

Food scrap collection continues to gain traction in DuPage County and the Chicagoland region. In 2018, DuPage County participated in the Illinois Food Scrap Coalition (IFSC) a statewide collaborative working to divert food scraps from entering Illinois landfills. Eight communities provided the opportunity for residents to participate in a residential curbside food scrap collection program.

Unfortunately ensuring these numbers are fully captured can prove difficult, as in many cases food scrap is combined with landscape waste. Luckily, these tons should be incorporated into communities' reported landscape waste tons and thus engrained into the recycling calculations. The haulers who were associated with offering food scrap collection in DuPage County are Lakeshore, Republic, and Waste Management.

CONTRACT DETAILS

As part of this Annual Report, hauling contracts are reviewed for similarities and differences. Many community contracts charge a fee per month based on cart size, however, there are examples of communities with a flat fee regardless of cart size. Compared to prior years the communities are diversifying their contracts and services provided by their haulers.



Contracts between communities and a waste hauler can incorporate several additional options. Fifty percent of respondents provided a senior citizen discount and 25% offered hauling services through their contract to their business community. The survey found that 52% of communities included multifamily units in their waste contract and another 12% offered the service with exceptions as to the size of the complex. Dense housing tended to be the exception for most contracts.

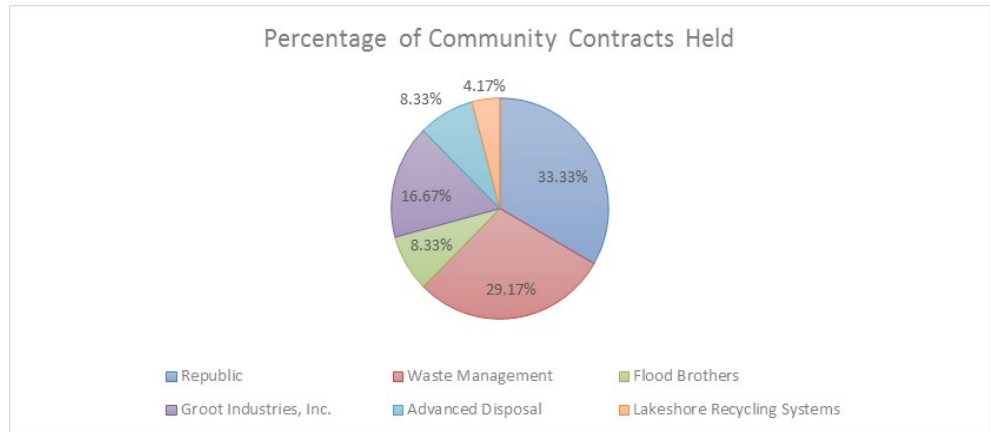


Figure 3: Identified hauler for each community respondent.

Additional elected services found in waste and recycling contracts included white good pick-ups. White goods, which include, refrigerators, freezers or dehumidifiers, were provided curbside pick-up service in 77% of contracts.

SUMMARY

DuPage County has again exceeded the State’s mandate of recycling 25% of waste generated. With the addition of the special collections in the report this year, the overall recycling rate reached 34%.

Refuse (tons)	Curbside Recycling (tons)	Curbside Landscape Waste (tons)	Special Collections (tons)	DuPage County Electronics Recycling (tons)	Latex Paint (tons)
262,439	102,024	35,309	28.46	788	18.3

Table 2: Tonnage of all recycled goods accounted for by survey responses



Appendix A: Summary results of the 2018 Waste and Recycling Survey by Community

	REFUSE TONAGE	RECYCLED TONAGE	LANDSCAPE WASTE TONS	TOTAL RECYCLED	TOTAL WASTE	RECYCLING RATE
Addison	10205	2547	1804	4351	14556	30%
Bartlett	13450	4256	2233	6489	19939	33%
Bensenville	5430	1188	1160	2348	7778	30%
Bloomingtondale	6292	1869	634	2504	8796	28%
Burr Ridge	3717	1723	297	2020	5736	35%
Carol Stream	9785	3245	179	3424	13208	26%
Darien	4699	2547	0	2547	7247	35%
Downers Grove	11399	5488	1722	7210	18609	39%
Elk Grove Village	11083	3814	1118	4932	16015	31%
Elmhurst	12304	5172	1844	7017	19321	36%
Glen Ellyn	7354	3474	1655	5129	12482	41%
Glendale Heights	7974	1865	1363	3228	11202	29%
Hanover Park	23500	9500	815	10315	33815	31%
Hinsdale	5121	2320	570	2890	8011	36%
Lisle	5933	2337	703	3040	8973	34%
Lombard	11770	4293	2323	6616	18386	36%
Naperville	36982	15455	6702	22157	59139	37%
Oak Brook	3136	1259	152	1411	4546	31%
Roselle	7486	2281	957	3238	10724	30%
Schaumburg	17617	6083	3023	9106	26723	34%
Warrenville	1339	797	0	797	2136	37%
West Chicago	6489	2676	902	3578	10067	36%
Westmont	4869	1790	713	2503	7372	34%
Wheaton	16228	8372	1072	9444	25672	37%
Winfield	1648	995	434	1429	3077	46%
Wood Dale	3968	985	743	1728	5696	30%
Woodridge	5040	4670	829	5499	10539	52%
Villa Park	7621	1024	1362	2386	10007	24%
TOTAL/AVERAGE	262439	102024	35309	137333	399771	34%



RECYCLING GUIDELINES



METAL
Steel & Aluminum Containers and Foil



PAPER
Cardboard (flattened),
Office Paper, Newspaper, Magazines

YES!

Clean & Empty
Replace lids & caps



GLASS
Containers: Bottles & Jars Only



PLASTIC
Containers: Bottles, Tubs, Jugs,
and Jars Only



CARTONS
May be acceptable in some
programs, check with
local authority.

NO!



No Plastic Bags
No Product Wrap
(return clean to retailer)



No Big Items (Electronics, Wood,
Propane Tanks, Scrap Metal or Styrofoam
– check local authority for other options)

Put material in loose
- Not in Bags



No Tanglers (Hangers, Hoses,
Wire, Cords, Ropes or Chains)



No Clothing
Textiles or Shoes (donate)



**No Food, Liquid, Diapers,
Batteries or Needles**



No Shredded Paper
(check with local authority
for other recycling options)

These Guidelines represent the common items accepted in most recycling programs in Illinois. For greater detail on specific items or programmatic variations, reach out to your local authority.

To find out more detail, including recycling and reuse programs beyond the bin, visit countyofkane.org/recycling, or contact recycle@dupageco.org or 830-407-6700. Also see the EPA online resource at <https://www2.illinois.gov/epa/topics/waste-management/Pages/recycling.aspx>

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Appendix C – Naperville Regional HHW Facility

2018 Materials Collected

