



DUPAGE COUNTY SOLID WASTE AND RECYCLING REPORT 2016

2016 ANNUAL REPORT

The Illinois General Assembly enacted the Solid Waste Planning and Recycling Act (SWPRA) in 1991. The legislation placed authority to plan for solid waste disposal and recycling with the 102 counties and the City of Chicago. Each county is tasked with monitoring and measure recycling within its borders. This Annual Report details current recycling within the County and measures the weight being recycled by residents in comparison with what is being landfilled.

Diverting waste from landfills has been at the forefront of recent nationwide efforts. Emphasis has been placed on finding new uses or methods of handling waste generated within county boundaries. Composting, recycling and reuse have become the standard approach for the management of waste. The term “zero waste” has become a goal of many global companies. These corporate goals are integral in supporting what has been a traditional recycling system. New advances have been made in the world to find better uses for waste items.

This report highlights traditional curbside recycling but also delves into the recent efforts to compost food scraps.



Table of Contents

2016 Annual Report	1
Background.....	3
2016 Waste and Recycling Data	3
Special Collections	5
Electronics.....	6
Food scrap collection	7
Contract Details.....	7
Summary.....	8
Figure 1: Accepted curbside recycling.....	5
Figure 2: Special collection categories	6
Table 1: Curbside collected waste and recycling.....	3
Table 2 Respondent breakdown of waste and recycling.....	4

BACKGROUND

DuPage County collected data from municipal and township entities. This data provides information on residential recycling and waste trends in the County along with comparative data for hauling contracts between municipalities. The data is used to first measure success and then to identify gaps in recycling services. Information will be utilized in the preparation of the Solid Waste & Recycling Plan 5 Year Update.

2016 WASTE AND RECYCLING DATA

DuPage County municipalities and townships conduct traditional curbside collections 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/township through obligation in reports, or upon request. Special, organized collections, such as electronics, have typically been provided in one-day collection events where weights are collected on site. Table one provides a summary of the responses received from the 2016 waste and recycling survey. A total of 28 municipalities completed the survey. The amount of refuse collected from the curb 239,105 tons. The curbside recycling was 88,578 tons. Landscape waste collect was 39,607 tons. When added to the curbside collected. The total amount of recycled material was 128,186 tons. The total waste generated over-all was 367,291 tons.

Number of respondents	Refuse collected in tons	Recycling collected in tons
28	239,105.13	88,578.81

Table 1: Curbside collected waste and recycling

A clear break down of each respondent is provided in table two. 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%. Four municipalities have a recycling rate over 40%. Out of those municipalities, Glen Ellyn comes in with the highest recycling rate at 46%.

	REFUSE TONAGE	RECYCLED TONAGE	LANDSCAPE WASTE TONS	TOTAL RECYCLED	TOTAL WASTE	RECYCLING RATE
ADDISON	10547	2386	2074	4,460.00	15,007.00	30%
BARTLETT	12919	4491.53	2509.61	7,001.14	19,920.14	35%
BENSENVILLE	5553.32	1242.26	1897.89	3,140.15	8,693.47	36%
BLOOMINGDALE	7198.95	2084.84	588.87	2,673.71	9,872.66	27%
BOLINGBROOK	21862.41	6780.04	4811.8	11,591.84	33,454.25	35%
CAROL STREAM	9639.43	3534.51	13.58	3,548.09	13,187.52	27%
CLARENDON HILLS	2176	1092	525	1,617.00	3,793.00	43%
DARIEN	4536.35	2546.26	766.64	3,312.90	7,849.25	42%
DOWNERS GROVE	11708.75	5965.78	1975.22	7,941.00	19,649.75	40%
ELK GROVE VILLAGE	10467	3904	1204	5,108.00	15,575.00	33%
ELMHURST	12561.2	5421.46	1924	7,345.46	19,906.66	37%
GLEN ELLYN	6946.6	3526.59	2420.07	5,946.66	12,893.26	46%
HANOVER PARK	11251	2455	1126	3,581.00	14,832.00	24%
HINSDALE	5327	2428	563	2,991.00	8,318.00	36%
ITASCA	3272.32	970.35	782.43	1,752.78	5,025.10	35%
LISLE	8204	2898	521	3,419.00	11,623.00	29%
LOMBARD	10626	4091	1923	6,014.00	16,640.00	36%
NAPERVILLE	37405.1	15655.08	6591	22,246.08	59,651.18	37%
OAK BROOK	2995	1221	130	1,351.00	4,346.00	31%
ST CHARLES	7231.34	892.95	892.95	1,785.90	9,017.24	20%
WARRENVILLE	2039	1116		1,116.00	3,155.00	35%
WEST CHICAGO	5756.05	2819.54	773.77	3,593.31	9,349.36	38%
WESTMONT	4265	1915	619.2	2,534.20	6,799.20	37%
WHEATON	17164	6592	3657	10,249.00	27,413.00	37%
WILLOWBROOK	1033.31	548.62	34.95	583.57	1,616.88	36%
WINFIELD	2034	856	449	1,305.00	3,339.00	39%
WOOD DALE	4386	1145	834	1,979.00	6,365.00	31%
TOTAL/AVERAGE	239,105.13	88,578.81	39,607.98	128,186.79	367,291.92	34%

Table 2: Resident breakdown of waste and recycling

What is actually considered to be recyclable varies by hauler and community. In the majority of towns, cartons and plastics #1-5 are routinely collected while only 32% of communities collect plastic #6. These numbers are similar to the 2015 collectable items and may reflect the continuation of contracts in municipalities. Recycling programs varied by the materials that are accepted.

Residents interested in recycling plastic #6 in underserved towns may utilize special drop offs or mail-in programs. The variation in acceptable recycling streams has led to confusion and difficulty for residents determining what is allowable in their curbside recycling bin. This confusion has been noted by an average curbside recycling contamination rate of 20.7%¹. The

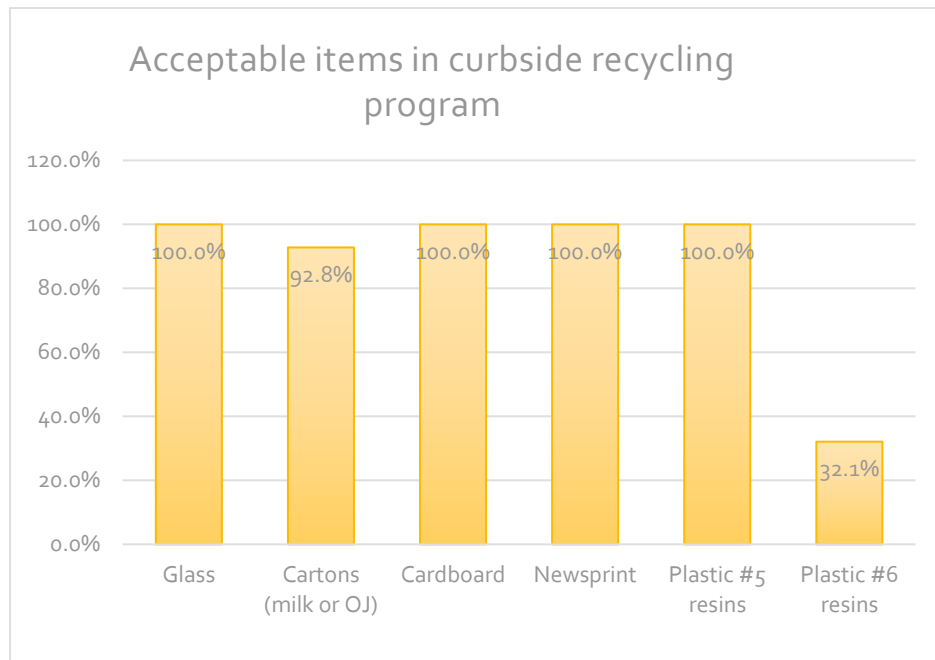


Figure 1: Accepted Curbside Recycling

advancement of various types of plastics and the ubiquitous nature of plastic used for packaging have not aided the matter either. As manufacturers begin to standardize labeling and include guides for how to recycle products, contamination is likely to decrease. A more concentrated effort has been underway in DuPage County to focus on contamination. This will continue to be a focus for years to come as well. In addition to handouts and information disseminated by the County and its contractors, special collections help residents recognize items that should not enter the curbside waste and recycling streams and assist in providing a convenient drop location.

SPECIAL COLLECTIONS

Many municipalities offer residents special services through one-day collection events, seasonal or specific drop-off locations for items not allowed in curbside recycling or waste streams. These additional items that can be recycled through specific programs or vendors vary based on the hauler contract details and local interest and initiative. Fifty-four percent of respondents offered a one-day special collection service of some type to residents. Nineteen percent had a slightly different format or opportunity including; offering an every-other-year event, providing a monthly drop-off or working with a separate entity to organize and plan events. Figure 2 illustrates the various types of items for collection offered through these special programs.

¹ Maxwell, Greg – Resource Management, Illinois 2016. Email communication, April, 12.

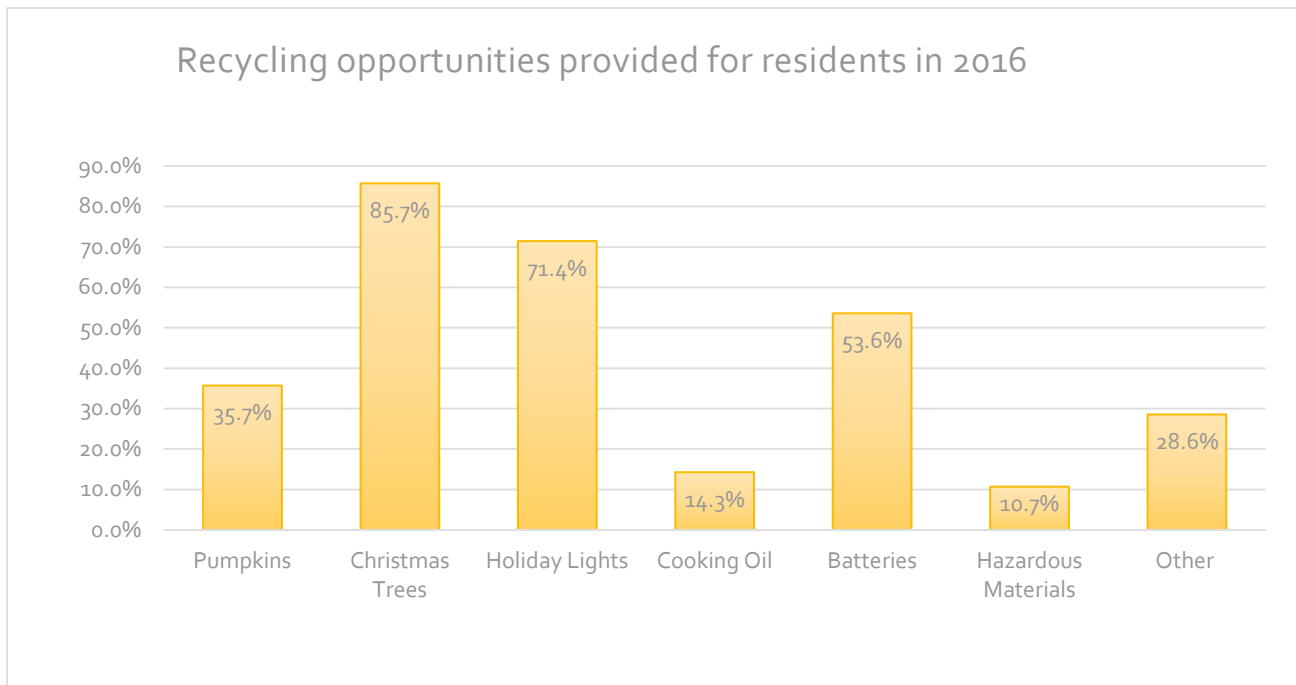


Figure 2: Special collection categories

ELECTRONICS

Since January 2012 residents are no longer permitted to dispose of 17 electronic items in Illinois landfills. These items must be recycled. While the Electronic Products Recycling and Reuse Act (“Act”) intended for manufacturers to fully fund the recycling, there have been many changes since the law’s inception. Supplemental funding from government or homeowners has become necessary to continue to operate a program that accepts all electronics and does not rely on government labor. The cost of recycling cathode ray tube devices has also increased and the valuable electronics can no longer make up the difference.



DuPage County continued to provide electronics recycling opportunities in 2016. The program was modified to a fee based program for the televisions and monitors which still accepting other devices at no charge. As of the date of the publication of this report, there were two monthly Saturday collection sites, Lisle and Wheaton, and two full-time week day sites, Burr Ridge and Naperville. Since the relaunch of the program in June, more than 370,000 pounds of electronics have been recycled through the program.

Incorporation of electronics collection into waste hauling contracts has seen an uptick and is expected to continue to grow as a popular add-on. In 2016, 15% of communities surveyed

provided a curbside pick-up of electronics. The future of electronics recycling is unclear as the County continues to search for viable solutions to improve access for all residents.

FOOD SCRAP COLLECTION

Food scrap collection has been gaining traction in DuPage County and the Chicagoland region. Organizations such as, the Illinois Food Scrap coalition (IFSC,) have assisted by educating and advocating for legislative policy that encourages food scrap collection with less regulation. Permit requirements for commercial food scrap composting were lowered in 2009, allowing for greater infrastructure in the State. Conditions were removed for urban farms and compost piles under 25 cubic yards in 2013. These facilities need only to register with the IEPA and follow local laws and regulations. In the most recent Illinois waste characterization study, food scraps made up 17.5% of the waste composition in landfilled municipal solid waste.² From 2008 to 2014 food scraps rose roughly 5% in the make-up of the waste stream.

Food scrap collection is commonly offered in conjunction with landscape waste collection. Ninety-six percent of communities provide landscape waste collection for their residents however only 3.7% offer food scrap curbside pickup. In 2016 two municipalities provided this service to their residents, with a third community offering this service in 2017. These programs are seasonal and can be vastly different from community to community. The potential to increase food scrap collection is present however, the industry infrastructure is in need of expansion to accommodate the growing need for composting sites.

CONTRACT DETAILS

Local government waste hauling contracts are not all the same. Most recently the City of Wheaton offered a new contract that charges for each tip of a waste or recycling bin. Most communities have moved to utilizing a cart for both recycling and waste and some include pricing on a per bag basis. Information is provided below on various contract differences between the responding government agencies.

Most communities, 53.6%, utilize Republic as their waste hauler. Waste Management was the second most popular hauler with service to 21.4% of respondents. Other waste haulers include; Flood Brothers, Allied Waste Services, Lakeshore Recycling Systems, Groot Industries, Inc., and Advanced Disposal. Ninety-six percent of respondents utilize carts in their waste and recycling program or a combination of carts and stickers are accepted. Only 3.6% solely utilize stickers. Senior citizen discounts were another distinct difference with 50% of respondents providing some type of discount and 50% not providing any type of special discount.

² 2015. Illinois Commodity/Waste generation and Characterization Study Update. Prepared by CDM Smith. Pg. 6.

Another elected service found in waste and recycling contracts was curbside service for bulk or white goods. White goods include, refrigerators, freezers or dehumidifiers and were provided a curbside pick-up service in 85.7% of contracts.

SUMMARY

DuPage County continues to be among the successful counties in the State achieving a 34% recycling rate for curbside residential collection. The rate has fluctuated but is aligned with State averages. Special events and other recycling programs increase the number but are difficult to quantify. The County is well above the State mandated 25%.

As the County continues to support recycling initiatives, the amount of waste being sent to landfills will continue to decrease.