



## DUPAGE COUNTY WASTE AND RECYCLING REPORT 2017



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 provide waste hauling services to households during the time frame January 1, 2017 – December 31, 2017. This data provides information on residential recycling and waste trends 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.

## 2017 WASTE AND RECYCLING DATA

DuPage County municipalities and townships 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 obligation in contracts, or upon request. Table 1 provides a summary of the responses received from the 2017 waste and recycling survey. Data from 29 communities was received and reviewed. The amount of refuse collected from the curb was aggregated and measured 264,676 tons. The curbside recycling reported totaled 103,964 tons with landscape waste reaching 38,828 tons. When added to the curbside collected. The total amount of recycled material was 142,792 tons. The total waste generated overall was 407,468 tons.

Number of municipalities included	Refuse collected in tons	Recycling collected in tons
29	264,676	103,964

Table 1: Curbside collected waste and recycling

A breakdown of each respondent is provided in Table 2. 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 35%. Five municipalities have a recycling rate over 40%. Out of those municipalities, Glen Ellyn comes in with the highest recycling rate at 43% and all communities exceeded the State goal of 25%.



Table 2 – Results of the 2017 Waste & Recycling Survey by Community

	REFUSE TONAGE	RECYCLED TONAGE	LANDSCAPE WASTE TONS	TOTAL RECYCLED	TOTAL WASTE	RECYCLING RATE
<b>ADDISON</b>	10270	2676	2299	4975	15245	33%
<b>BARTLETT</b>	13619	4241	1870	6111	19730	31%
<b>BATAVIA</b>	6204	3270	960	4230	10434	41%
<b>BENSENVILLE</b>	5683	1306	1098	2405	8087	30%
<b>BLOOMINGDALE</b>	5847	1948	614	2563	8410	30%
<b>CAROL STREAM</b>	6345	2300	1900	4200	10545	40%
<b>CLARENDON HILLS</b>	2283	1053	398	1451	3734	39%
<b>DARIEN</b>	4691	2449	717	3166	7857	40%
<b>DOWNERS GROVE</b>	11384	5630	1559	7190	18574	39%
<b>ELK GROVE VILLAGE</b>	10431	3865	1193	5058	15489	33%
<b>ELMHURST</b>	13119	6334	1624	7958	21077	38%
<b>GLEN ELLYN</b>	7182	3436	1890	5326	12508	43%
<b>GLENDALE HEIGHTS</b>	7999	1967	1117	3084	11083	28%
<b>HANOVER PARK</b>	27299	10919	1581	12501	39800	31%
<b>HINSDALE</b>	8765	3922	688	4610	13376	34%
<b>ITASCA</b>	3354	996	788	1785	5138	35%
<b>LEMONT</b>	7140	2021	1350	3371	10511	32%
<b>LISLE</b>	3909	2008	438	2447	6355	38%
<b>LOMBARD</b>	12033	4349	2113	6462	18495	35%
<b>NAPERVILLE</b>	37539	15649	6780	22429	59968	37%
<b>OAK BROOK</b>	3842	1290	109	1399	5241	27%
<b>ROSELLE</b>	7312	2347	1002	3349	10661	31%
<b>SCHAUMBURG</b>	19045	5955	3075	9030	28075	32%
<b>WARRENVILLE</b>	2191	1005	266	1271	3462	37%
<b>WEST CHICAGO</b>	5933	2820	633	3453	9386	37%
<b>WESTMONT</b>	4580	1883	584	2467	7047	35%
<b>WHEATON</b>	11649	6721	1561	8282	19931	42%
<b>WILLOWBROOK</b>	1009	527	34	560	1569	36%
<b>WOOD DALE</b>	4020	1074	585	1659	5679	29%
<b>TOTAL/AVERAGE</b>	<b>264,676</b>	<b>103,964</b>	<b>38,828</b>	<b>142,792</b>	<b>407,468</b>	<b>35%</b>



Recycling was faced with a significant challenge in 2017 as China, a primary recipient of U.S. recycling exports, tightened their regulations. The “National Sword” policy follows China’s “Green Fence,” a 10-month policy the country enacted five years ago to set initial standards for lower contamination levels in recyclables. This policy enacted January 1, 2018, bans 24 types of solid waste, including various plastics and unsorted mixed paper. It also decreases the margin of acceptable contamination in China imported recycling loads. Although not enacted in 2017, the projected roll-out of the policy did create uncertainty among haulers, residents and government entities.

On November 14, 2017, County staff attended the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency Recycling Forum. The forum addressed the prevalent contamination issues within recycling streams and the National Sword policy. Fifty-three attendees from private and public were present. A presentation at the forum by Greg Maxwell, Senior Vice President of Resource Management Companies, indicated that International Organization for Standardization, ISO certified recyclers were already bound to the lower contamination rates included in the National Sword policy. Therefore, there would be minimal impact on local Chicagoland area Material Recovery Facilities (MRFs.)

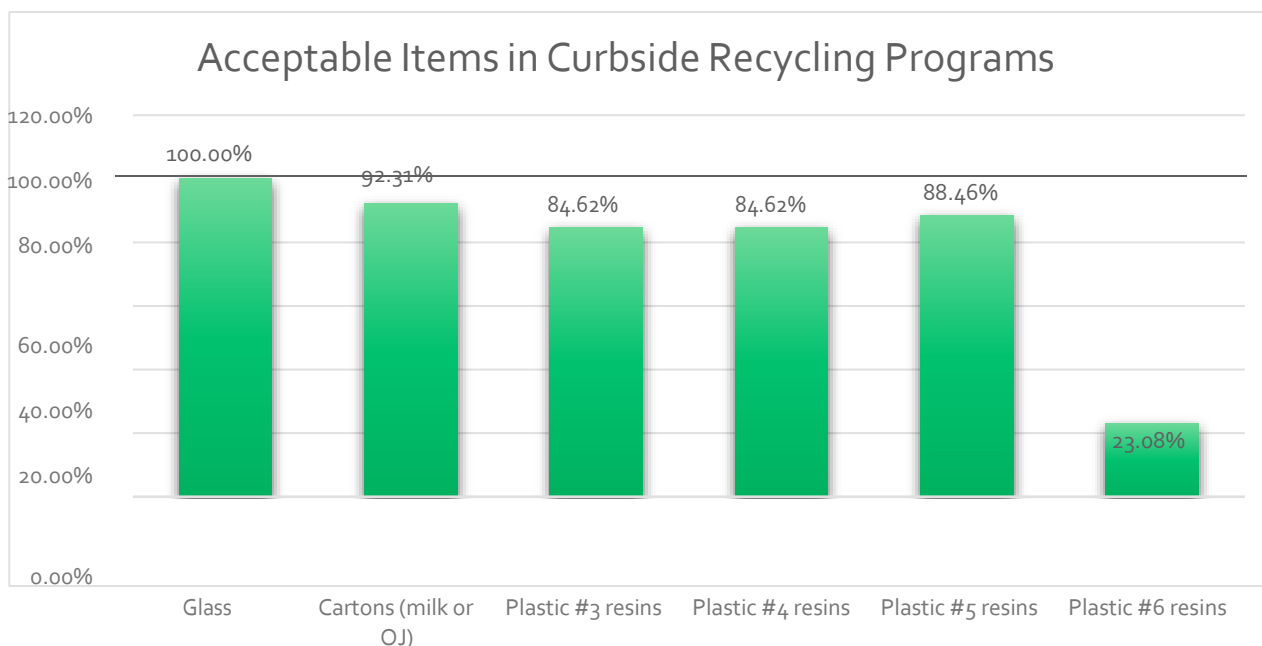


Figure 1: Accepted Curbside Recycling

Due to the multitude of material packaging, and differences in material acceptance between haulers and municipalities, contamination is a continual concern. In general, most communities collect glass, cartons and the majority of plastics #1-5. Six 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 southern and 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.



An average curbside recycling contamination rate has been estimated to be 20.7%<sup>1</sup>. Concentrated efforts have been put in place to assist with decreasing contamination. The County has produced a post card to indicate acceptable materials utilizing pictorial and written descriptions. In combination with outreach through the post card, staff developed a webpage to assist with correct and incorrect materials to recycle curbside.

Another challenge to recycling in DuPage County has been the closure of the Waste Management recycling facility in Carol Stream. The facility provided a free drop-off for traditional recyclable items including paper, cardboard, plastics and metal cans. It was open to all residents and businesses without residency restriction. Staff have been directing residents to sites in surrounding counties and encouraging residents to talk with their waste hauler for additional options.

## SPECIAL COLLECTIONS

In addition to curbside recycling collections, municipalities are supplying other opportunities to recycle specific commodity goods. These goods can vary and are prevented from being landfilled. The special collections result in larger volumes of a single item that is more valuable to a recycler. Figure 2 provides insight into the types of special collections occurring in municipalities and the number of respondent communities providing these services.

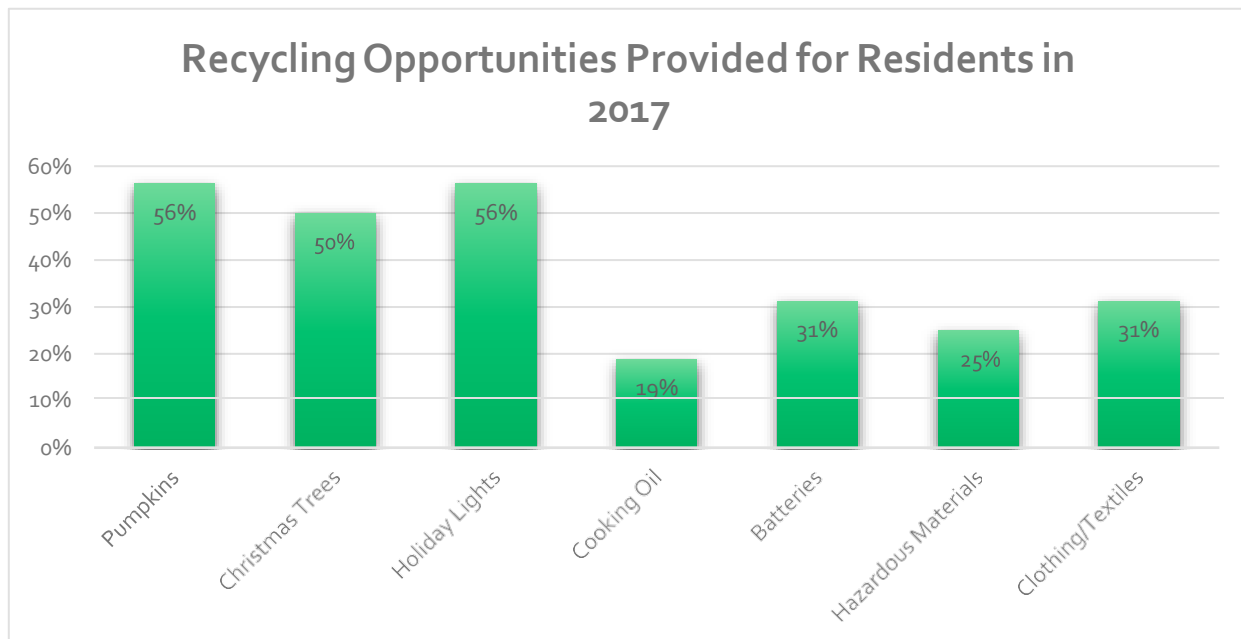


Figure 2: Percentage of respondent communities providing each type of recycling opportunity

<sup>1</sup> Maxwell, Greg – Resource Management, Illinois 2016. Email communication, April, 12.



Communities across DuPage have adopted one-day recycling events as well as seasonal collections for certain items. These collections include a vast array of items which are collected for recycling or reuse. With the change of Illinois laws overseeing collection of organic food scraps, many communities have hosted pumpkin collections. Not all entities were able to provide data on the amount collected for these individual or on-going collections, but those that did report metrics are included in the table below.

Location	Item	Amount collected
St. Mark’s Episcopal Church, Glen Ellyn	Pumpkins	7.3 tons
Village of Lisle	Pumpkins	1.98 tons
City of Elmhurst	Pumpkins	2.46 tons
Village of Addison	Pumpkins	1.0 ton
Village of Bartlett	Pumpkins	2 tons
City of West Chicago	Pumpkins	1.0 ton
Village of Carol Stream	Pumpkins	2.61 tons
Village of Carol Stream	Holiday Lights	1,446 lbs
Village of Lombard	Holiday Lights	1,400 lbs
Village of Roselle	Holiday Lights	50 lbs
City of West Chicago	Holiday Lights	662 lbs
City of Elmhurst	Cooking Oil	40 gallons
Village of Schaumburg	Cooking Oil	50 gallons
Village of Roselle	Alkaline Batteries	5,000 lbs
	Lead Acid Batteries	1,850 lbs
Roselle	Paint	900 gallons (5,200 lbs)
Lisle	Doc Shred	6,960 lbs
Carol Stream	Pharmaceuticals	1,150 lbs
Village of Lombard	Clothing/Textiles	500 lbs
Village of Schaumburg	Clothing/Textiles	2,587 lbs
Village of Carol Stream	Electronics	17,000 lbs
<b>TOTAL</b>		<b>40.55 tons</b>

Table 3: Metrics from individual events of respondent communities



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## ELECTRONICS

The County continued its partnership with four municipalities (Burr Ridge, Lisle, Naperville & Wheaton) to collect and recycle electronics generated by residents. An additional drop off was secured at the vendor's Elk Grove location.

The collection sites took in more than 1.3 million pounds of electronics over the year. Several one-day events were held collecting an additional 35,809 pounds.



There are other locations not hosted by the County that collect electronics as well. These are publicized on the County's website as permitted. The programs vary in format. Some are drop offs with costs included in waste hauling fees and others choose to pay the fee for recycling on behalf of residents. Downers Grove Township operates a collection similar in design to the County's program utilizing a user fee.

In 2017, the Illinois General Assembly adopted the Consumer Electronics Recycling Act (CERA) a revised program for the collection and recycling of electronics. The legislation requires that counties must opt-in to a manufacturer sponsored program. DuPage County Board approved Resolution EN-R-0060 which approved the County's participation in the program beginning January 1, 2019. The County anticipates the format of the collection sites will be similar.

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## FOOD SCRAP COLLECTION

Food scrap collection continues to gain traction in DuPage County and the Chicagoland region. DuPage County again participated in the Illinois Food Scrap Coalition (IFSC) a statewide collaborative working to divert food scraps from entering Illinois landfills. Staff held an executive board position and sponsored the Coalition as a silver level partner. Following on the heels of the Food Scrap Composting Challenges and Solutions in Illinois Report that was released in 2016; IFSC in collaboration with Seven Generations Ahead, held the first annual Illinois Soil, Food, Water, and Composting Summit. The Summit was attended by over 200 participants from across the state. The Summit provided a glimpse into unique projects and program throughout Illinois that create a more sustainable framework for the circular loop of food production through use to end product recycling.

Communities are increasingly interested in providing the option for curbside food scrap collection however, participation remains relatively low where the service is offered. In 2017 three communities provided this service to their residents: City of Wheaton, Village of Glen Ellyn, City of Naperville and the Village of Schaumburg. In 2018, the Village of Lombard, the City of Elmhurst and Village of Downers Grove have added the service.





## CONTRACT DETAILS

As part of this Annual Report, hauling contracts are reviewed for similarities and differences. The majority of 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. In 2017 Republic Services held 52% of the contracts of communities that responded. Waste Management held 19% with Flood Brothers, Groot Industries, Advanced Disposal and Lakeshore Recycling each holding at least one community contract.

Contracts between communities and a waste hauler can incorporate several additional options. Fifty-two percent of respondents provided a senior citizen discount and 15% 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 15% offered the service with exceptions as to the size of the complex. Dense housing tended to be the exception for most contracts.

Additional elected services found in waste and recycling contracts included white good pick-ups. White goods include, refrigerators, freezers or dehumidifiers and were provided a curbside pick-up service in 85% 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 35%.

Refuse (tons)	Curbside Recycling (tons)	Curbside Landscape Waste (tons)	Special Collections (tons)	DuPage County Electronics Recycling (tons)	Latex Paint (tons)
264,676	103,964	38,828	40.55	663	20.4

Table 4: Tonnage of all recycled goods accounted for by survey responses

