



RecycleSmart
WWW.RECYCLESMART.INFO

Resource Recovery Department 2018 Annual Solid Waste Report

Prepared By:

David Schaffer, Manager

Grand Traverse County Resource Recovery Department
2650 Lafranier Road, Traverse City, MI 49686



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 45%.

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 dump site 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 Recycling Directory 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.

Operation 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.

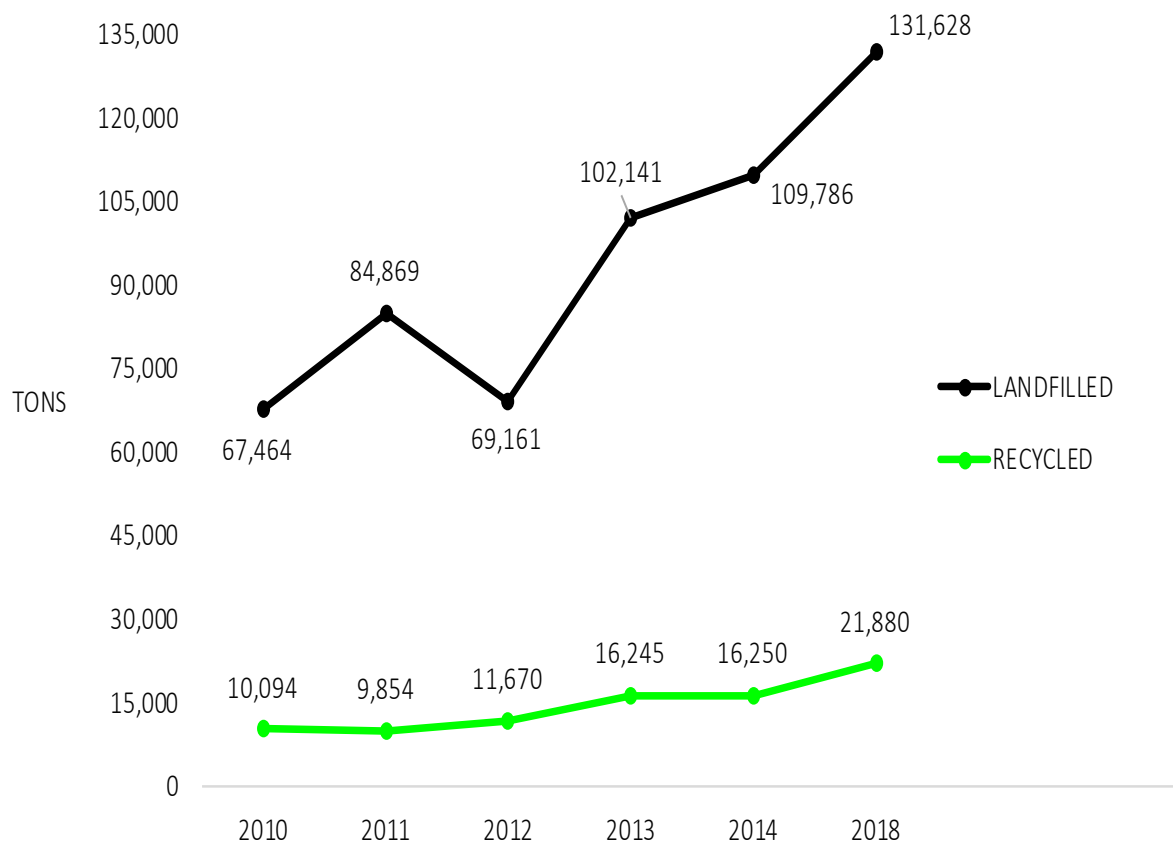
Supporting the waste diversion efforts of community partners including businesses, organizations, municipal bodies and commercial waste and recycling operations.



Landfill vs. Recycling

According to data provided in the MDEQ Annual Report of Solid Waste Landfilled in Michigan, Grand Traverse County landfilled 131,628 tons in 2018. Based on data gathered from the Grand Traverse County Designated Facilities, Special Collections and Drop Off sites, 21,880 Tons of material were diverted from the landfill in 2018.

Tons Landfilled vs. Tons Recycled For 2010 to 2018 at Grand Traverse County Designated Facilities & Drop-Off Sites*



*Recycling volume does not include commercial/industrial businesses that engage in back hauling of recyclable material 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 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.

County Ordinance No. 17 requires all waste haulers and designated facilities that manage waste generated in Grand Traverse County to provide quarterly reports. The diversion rate calculations made by Grand Traverse County for 2018 used only data from the County Designated Recycling and Disposal Facility reports, Keystone Brush Site volumes, Household Hazardous Waste collection volumes and the MDEQ Solid Waste Landfill Report. The diversion rate based on the data provided for 2018 is 16.6%.

Data from Grand Traverse County commercial/industrial businesses that engage in back hauling of recyclable material or otherwise operate outside the County reporting structure such as the bottle deposit law, “in house” cardboard programs and area composting efforts were reported to be used to help determine the overall county recycling rate in 2006, 2010 and 2014. Based on past averages, these efforts will result in an additional 23.5 Tons of material for a 34% overall diversion rate from the landfill.

A study completed for the State of Michigan found that the overall diversion rate for Michigan was just 15.5%, 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 material sent by Michigan households to landfills every year is \$435 million. This lost economic value has helped drive the Governors “Renew Michigan Initiative” that will provide state funding to help increase resource recovery in Michigan. The State of Michigan recycling rate goal is 45%.

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 2018 Rate = 34% GTC GOAL = 50%



HHW & Battery Programs

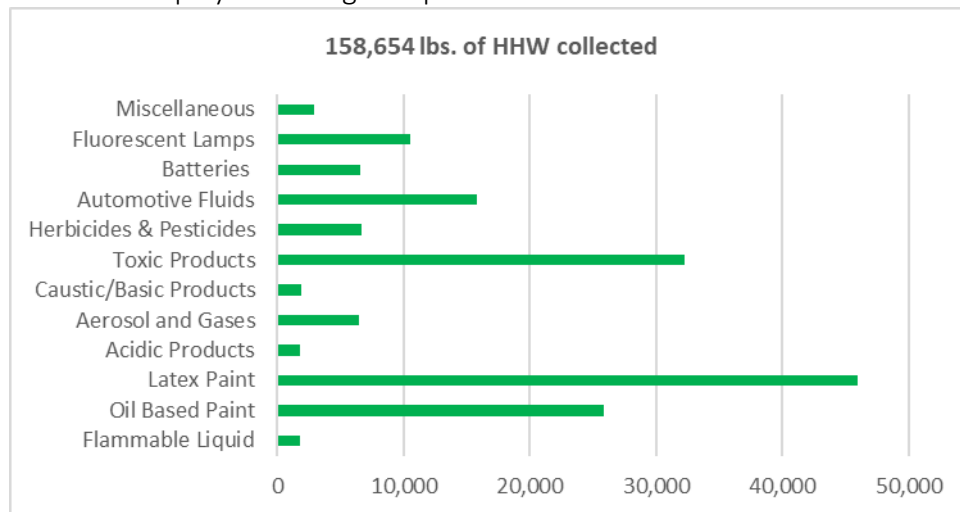
HOUSEHOLD HAZARDOUS WASTE COLLECTION EVENTS

The Resource Recovery Department held five Household Hazardous Waste Collection Events during 2018, drawing over 1000 participants. Residents, small businesses, schools, churches and non-profit organizations dropped off a total of 158,654 pounds (over 79 tons) of hazardous material for safe and environmentally appropriate recycling or 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. After grants, donations by participants and charges for volumes over 150 pounds, the remaining expense is funded by the landfill surcharge charged on each ton of waste landfilled.

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

The chart displays the weight in pounds collected at the 2018 HHW events.



HOUSEHOLD BATTERY DROP-OFF LOCATIONS



The Resource Recovery Department maintains several public battery drop-off bins at municipal locations throughout the County. During 2018, residents dropped off over 16,000 pounds of household batteries for recycling, keeping heavy metals such as lithium from the landfill.



Community Outreach

WEBSITE, HOTLINE & E-NEWSLETTER

The RecycleSmart website, hotline and the Take It Back Directory continue to be very popular resources for residents of Grand Traverse County. There were 3,300 calls to the RecycleSmart hotline during 2018 and the Take it Back directory received 14,348 material searches from residents looking for recycling information and solutions for hard to get rid of items.

The Resource Recovery Department publishes a monthly e-newsletter providing information about upcoming events and the latest recycling resources available in Grand Traverse County. The newsletter fluctuates around 2,500 subscribers.

COMMUNITY EVENTS

2018 community events offered by RecycleSmart included the 2nd annual Earth Day Celebration and a Clean Out Your Files Week in downtown Traverse City. We also participated in business expos and other social outreach opportunities.

The Resource Recovery Department 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 SITE CLEANUP

Throughout 2018, the department worked with staff from the Michigan Department of Natural Resources Clean Forests Program and the Boardman River Clean Sweep group to locate and clean illegal dump sites and to support clean ups undertaken by individual residents. Grand Traverse County ended the year as one of Michigan's 'cleanest' counties.





Department Finances

RESOURCE RECOVERY FINANCIAL REPORT

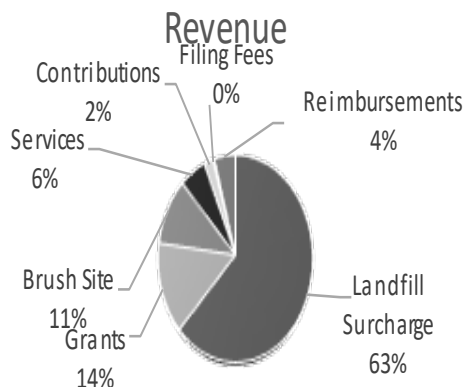
The Resource Recovery Department is funded by a \$1.50 per ton landfill surcharge (set by the County Board of Commissioners) which is a fee levied on each ton of solid waste generated in Grand Traverse County that is sent to landfill.

REVENUE

Landfill Surcharge	\$ 197,431
Grants	\$ 44,927
Brush Drop-Off Fees	\$ 33,893
Charges for Services	\$ 17,631
Contributions	\$ 6,020
Filing Fees	\$ 1,150
Reimbursements	\$ <u>14,391</u>
Total	\$ <u>315,444</u>

EXPENDITURE

Administration	\$ 65,318.44
Contractual Services	\$ 133,030.22
HHW Collections	\$ 103,949.43
Commodities	\$ 4,072.73
Other Charges	\$ <u>5,478.50</u>
Total	\$ <u>311,849.00</u>



FUNDED DEPARTMENT SERVICES:

Recycling Information

RecycleSmart website, Take it Back directory, hotline, 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, workshops, community recycling presentations.

Business Community Support

Solid waste/recycling support services, downtown recycling.

Community Events & Outreach

Earth Day Events, Illegal Dumpsite cleanup, Business Expo

Solid Waste Administration

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

