

RECYCLING SURVEY

State Name: Michigan
Agency Name: Department of Environmental Quality
Contact Name
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1. Please indicate whether recycling of household or residential recyclables is mandatory, voluntary or perhaps both (mandatory for some materials and voluntary for others) in your state.

The State of Michigan does not require residents to recycle. Over the past 20 years, the state has provided grants to communities, funded through voter-passed bonds, to set up and expand recycling programs.

2. Is there a State Law(s) that mandates, encourages, or otherwise facilitates the recycling system or programs in your state and what is the reference for that section of your state code?

The State Solid Waste Planning process, Section 11539a of part 115, PA 451 of 1994, requires each county to submit a report to the state every five years identifying the solid waste capacity for the county. Information about recycling in the county is part of the report.

3. Does your state law (or other directive) mandate, encourage or otherwise specify a state goal for the rate of recycling or diversion (e.g. percentage of overall waste stream, etc.) If so, what is the statutory reference?

In 1988, the State Solid Waste Policy identified solid waste management goals as follows: By 2005 Waste to Energy, 40%; Recycle, 25%; Compost, 10%; Source Reduction, 10%; Reuse 5%. These goals have not been revised and a measurement system was never implemented.

4. Please indicate how your state measures recycling rates? (Are there reporting requirements? who reports and how frequently?) What wastes are captured in the measurement of your recycling/diversion rate? (e.g. residential garbage? yard waste? commercial and industrial wastes? Waste tires? white goods? automobiles? etc?).

Michigan has not reporting requirements for recycling. In 2001, the Michigan Recycling Coalition published a report that indicated the state's recycling rate was 20%, based on 1999 figures. www.michiganrecycles.org

Household recyclables were measured in the study.

5. What association does commercial, institutional, and industrial recycling have with the household or residential recycling in your state? Are recycling activities from these sectors factored into your overall state recycling rate?

For over a decade, Michigan Department of Environmental Quality staff have promoted pollution prevention especially in its regulatory activities. Pollution prevention in Michigan includes recycling with the result that technical assistance has been provided to the industrial sector to help them prevent pollution. Over the past 20 years, resources have been inconsistent when promoting residential recycling. During two periods of grant programs, residential recycling was a high priority with the Department with many staff and resources devoted to its support. It has been only recently that dedicated resources and staff have been focused on supporting and promoting residential recycling state-wide. We currently have no dedicated grant program to support development and expansion of residential recycling efforts.

6. What is your most recently measured rate of recycling or diversion for your state? (Please indicate the time frame for this measurement. e.g. calendar year, fiscal year, etc.)

20% based on 1999 figures.

Report available on-line at http://www.michiganrecycles.org/a_projects_measure.shtml

7. What are the most commonly employed systems in your state for collecting residential recyclables? Are different sized communities required or encouraged to meet a certain standard of recycling services?

Curbside and drop-off programs are used throughout Michigan. Some communities have government-run programs, others are offered subscription services by private haulers.

No.

8. Do you have rural communities in your state that have developed and are maintaining successful residential recycling programs? What type of "system" are these successful communities employing?

Yes.

Rural areas primarily use drop-offs, materials recovery facilities and transfer stations with curbside programs available in urban areas. There is no standard program.

9. What incentives (grants, loans, tax incentives, etc.) are offered in your state for recycling and to whom are these incentives available? (state government, local governments, private companies, universities and institutions, etc.) How are these grants or loans funded?

Clean Michigan Fund provided over \$1 million in grants to promote recycling and provide up start up funding in the mid-1980's. The Solid Waste Alternatives Program was another bond funded program available in the late 1980's through the early 1990's that provided over \$100

million in grants to communities for recycling programs. There is no current state grant program to support recycling.

10. Does your agency or state have a "recycling program," In what agency is the program housed and how many full time employees are dedicated to recycling program activities?

In 1988, several recycling mandates were passed including a state office paper recycling program. Over the years the recycling operations have been contracted out and been operated internally. Currently the recycling operation is contracted out with oversight being shared by the Departments of Management and Budget and Environmental Quality. No full time FTE's are dedicated to the program however several staff in both Departments have responsibilities associated with the program. The mandate can be viewed at <http://www.michiganlegislature.org/mileg.asp?page=getObject&objName=mcl-324-16502>