

RECYCLING SURVEY

State Name: West Virginia

Agency Name: West Virginia Division of Natural Resources
Environmental Resources Section

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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.

Recycling is mandated for cities and municipalities with populations of 10,000 or more, they must implement a curbside recycling program that collects at least three different items. Other cities, municipalities and counties may vote to require recycling by the residents and many have.

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?

Yes, the section of our Code that defines our recycling program is §20-11-1 through §20-11-12 of the West Virginia Natural Resources Laws. This section mandates recycling in cities with populations of 10,000 or more and provides for incentives and penalties to be implemented for non compliance.

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?

Yes, §20-11-3 set our goals. The current goal is the reduction by 30% of the per capita solid waste disposal rate of 1991. Recycling is encouraged and supported by an assessment fee of \$1.00 levied on each ton of solid waste landfilled in West Virginia landfills.

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?).

We send surveys each year to the major end users of recycled material to determine the total amount recycled and compare that amount to the amount land filled to calculate the recycling rate. And of course, the results are a reflection of how accurate and comprehensive the information is that we receive from the surveys.

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?

Our recycling rate includes all sources in our calculations.

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.)

Our goals are defined in terms of the reduction in the per capita solid waste disposal rate. Our latest rate for FY2002, is 2.92 lbs per person per day which is a 41% reduction in our baseline value.

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?

Drop off centers have the edge for collecting the most material. Most areas of West Virginia do not have collection service and the only option available to them is a drop off center. Curbside collection is provided by the larger cities that can afford to provide the service. The only requirement relating to size is for populations of 10,000 or more, any other requirements may be imposed by individual cities and municipalities if they choose to do so.

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, we do have some small rural communities that I consider as having successful programs. I evaluate a program's success by how sustainable it is. The most successful programs are the drop offs.

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?

The West Virginia Recycling Assistance Grant Program provides grants to support recycling. The program is funded by a tipping fee collected on each ton of solid waste land filled in state landfills. These grants are available for all recycling entities in the state.

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?

The West Virginia Solid Waste Management Board is responsible for developing a comprehensive solid waste management plan for the state. Each county solid waste authority is responsible for developing county solid waste management plans. There three major governmental units that have a role in recycling. There is the Division of Environmental Protection which is the regulatory and enforcement agency. There is the Solid Waste Management Board which develops solid waste management plans and assists in market development and e-cycling activities. All other recycling activities are conducted by the Environmental Resources Section which consists of 5 employees and administers the Recycling Assistance Grant Program and provides environmental education programs.