

Waukesha County Recycling Program

Materials Recovery Facility (MRF) Summary (2017 Update)

History

Since 1991, the County has served as the Responsible Unit (RU) for recycling under Wisconsin law, including the processing of recyclables collected for partner municipalities at a county-owned MRF. The recycling program currently represents 27 communities (map on back) serving a population of approximately 290,000 (104,000 households). In addition to operating an effective recycling program as the RU, the County also administers programs for the collection and processing of household hazardous waste, yard waste, and electronics.

When MRF processing equipment needed replacement/upgrade in the late 2000's, years of studies resulted in the County entering into a 15-year intergovernmental agreement (IGA) with the City of Milwaukee in 2014. The IGA committed the City/County to jointly build a state-of-the-art single sort MRF in a City-owned building in the Menomonee Valley (site of previous City-owned MRF). The Joint MRF vastly improved the return on investment for both the City and County, improved recycling rates, and offered municipal partners the opportunity to save over \$4.5 million each year by automating recyclable collection.

Contracts

Contracts were executed with a private company, ReCommunity Recycling (acquired by Republic Services in 2017), to design, build and operate the Joint MRF. The combined capital costs for the facility retrofit and new equipment totaled \$14 million. This 75,000 square foot facility can process 35 tons of recyclables per hour (over 66,000 total tons in 2017).

The ReCommunity operating contract term is 10-years, with a 5-year extension option. A financial assurance of 1-year operating costs is held. In addition, a third-party contract was executed with Advanced Disposal Services for 15,000 tons/year to maximize facility capacity for a full 8-hour shift and reduce processing fees for the City/County.

The County/City retain 80% revenue from the sale of their respective recyclable tons delivered to the Joint MRF, which is prorated based on the tested composition of the material. The City/County also retain host fees and revenue share from third party tons, pay approximately \$31/ton processing fee, and pay all residue disposal costs. All parties generally contribute \$4.50/ton to an Equipment Repair/Replacement Fund (ERF), which is administered jointly by the City/County.

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Intergovernmental Cooperation



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Sustainability



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Education





Facility Performance Standards & Compliance

The Operating Contract includes strict performance standards and compliance measures, such as:

Performance Standard	Compliance Measure
35 Ton/Hour Processing	Performance Report (monthly)
Capture 98.5% of Recyclables	Residue Analysis (monthly)
Product Quality	Recoverable Materials Analysis

The County/City Representatives (CCR) hold monthly meetings to oversee operations and approve daily, monthly, quarterly and annual reports/documentation including:

1. Tonnage (daily and monthly)
2. Operating, Marketing and Sales (all revenue/expense)
3. Mass balance analysis to account for all tons delivered
4. Operation and Maintenance Plan
5. Testing and Delivery Protocols
6. Safety, Training and Personnel
7. Equipment Maintenance

Program Summary (2015-2017)

Tonnage: From 2014 to 2017 recyclable tonnage from municipal partners went up 44%, not including tonnage from two new partners in 2016 – the City of Muskego & Town of Vernon. This far exceeded the project goal of a 25% increase.

Cost Savings: Automating collection and countywide bidding saved municipalities over \$4 million in collection costs/year. The increased recycling rates also resulted in a 13% reduction in landfill tonnage/costs – another \$500,000/year savings.

Net Revenues: As shown in the chart to the right, average commodity revenues (ACR) increased from \$82/ton in 2015 to \$110/ton in 2017 (the 10-year average). Net revenue increased from \$0.6 million in 2015 to \$1.4 million in 2017, not including state grants.

Community Dividends: Annual dividend payments to municipal partners increased from \$1.5 million in 2015 to \$1.7 million in 2017 due to two new municipal partners in 2016. Over \$15 million has been distributed to recycling partners since 2001.

Recycling Program Community Partners

