

Emmet County
Department of Public Works

The Whole Works 2021

Annual Report to the Emmet County Board of Commissioners from the Emmet County DPW Board & Staff

Essential Workers & EGLE Grants



HIGHLIGHTS

Strong Markets!
County Employees Up, Productivity Up

The Fate of Mount Brushmore
Quality-Improvement Grant Gallery

Recycling



**MRF Sort
Productivity Up
25%**

from 4.3 hours per ton to 3.2 hours per ton!
Kudos to Superintendent Wendy Fought and
the whole processing team!



No one who hosts public recycling drop sites will be surprised that we found a lamp in this sample during our MRF audit. —This despite metal items accepted at our remote drop sites being limited to cans, jar lids, foil, and foil trays

Quality Improvement Grant A Success!

Educational and site-improvement activities aimed at reducing contamination in drop-site recycling continued into 2021. This exceptional project, funded by EGLE and managed by The Recycling Partnership, encompassed a huge variety of quality improvement measures from a social media campaign to repainting bins. Contamination was measured before and after the activities were implemented and the results were impressive:

reduction in contamination **11%**
increase in avg value per ton **\$47**



In 2021 we again clearly raised our standard of keeping our Recycling Drop Sites cleaned up, even through Christmas! Henry Hoffman (inset)—who volunteered hundreds of hours on this job—was a big part of this accomplishment. Thank you, Henry!

Total tons Recycled

11,127

Curbside Pick Ups

162,345



We are excited to be involved in EGLE's NextCycle Michigan program which is off to an impressive start on its mission to build a robust circular economy for the state using grants, partnerships, and technical support.

NEXTCYCLE MICHIGAN'S SIX TRACKS

- FLOWS* Foods, Liquids & Organic Waste Systems
- I2P3* Intergovernmental Initiatives and Public Private Partnerships
- MICROS⁵ Smaller grants for a wide variety of projects
- RIT Recycling Innovation & Technology
- ROADS* Road-related projects
- RSC Recycling Supply Chains

* Emmet County DPW staff serve as advisors for these tracks
\$ Emmet County DPW is a grantee in this track

Improving our Infrastructure



Trucks: Equipment shortages were a main theme of 2021 so we felt lucky to order AND receive a new curbside recycling truck—shown here with driver Grady Smyley—this year.



Storage: These new-to-us shipping containers are providing clean, dry storage, replacing decrepit semi-trailers we previously used.

ALSO

See our new-to-us Food Scraps Truck and dedicated Loader for our Compost Operation in the Organics Section!

Recycling

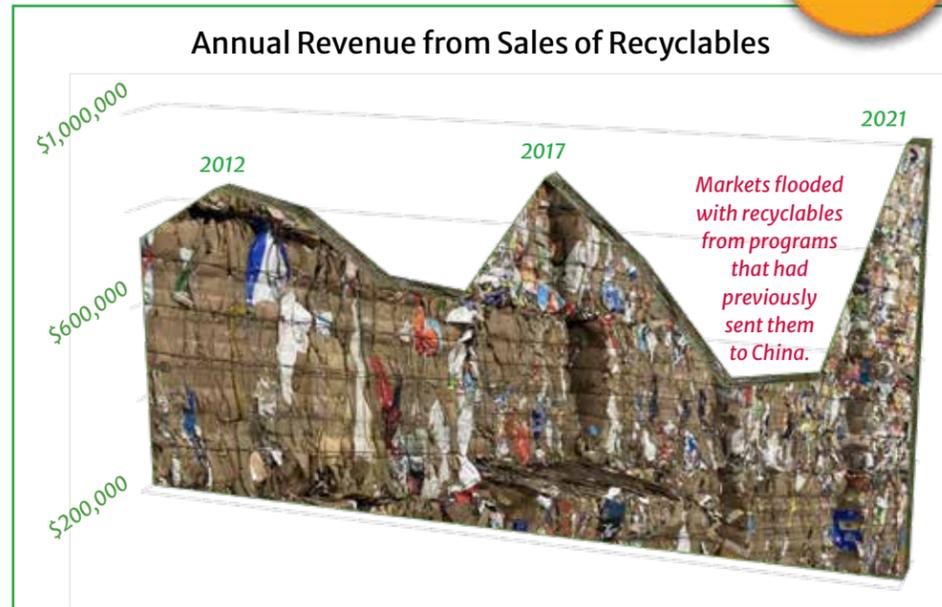
Great Markets for Recyclables!

2021 brought recyclables-market levels that we have not seen since 2017. In 2020, our revenue from selling recyclables was \$572,000; in 2021, it was \$1,127,596!

- Contributing to this trend were
- impaired supply chains which highlighted the importance of recycled feed stocks, and
 - increased demand as many brands incorporated more recycled-content into products and packaging due to heightened environmental concerns.

Cardboard values were a huge part of these great numbers. With its value peaking at a multi-year high over \$200 per ton, we brought in \$379,000 in cardboard sales alone!

Another standout was the value of “natural” HDPE (milk jugs, for example), which hit a record high of \$2,260 per ton in late summer. Unheard of!



Market News

Relationships & Persistence Solve Market Challenges



CHALLENGES

- Low revenue per ton
- Irregular pickup of loads

SOLUTIONS

#1-7 Mixed Plastics

New Market: EFS Plastics

Met new market via

- Michigan Recycling Coalition
- EGLE (formerly Michigan DEQ)
- Alpena Recycling

Scrap Metal

New Market: Padnos

Long-familiar with new market via

- Michigan Recycling Coalition

Kudos to our Lindsey Walker for her networking and persistence!



Retrievers Recycling!



EGLE/TRP Quality Grant



Top: The masthead of our new e-newsletter template, created under our EGLE Quality Improvement Grant.
Above: Director Andi Tolzdorf's puppy, Waylon, is into recycling.
Below: A customer's Golden shows off an on-trend bandana.



Hazardous Waste

3 Household Chemical Drop-off Events

522 Appointments

47,951 Pounds Collected at Events

77,720

Pounds via Year-Round Collection Area at Pleasantview Road Facility includes motor oil, oil filters, antifreeze, batteries and fluorescent and LED light bulbs



Jayna Steffel, Nathan Steffel*, Andi Tolzdorf, Cassidy Howard* and Lindsey Walker relax a minute after our July Household Chemical Drop-off event. *Volunteers (Thanks again you two!)

Donate!

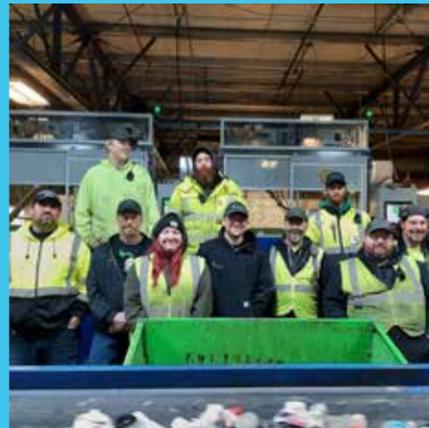
Suggested: \$10/vehicle
Our Avg. Cost: \$80/vehicle

Thank you!

Starting in 2020 we more actively requested donations including on our program handouts and webpage, in our ads and e-mail appointment confirmation, with the sign above, and in person when customers check in at the events. Generous 2021 Household Chemical Drop-off customers responded with a record \$3,098 in donations.

Recycler of the Year Award 2021 Recognizes That Our Staff Is Always Essential

- Essential to public health & safety • Essential to Michigan supply chains • Essential to preserving wildlife habitat • Essential to conserving resources
- Essential to preventing pollution • Essential to reducing climate change • Essential to saving energy • Essential to reducing the need to expand landfills
- Essential to saving millions in landfilling costs • Essential to keeping that money local • Essential to community pride!



Recycle Processors

rear from left:
Eric Franklin,
Zack Elya, and Jaime Pethers

front from left:
John Delis, Gary Moyer,
Molly Zoerhof, Kelsey Boda,
Michael Williams,
Adam Morey, Justin "Shrew"
Pethers-Clear



Curbside Recycling Drivers

from left:
Lauri Robinson
Grady Smyley

not pictured:
Jon Zoerhof



Drop-site Recycling Drivers

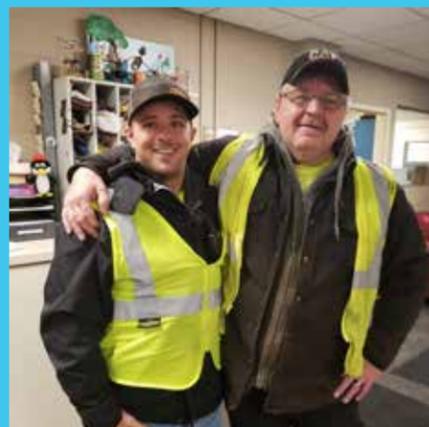
from left:
Harold Evans
Earl Marshall

Other Personnel (not pictured:)
Andi Tolzdorf
Wendy Fought
Josh Brubacher
Kate Melby
Lindsey Walker
Jayna Steffel
Ashley Bur



Gatehouse/Transfer Station Attendants

from left:
Russ Schwartz
Roger Duffiney
John Harrington



Gatehouse/Transfer Station Attendants

from left:
Nate Hopkins
Mark Freske



Not convinced yet?

Talk to someone from one of the many communities around the state and the nation where garbage and recyclables went uncollected for weeks because haulers didn't have enough staff! Or to manufacturers short on materials due to international supply-chain hang ups.



New Employees

1 replaced a county employee who moved

4 promoted to county employees*

3 new hires for new county employee positions

Offering new county positions solved our bit of the national labor shortage *and fast*: all of the new hires were referred by current employees!

Adam* John Eric* Shrew*



Kelsey* Molly Russ

Public Works Board 2021



Township Representatives
Dennis Keiser, *Chair*
William Dohm, *Vice Chair*

At-Large
Doug Fuller

County Commissioners
Dave Bachelor (*New, pictured*)
Charlie MacInnis

Drain Commissioner
Arden Bawkey

Road Commission Appointee
Mark Hoffman (*New, not pictured*)

Drop-off Center

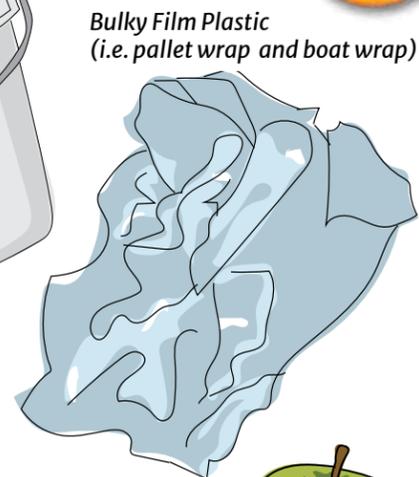


This beautiful new map of our Pleasantview Road Drop-off Center was developed for us by Kecia Freed as part of a major overhaul of our Recycling Guide aimed at improving the quality of incoming recyclables containers.

Debuting in the New Guide



Plastic Buckets and Totes



Bulky Film Plastic (i.e. pallet wrap and boat wrap)



Yard waste and food scraps for composting



We added an additional Gatehouse/Transfer Station Attendant position in 2021 for the first time in a decade, after a nearly 30% increase in paid transactions. Inset: new attendant Russ Schwartz.

2011 53,704 paid transactions* average 150/day
2021 75,869 paid transactions* average 221/day up 1,786* over 2020

*Not including interactions with customer not paying fees.



Cross Village Township
Anytime Cleanup Voucher

Good for disposal of
one cubic yard of bulky waste
or bulky recyclables of equivalent value (\$30)

AT: The Emmet County Drop-off Center (7363 S. Pleasantview Rd)
HOURS: 8AM to 4PM WEEKDAYS & 8AM to 3PM SATURDAYS
VALUE: If your total exceeds \$30, you will be charged the difference.

- Good for disposal of bulky waste ONLY: no ordinary garbage.
- Expires June 30, 2022 • Not redeemable for cash • Not transferable
- Proof of residency is required when dumping.
- Hazardous waste accepted by appointment only. Call 231-348-0640.

Please complete before use

Name

Address

Phone

Three More Communities Offer Residents Clean-Up Vouchers

- Cross Village Township
- Pleasantview Township, and
- Readmond Township joined
- Bear Creek Township (2005 to present)
- Resort Township (2005 to present)
- Friendship Township (2006 to 2009)
- Springvale Township (2016 to present), and
- Tuscarora Township (2011 to present)

Waste



"Other plastics don't belong" in recycling bins was the top message of our quality improvement project and we used the above graphic. Plastics which aren't recyclable belong in the garbage at the Waste Transfer Station, headed to the landfill.

Waste Transfer Station VOLUME

130,120 Yards Incoming
Up 4.3% over 2020



Organics



Partnership Promotes Compost

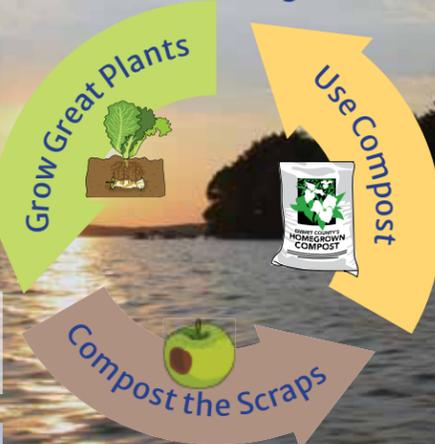
Healthy Soils for Healthy Lakes

Growing with Compost

- Helps nourish plants
- Decreases need for fertilizers and pesticides
- Improves soil's ability to retain water
- Reduces stormwater and chemical runoff into rivers and lakes
- Reduces erosion

Composting

- Cuts methane (GHG) emissions from landfills
- Sequesters carbon





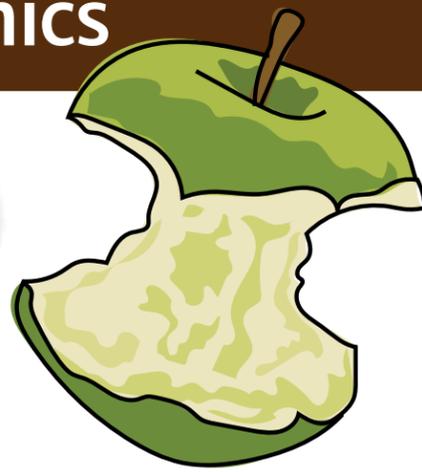


Top: Permanent sign at Pleasantview Drop-off Center (PDOC)
Middle: Free compost give away to households at PDOC
Bottom: City of Petoskey road work incorporated compost



Organics

EGLE Infrastructure Grant



Dedicated Organics-Management Infrastructure Funded By EGLE/Renew Michigan



This used hooklift truck replaced our previous food-scrap collection truck which had over 500,00 miles on it!



Our "new" organics loader is also used, but prevents delays in compost windrow management due to competing with recycling and waste transfer for loader time.

The Tale of Mt. Brushmore

Market News



Staffers Wendy Fought, Josh Brubacher and Lindsey Walker confronted an estimated 11,000 cubic yards of storm debris.

A severe storm on July 18, 2020 resulted in delivery of an estimated 11,000 cubic yards of brush to our compost facility. The cost to grind this for landscape mulch—estimated at an unmanageable \$60,000—and limited markets for such mulch meant we needed an alternative management strategy. With a lot of relationship building by Lindsey Walker, we were able to find a company to come grind the brush and haul the chips to CMS Energy's biomass-fueled Grayling Generating Station at less than half the cost.



The grinding operation.



Tandem loads of chips were hauled to Grayling as the grinding progressed, leaving just this hill as grinding wound down.

EGLE Quality-Improvement Grant

Keep them separated.

Emmet County Recycling
231-348-0640
EmmetRecycling.org

Supported by: EGLE THE RECYCLING PARTNERSHIP

Containers	Paper, Boxes & Bags
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Corrugs & Paper Cups Plastic Containers Glass Bottles & Jars Metal Cans, Lids & Foil 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Plastic Bags, Bagged Cardboard Papers & Publications Shredded Paper, Bagged

Other Plastics Don't Belong

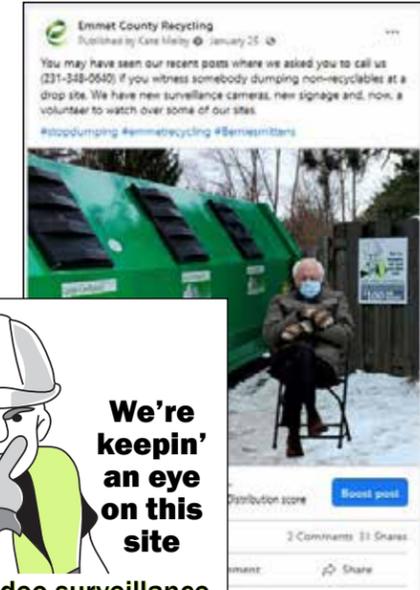
NO:

- NO tissues or paper towels
- NO non-container metal or glass
- NO sharps
- NO foam

Fridge magnet

Improving the quality of recyclables coming in from public drop-off sites isn't accomplished with a one off; not in one medium, not with one message, not with one placement, not one time, or for just one year, and not even by education alone; systems and infrastructure are central too.

These are more of the assets EGLE and The Recycling Partnership supported us in developing and distributing under our quality improvement grant.



We're keepin' an eye on this site

with video surveillance

Abusers of this site will be assessed our hauling and disposal costs and a fine of **\$100 OR MORE**

Social media & site signage

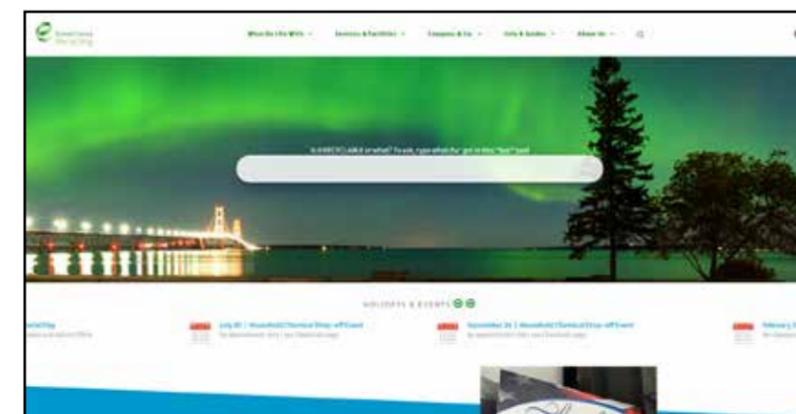


Bags deliver message via multifamily outreach

EGLE/TRP Quality Grant



Tour video



Website refresh

Try our game!



Financials

2021 REVENUES

RECYCLING PROGRAMS

Sale of Materials	\$1,127,596.19
Curbside Recycling	\$436,102.44
Out-of-County Fees	\$373,179.01
Drop-off Center For-Fee Recycling	\$175,899.20
Compost, Mulch, & Bin Sales	\$30,781.67
From Waste Tip Revenues.....	\$306,560.86
County General Fund	\$0.00
Other Income minus Write Off (\$70)	\$29,045.50
Grants	\$600.00
Subtotal	\$2,479,764.87

WASTE TRANSFER STATION

Charges for Services	\$3,023,948.22
County General Fund	\$0.00
Interest Income	\$378.92
Clean Sweep Grant Funds	\$4,281.25
Other Income*	\$23,407.78
Subtotal	\$3,052,016.17

TOTAL DPW REVENUE..... \$5,531,781.04

2021 EXPENSES

RECYCLING PROGRAMS

Personnel	\$964,000.09
Contractual Services.....	\$276,613.38
Operations**	\$517,973.33
Depreciation.....	\$454,999.17
Subtotal	\$2,213,585.97

WASTE TRANSFER STATION

Personnel.....	\$559,412.02
Contractual Services	\$370,465.92
Landfill Fees.....	\$1,579,490.40
Operations.....	\$139,953.20
Depreciation	\$221,269.99
Principal & Interest Payment	\$27,061.61
Subtotal	\$2,897,653.14

TOTAL DPW EXPENSES..... \$5,111,239.11

NOTES

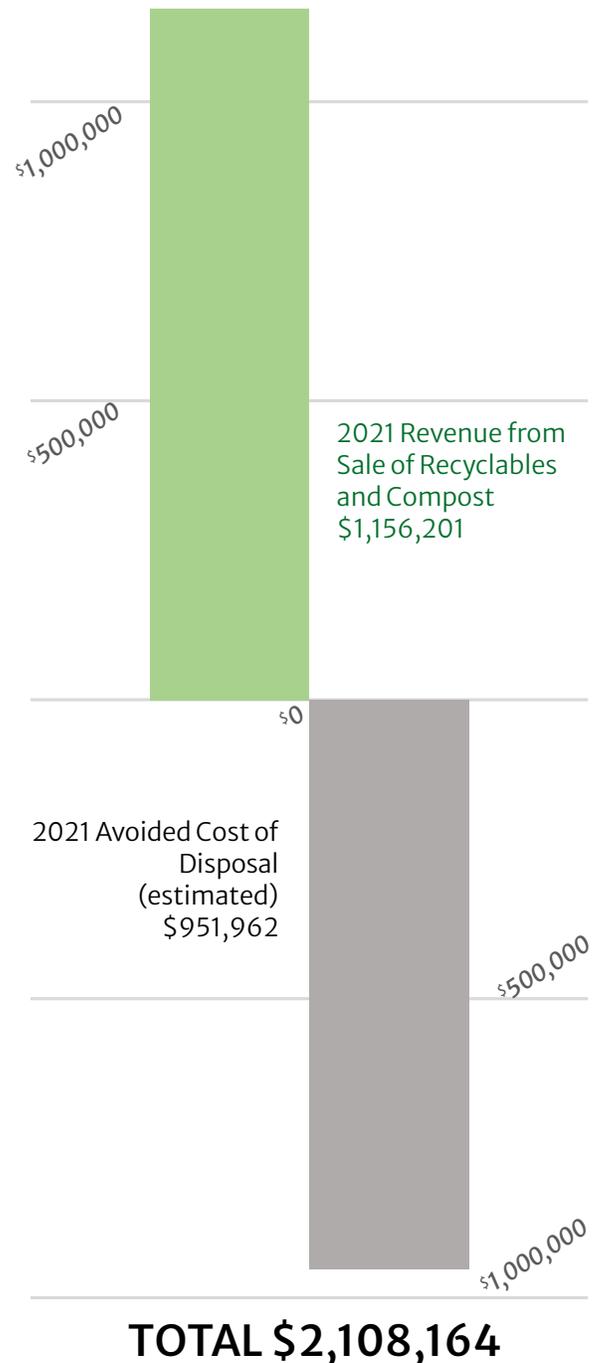
*Transfer Station "Other Income" includes monies from business and out-of-county users of the Household Chemical Drop-off (HCD) program and donations to the HCD program.

**Operations includes Straits Area Services sort crew.

GRANTS ACTIVE in 2021

Quality Improvement Grant from The Recycling Partnership, funded by EGLE	\$120,000.00
EGLE Infrastructure Grant.....	\$150,000.00

Direct Economic Benefit of Our Recycling & Composting



Emmet County Department of Public Works

EmmetRecycling.org
 200 Division St, Ste G-76, Petoskey MI 49770 USA
 recycle@emmetcounty.org • 231-348-0640
 Facebook.com/EmmetCountyRecycling
 Instagram @EmmetRecycling