

**MICHIGAN DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENTAL QUALITY
Governor Snyder's 2014 Recycling Initiative**

March 13, 2014

The Issue

At 14.5%, Michigan's recycling rate remains the lowest in the Great Lakes region. Residents in only 25 of Michigan's counties have convenient access to residential recycling opportunities. A lack of access, as well as a struggling market for recycled commodities, is a lost environmental and economic opportunity. Studies estimate that over \$435 million annually of paper, metal, glass, plastic, and other valuable materials are disposed of in landfills. Recycling and re-using of waste products generates economic investment, jobs, and savings for the state: citizens benefit, businesses benefit, and the environment benefits.

What We Have Done So Far

The Governor called for a statewide plan to increase recycling during his November 2012 Special Message on Energy and the Environment. The Michigan Department of Environmental Quality initiated discussions with nearly 50 stakeholders about how to increase the state's recycling rate. Based on these discussions components for a strategy were developed.

Components of Governor Snyder's Recycling Initiative

Short-Term

- Install a reliable measurement, tracking, and reporting system
- Increase education, outreach, and technical assistance efforts
- Actively support market development and innovation
- Continue state-level leadership by establishing the *Governor's Council on Recycling*

Long-Term

- Improve convenient access to recycling opportunities
- Work to update the solid waste planning process

Metrics and Goals

The following benchmarks will keep the state and local governments, and their private partners on track to increase recycling activity in Michigan.

- Increase the number of counties with convenient access to residential recycling to 29 counties in 2015, 45 counties in 2016, and 83 counties in 2017.
- Increase statewide participation in recycling to above the Great Lakes states average by 2017.

Participants involved in Governor Snyder's 2014 Recycling Initiative

- Absopure and Plasticpack
- Amcor
- Associated Food and Petroleum Dealers
- Boji Group
- Container Recycling Institute
- Covanta Energy
- Detroit Regional Chamber
- Detroit Renewable Energy
- Emmet County DPW
- Glass Recyclers, Inc.
- Granger
- House of Representatives- Democratic Policy
- House of Representatives- Republican Policy
- Indian Summer Compost
- Kent County
- Legislative Service Bureau
- Meijer
- Michigan Association of Counties
- Michigan Beer & Wine Wholesalers Association
- Michigan Chamber of Commerce
- Michigan Chemistry Council
- Michigan Dairy Food Association
- Michigan Distributors and Vendors Association
- Michigan Environmental Council
- Michigan Farm Bureau
- Michigan Food and Beverage Association
- Michigan Grocers Association
- Michigan Manufacturing Association
- Michigan Municipal League
- Michigan Recycling Coalition
- Michigan Retailers Association
- Michigan Senate - Democratic Policy
- Michigan Senate Republican Policy
- Michigan Soft Drink Association
- Michigan Townships Association
- Michigan United Conservation Club
- Plastipak Packaging
- Public Interest Research Group in Michigan
- Recycle Ann Arbor
- Resource Recovery and Recycling Authority of Southwest Oakland County
- Resource Recycling Systems
- Responsible Recycler's Association
- Schupan & Sons
- Smart Way Recycling
- Spartan Stores
- Spurt Industries, Compost
- TOMRA
- Warner, Norcross & Judd
- Waste Management
- West Michigan Environmental Action Council