



TUSCOLA COUNTY RECYCLING FACILITY ANNUAL REPORT

About Tuscola County Recycling Facility:

Tuscola County Recycling began operation in 1996, thanks to the County residents who saw a need for recycling and approved a millage. The Facility has grown over the years adding materials taken, and we have also had to discontinue materials for which we could not find a consistent market. It is now 2015 and the operation is still going strong, we are always looking for opportunities to add more items to the list of recyclables that we accept.

In 2015 the Recycling Committee began looking at the possibility of moving the Facility to a location that has more land available for expansion. We currently lease one acre from the City of Caro. This location has served the Center since the beginning. With the current location, because of limited space, we are limited in which types of materials we can take. Some items require us to have a truck load (40,000lbs) to ship. We do not have the storage space needed at the current location, nor do we have the option to expand our current buildings due to the limited land size.

Three full-time and three part-time employees operate the Facility. The Recycling Coordinator oversees the operation, and is also the County Buildings & Grounds Director. The Center offers Community service opportunities, and we also work with Highland Pines School to provide a worksite for the developmentally disabled.

What we do:

Tuscola County Recycling is open to all County residents. The Facility accepts material Monday – Friday from 8 A.M. to 4:30 P.M. Residents can bring their recyclables to us and sort them out themselves by using the containers we have set up inside the building, or if they prefer our employees will assist them.

In 2015 the Facility also provided trailers to four townships for weekend collections. They were; Akron, Elmwood, Fostoria, and Juniata. The trailers are normally dropped off at the township on Friday, and on Monday the trailer is brought back to the Facility for processing. Townships provide their own people to staff the trailer.

The Facility also provides weekly or by-weekly pick-ups to over 100 businesses in Tuscola County.

Permanent trailers are placed at the Tuscola County Medical Care Facility in Caro, Family Dollar in Caro, Kingston High School, Hills and Dales Hospital in Cass City, Rosati's Marketplace in Millington, and Dollar Tree in Caro. These trailers are brought back to the Facility weekly or Bi-weekly for possessing.



New trailers for pick ups



New pilot program trailer

Where do your recyclables go?

The Center is proud to say that 90% of the material we ship out goes to companies here in Michigan.

- Cardboard ships through Metro Recycling Solutions (office is in Sylvan Lake), and delivered to Packaging Corporation of America in Filer City, Michigan. They use the corrugated cardboard to make new boxes.
- Mixed Paper and Magazines ships through Metro Recycling Solutions, and is delivered to Royal Oak Recycling in Royal Oak, Michigan.
- Newsprint ships through Metro Recycling Solutions and is delivered to Nu-Wool in Jenison, Michigan. They use it to make cellulose insulation.
- Metals are shipped to either North Lapeer Recycling in Deerfield or Thumb Auto Core in Caro.
- Plastic ships through and to Clean Tech in Dundee, Michigan. They make plastic bottles for all major brands of products.
- Glass ships through and to Glass Recyclers in Detroit, Michigan. They sell the processed glass.
- Polystyrene ships through and to Dart Container Corporation in Mason, Michigan.
- Inkjet Cartridges ship via UPS to E-Cycle Group in Pennsylvania
- Rechargeable Batteries ship through UPS to Call2recycle, Inc. in Ellwood City, PA.
- Scrap Tires are shipped through and to C.M. Rubber in Coleman Michigan.
- Clothing ships through and to the Salvation Army in Flint, Michigan.
- Cell Phones ship through FedEx to GRC Wireless in Florida.
- Batteries ship through and to ERG Environmental Services.
- Computers and Electronics ship through and to Comprenew.
- Vinyl siding ships through Metro Recycling Solutions to Fryman Recycling in Dowagiac, Michigan.

Materials recycled:

For the year 2015 we collected 1,269,753 pounds or 635 tons of recyclable material. This is down from last year's number of 1,321,442. This is due in part, to the fact that during the Christmas season we opted to wait on shipping out the material. Here is the breakdown on some of the numbers (all numbers are in pounds):

Cardboard – 500,052

Paper – 535,726

Plastics – 34,927

Glass – 27,440

Metals – 38,753

Tires – 17,520

Hazardous Waste – 14,321

Electronics – 69,695

As much as the Facility tries to recycle everything that comes to us, unfortunately we can't. The Facility has one six yard dumpster that is emptied once a week. We estimate that we send 312 cubic yards or 15,600 pounds of materials to the landfill. Most of this material is household trash brought in with the recyclables.

Based on the national average of \$44 per ton for tipping fees at landfills, an estimated \$27,940 was saved on the 635 tons of material recycled at the Facility.

Future Objectives:

To continue exploring options for moving the Facility to a location that would provide more storage space for materials.

Continue educating the residents on the importance of recycling.

To divert as much material as possible from landfills by increasing our capacity when possible.

Work with County businesses to continue their recycling efforts, and to continue adding more businesses.

Continue looking for materials that can be added to our accepted material list.



New signage at the Facility

Education:

Tuscola County Recycling Facility education report includes: seven recycling demonstrations, three composting demonstrations, five facility tours and five events/ displays for the year 2015. The number of attendees for the demonstrations and tours amounted to 376 adults and children.

These numbers are affected by a number of factors. One factor is the amount of time allotted within the schools for outside presentations. Secondly all presentations must coincide with the school curriculums. Recycling is not always included in their curriculum every year, so we may only be asked to come in for a presentation every few years. Tuscola County Recycling Facility is not the only recycling facility to find it harder to get into the schools,. Many recycling facilities across the state are frustrated by the same situation. Facility tours are affected by school districts having limited budgets that do not include funding for busing and staff to bring students out for tours. The groups who do come for tours are brought by parents and volunteers.

Letters are sent twice a year to all schools in the district informing them that we do offer free presentations to classrooms. Most presentations are scheduled around Earth Day and America Recycles Day per requests from participating schools.

Tuscola County Recycling is currently using social media, our website, community events and advertisements to educate the public.

Financial Summary:

Revenue Highlights:

Millage	215,029.04
Wind.....	27,630.53
DEQ Clean Sweep Grant.....	20,134.79
DEQ Scrap Tire Grant.....	10,000.00
Sales of Material/Services.....	56,824.92
Interest.....	2,396.19
Total revenues for 2015.....	\$332,016.47

Expense Highlights:

Salaries.....	139,059.40
Fuel.....	4,944.89
Advertising.....	3,082.00
Utilities.....	4,797.97
Equipment repairs.....	10,139.96
Tires.....	12,055.55
Indirect costs.....	34,228.00
Total Expenses for 2015.....	\$338,004.40
Fund Balance	
Fund Balance.....	\$367,818.48

Contact Us

Give us a call for more information about our services and products

Tuscola County
Recycling Facility

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