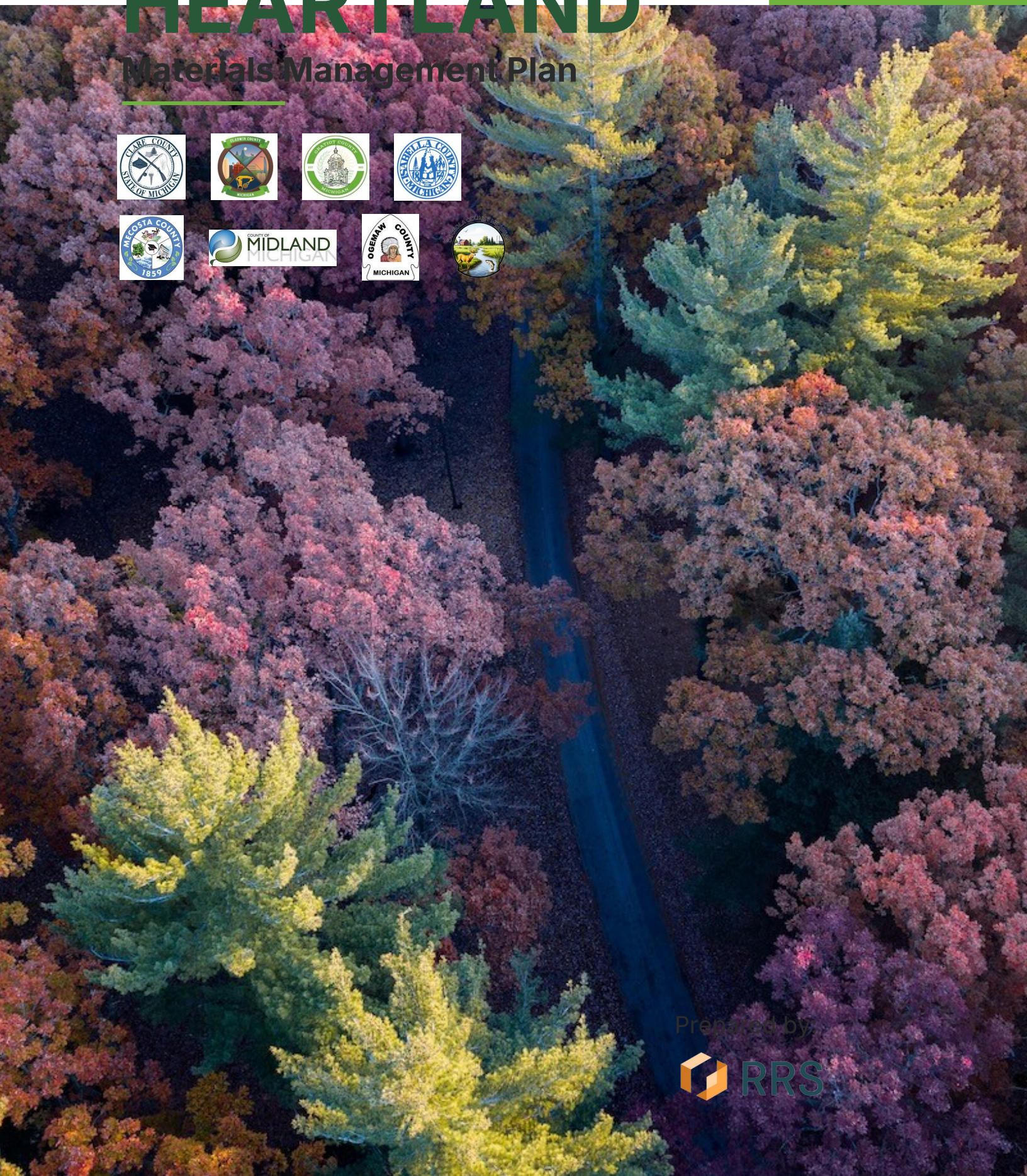
December
2026

HEARTLAND

Materials Management Plan



Prepared by:

RRS

Cover Page

DATE SUBMITTED TO EGLE:	
EGLE APPROVAL DATE:	

PARTICIPATING COUNTIES:

All counties participating in this Plan are listed below and will be referenced throughout this plan as the planning area or county, as applicable.

Clare	Mecosta
Gladwin	Midland
Gratiot	Ogemaw
Isabella	Osceola

DESIGNATED PLANNING AGENCY (DPA) PREPARING THE PLAN:

Designated Planning Agency Preparing the Plan:	Isabella County Materials Recovery Facility
Contact Person:	Helen Lee
Title:	Education/Grant Writing & Reporting Coordinator
Address:	4208 E. River Rd., Mt. Pleasant, MI 48858
Phone:	989.954.8287
E-Mail:	hlee@isabellacounty.org
Website:	www.isabellacounty.org
Central Repository Location(s):	

Table of Contents

Cover Page....0
Table of Contents....1
Definitions and Terminology....2
Section One: Planning Area Profile....5
Section Two: Materials Management Goals....19
Section Three: Mechanisms....28
Section Four: Administration....42
Appendix A – Clare County....44
Appendix B – Gladwin County....54
Appendix C – Gratiot County....65
Appendix D – Isabella County....76
Appendix E – Mecosta County....88
Appendix F – Midland County....101
Appendix G – Ogemaw County....112
Appendix H – Osceola County....121
Appendix I – Facility Inventory List....132
Appendix J – Local Ordinances & Regulations....135
Appendix K – Benchmark Recycling Standards....152

Definitions and Terminology

Anaerobic Digester (AD): Shall mean a facility that uses microorganisms to break down biodegradable material in the absence of oxygen, producing methane and an organic product. (MCL 324.11502(3))

Benchmark Recycling Standards (BRS): Shall mean the minimum residential recycling access requirements established under Part 115 of the Natural Resources and Environmental Protection Act (MCL 324.11502(6)). The full text of the BRS is included in Appendix K – Benchmark Recycling Standards.

CAA: Shall mean the County Approval Agency.

Composting Facility: Shall mean a facility where composting occurs. Composting itself means the biological decomposition of class 1 or class 2 compostable material, carried out through vermiculture or under controlled aerobic conditions using turning, windrowing, aeration, or another approved method, that stabilizes the organic fraction into a material that can be stored, handled, and used safely. (MCL 324.11502(38), (39))

Part 115 further splits composting facilities by what they accept: a Class 1 composting facility handles only class 1 compostable material (yard waste, wood, food waste, paper products, manure and animal bedding, digestate, compostable products, and similar low risk organics), while a Class 2 composting facility accepts class 2 compostable material (mixed municipal solid waste, biosolids, and other material not approved as class 1), alone or blended with class 1 material. (MCL 324.11502(23) to (26)) Facility size categories (small, medium, large) are also defined by the volume of compostable material on site at any given time. (MCL 324.11504(13), 324.11505(14))

Curbside Recycling Access: Shall mean the mechanism by which residents are able to access curbside recycling collection. Access may be provided through one of the following arrangements:

- **Municipal:** Recycling is collected by municipal employees using municipal vehicles, typically through a Department of Public Works.
- **Contracted/Franchised:** The municipality has negotiated a contract with a single hauler to provide service to all residents at an agreed rate. Residents may be required to use that hauler or may retain the option to choose their own. Billing may be handled by the municipality or directly by the hauler.
- **Subscription/Open Market:** At least one hauler is known to offer curbside recycling in the community, and residents independently subscribe to the service of their choice.
- **No Verified Curbside Access:** No haulers are known to offer curbside recycling collection in the municipality.

Disposal Area: Shall mean a disposal area is one or more of the following that accepts solid waste at a location defined by the boundary in its construction permit, approved engineering plans, or a notification or registration: a solid waste processing and transfer facility, a municipal solid waste incinerator, a landfill, a coal ash impoundment, or another solid waste handling or disposal facility as determined by EGLE. (MCL 324.11503(7))

Diversion Rate: Shall mean the percentage of all MCW that is recycled, composted, or otherwise diverted from disposal. Also note Recycling Rate below.

DPA: Shall mean the Designated Planning Agency.

EGLE: Shall mean the Department of Environment, Great Lakes and Energy.

Household Hazardous Waste (HHW): Shall mean waste generated by households that contains toxic, corrosive, ignitable, or reactive chemicals and requires special handling to prevent harm to human health or the environment. Common examples include paints, solvents, pesticides, batteries, and cleaning products. HHW cannot be disposed of in curbside trash or recycling and must be managed through designated collection programs.

Innovative Technology Facility: Shall mean a materials management facility that converts solid waste into energy or a usable product and that is not a materials recovery facility, a composting facility, or an anaerobic digester. (MCL 324.11504(8))

Landfill: Shall mean a type II landfill or a type III landfill. (MCL 324.11504(10))

Materials Management Facility: Shall mean any of the following: a disposal area, a materials utilization facility, or a waste diversion center. This is the umbrella term Part 115 uses to cover essentially all of the facility types below. (MCL 324.11504(24))

Materials Recovery Facility (MRF): Shall mean a facility that receives primarily source separated material and sorts, bales, or processes it for reuse, recycling, or use as a raw material or new product, and that does not receive an amount of solid waste equal to 15 percent or more of the total weight it receives annually, unless it is making a reasonable effort and has an education program to reduce that amount. The definition specifically excludes retail or industrial establishments that bale their own generated material, beverage container redemption operations, facilities that only manage material generated by a single industrial facility, and anaerobic digesters. (MCL 324.11504(28), (29))

Materials Utilization Facility: Shall mean a facility that is a materials recovery facility, a composting facility, an anaerobic digester (except one at a manufacturing facility that digests its own feedstock), or an innovative technology facility. (MCL 324.11504(31))

MMP: Shall mean the Plan.

MMPC: Shall mean the Heartland Materials Management Planning Committee.

Municipal and Commercial Waste (MCW): Shall mean the combined stream of waste generated by residents, businesses, and institutions. Also commonly referred to as Municipal Solid Waste (MSW).

Organics: Shall mean biodegradable materials that can be diverted from landfill disposal and managed through composting, anaerobic digestion, or food rescue. This includes yard waste, food scraps, and edible surplus food suitable for donation.

Planning Area: Shall mean the Counties of Clare, Gladwin, Gratiot, Isabella, Mecosta, Midland, Ogemaw and Osceola.

Recycling Rate: Shall mean the percentage of all MCW that is recycled or composted.

Siting Process: Shall mean the series of steps used to evaluate and determine whether a new materials management facility can be appropriately located and operated at a proposed site, consistent with Part 115 and local requirements.

Type II Landfill: Shall mean a landfill that receives household waste or municipal solid waste incinerator ash, or both, and that may also receive other solid waste types such as construction and demolition waste, sewage sludge, commercial waste, nonhazardous sludge, hazardous waste from conditionally exempt small quantity

generators, or industrial waste. Northern Oaks Recycling and Disposal Facility and the City of Midland Sanitary Landfill, the region's two in region landfills, both fall into this category. (MCL 324.11506(11))

Type III Landfill: Shall mean a landfill that is not a type II landfill or a hazardous waste landfill. This category includes construction and demolition waste landfills, industrial waste landfills, low hazard industrial waste landfills, certain surface impoundments authorized as industrial waste landfills, and coal ash landfills or impoundments. No facility in this region is classified as a type III landfill. (MCL 324.11506(12))

Transfer Station (Solid Waste Processing and Transfer Facility): Shall mean a tract of land, a building or unit and its appurtenances, a container, or any combination of these that is used for the handling, storage, transfer, or processing of solid waste, and that is not located at the site where the waste was generated or at the site of final disposal. This is the statutory basis for what the facility tables in this report label "Processing & Transfer Facility." (MCL 324.11506(3))

Universal Waste: Shall mean a category of hazardous waste subject to streamlined management requirements under state and federal regulations due to its widespread generation and relatively lower risk. Common universal wastes include batteries, fluorescent lamps, mercury-containing thermostats, and certain pesticides. Universal waste is managed separately from both general solid waste and other hazardous waste streams and must be directed to appropriate recycling or disposal facilities.

Waste Diversion Center (WDC). Shall mean property or a building, or a portion of property or a building, designated to receive or collect diverted waste, and not used for residential purposes. "Diverted waste" is itself a defined term covering specific hard-to-manage materials, such as electronics, batteries, pharmaceuticals, pesticides, mercury containing devices, and sharps, which could lawfully be landfilled or incinerated but are instead separated out for other management. (MCL 324.11506(14); MCL 324.11503(8))

Section One: Planning Area Profile

HEARTLAND REGIONAL SETTING AND CHARACTERISTICS

The Heartland Materials Management Plan covers an eight-county region in north-central Michigan: Clare, Gladwin, Gratiot, Isabella, Mecosta, Midland, Ogemaw, and Osceola counties. Together the counties span roughly 4,500 square miles, ranging from 502 square miles in Gladwin to 573 square miles in Isabella, and the terrain is overwhelmingly rural — townships and small cities rather than a dominant urban core.

No single county in the region has the population base or infrastructure to manage materials entirely on its own, which is a large part of why the eight counties are planning together. Isabella County anchors the region's only Materials Recovery Facility and functions as the processing hub the other counties feed into. That hub-and-spoke relationship is the organizing structure for how the region intends to build-out capacity rather than each county pursuing separate, smaller-scale facilities.

Administratively, the cities, villages, and townships within these counties will be subject to the requirements of this plan. However, because the city of Midland spans county boundaries (Midland County and Bay County), residents of the city of Midland will be assigned to the Materials Management Plan of their respective county of residence under MCL 324.11571(4).

CURRENT MATERIALS MANAGEMENT LANDSCAPE

Recycling infrastructure across the eight counties is uneven and centered on a small number of larger facilities supported by a much larger network of smaller drop-off points and transfer stations. There are two Type II landfills serving the region, in Midland and Clare counties, and one facility offering large-scale, commercial composting in Osceola County. Beyond that, the region relies heavily on a dispersed network of township transfer stations feeding materials toward the region's processing and disposal points.

Collection service is similarly patchwork. Curbside recycling is available to under half of residents with the remainder relying on drop-off sites. Where curbside service exists, it's typically delivered through single-hauler municipal contracts rather than open-market subscription service. That combination — one shared processing hub, limited disposal capacity, and a mix of curbside, drop-off, and contract arrangements that varies county to county — is the core landscape this plan is trying to bring under a more coordinated regional approach.

POPULATION

The 2020 U.S. Decennial Census recorded a combined population of 329,266 residents across the eight-county planning area, or roughly 75 people per square mile. Based on Michigan DTMB population projections (Census-based), the region is projected to grow modestly, by fewer than 10,000 people in aggregate, before falling off to approximately 332,620 residents by 2040 (still roughly 75 people per square mile).

Population projections through 2050 were sourced from the Michigan Center for Data and Analytics' compiled data for the *Michigan Statewide Population Projections through 2050* report, accessed through

the Michigan Department of Technology, Management & Budget website[1] on May 1, 2026. Land area in square miles was sourced from the National Association of Counties[2].

Population density was calculated by dividing total population by the Heartland Region's combined land area of approximately 4,409 square miles and is expressed as people per square mile. Density values are intended to illustrate general trends over time, with population centers and major generators of managed material expected to remain concentrated in existing cities, villages, employment centers, and commercial and industrial corridors.

These projections are used solely for planning-level analysis and do not represent adopted growth targets or development forecasts.

Table 1-1: Population Density

	PROJECTED POPULATION								REGIONAL TOTAL	REGIONAL POPULATION DENSITY, PEOPLE PER SQUARE MILE
County	**Clare**	**Gladwin**	**Gratiot**	**Isabella**	**Mecosta**	**Midland**	**Ogemaw**	**Osceola**		
Square Miles	**564**	**502**	**568**	**573**	**555**	**517**	**564**	**566**	**4,409**	
2020	30,856	25,386	41,761	64,394	39,714	83,494	20,770	22,891	**329,266**	**75**
2025	31,468	25,947	41,224	64,038	43,922	84,636	21,103	23,498	**335,836**	**76**
2030	31,681	26,006	40,646	63,542	44,631	85,552	21,240	23,816	**337,114**	**76**
2035	31,693	25,812	39,875	63,044	45,104	85,853	21,187	23,993	**336,561**	**76**
2040	31,474	25,358	38,798	61,620	45,236	85,260	20,924	23,950	**332,620**	**75**
2045	30,978	24,673	37,320	59,310	44,787	83,444	20,432	23,643	**324,587**	**74**
2050	30,563	24,035	35,821	57,301	44,304	82,009	20,022	23,335	**317,390**	**72**

GENERATION

Municipal and Commercial Waste (MCW) landfilled in the Heartland Region is estimated at approximately 3.9 lbs. per person per day, compared to a state average of 4.64 lbs. per person per day[3]. This figure is based on the average MCW tonnage reported in Michigan's Environment, Great Lakes, and Energy (EGLE)

[1] https://milmi.org/DataSearch/POPPROJ

[2] https://explorer.naco.org/?find=true

[3] https://www.michigan.gov/egle/-/media/Project/Websites/egle/Documents/Programs/MMD/Solid-Waste/Planning/Materials-Management-Planning-MRC-Regional-Presentation-Slides.pdf?rev=101b646d39884d7095968480d100e548&hash=70C9769768BF0258C5A6C3B893EF2E7D

department's Report of Solid Waste Landfilled in Michigan for FY 2022 through FY 2024. FY 2022 data, originally reported in cubic yards, was converted to tons using the state prescribed ratio of 3 CY to 1 ton. This tonnage reflects waste generated by county residents and businesses only, and excludes Industrial Waste, Construction and Demolition debris, Alternative Daily Cover, and other non MCW categories.

Table 1-2 below presents estimated recycling rates by county from EGLE's Mega Data Collection Project[4], conducted from 2020 to 2023 in partnership with Resource Recycling Systems (RRS). These estimates were built from state level per capita tonnage data, with per capita rates then attributed to counties based on their 2020 census populations. As a result, they do not reflect actual differences in recycling performance between counties, and should be treated as preliminary, directional estimates only.

State average tons disposed under the Mega Data Collection Project are considerably higher (285,705 tons) than the average MCW tons reported in EGLE's annual landfill report from 2022 through 2024 for the region (232,510 tons). This is expected, since the annual landfill report shows 3.9 lbs. per person per day for the region, which is lower than the state average used for the Mega Data projections. The difference may be an accurate representation, meaning Heartland Region counties landfill fewer MCW tons per capita than the state average, or it may reflect variances in how landfill data is reported (for example, tons attributed to Construction and Demolition debris, Industrial Waste, or another category rather than MCW, or tons attributed to the wrong county). Given the potential variance in landfill reporting, the region will plan for MCW generation of between 3.9 and 4.6 lbs. per person per day when assessing disposal capacity needs.

Table 1-2: Material Generation

COUNTY	EST. TOTAL GENERATION (TONS/YR)	EST. TOTAL RECYCLED & COMPOSTED (TONS/YR)	EST. TOTAL DISPOSED (TONS/YR)	EST. RECYCLING RATE
Clare	29,132	3,169	25,963	10.9%
Gladwin	23,599	2,208	21,391	9.4%
Gratiot	39,055	4,728	34,327	12.1%
Isabella	68,812	9,313	59,499	13.5%
Mecosta	41,650	4,895	36,755	11.8%
Midland	83,283	12,896	70,387	15.5%
Ogemaw	19,699	2,024	17,675	10.3%
Osceola	21,565	1,857	19,708	8.6%
TOTAL / REGIONAL AVG	**326,795**	**41,090**	**285,705**	**12.6%**

Note: Mega Data Estimates by County, 2023

INFRASTRUCTURE

Access to materials management services across the Heartland Region varies considerably by county and, within counties, by community. Isabella County has built a coordinated, countywide system, anchored by the Isabella County Recycling Center (which also functions as the county's MRF) and a network of roughly a dozen township and village depots that extend drop-off access into rural areas that would otherwise have none. The remaining seven counties instead rely on a patchwork of individual township and municipal

[4] Michigan Department of Environment, Great Lakes, and Energy. (2023). *Mega data collection project*. Michigan.gov. https://www.michigan.gov/egle/about/organization/materials-management/materials-management-in-michigan/mega-data-collection-project

decisions, where whether a resident has access to drop-off recycling, yard waste composting, or curbside service depends largely on whether that specific township or city chose to establish a site or negotiate a hauler contract, rather than on any county-level coordination.

Within that patchwork, a handful of anchor facilities and programs stand out as regional access points that reach well beyond their home municipality. Mecosta Recycles in Big Rapids and Midland Recyclers in the City of Midland both accept drop-off recycling from residents countywide, effectively serving as the primary recycling access point for their respective counties in the absence of broader curbside coverage. Morgan Composting in Sears (Osceola County), is a notably larger scale operation than the yard waste brush piles and Department of Public Works (DPW) compost sites found elsewhere in the region. Morgan's appears to accept organic material beyond yard waste alone, making it one of the few facilities in the region with meaningful commercial composting capacity.

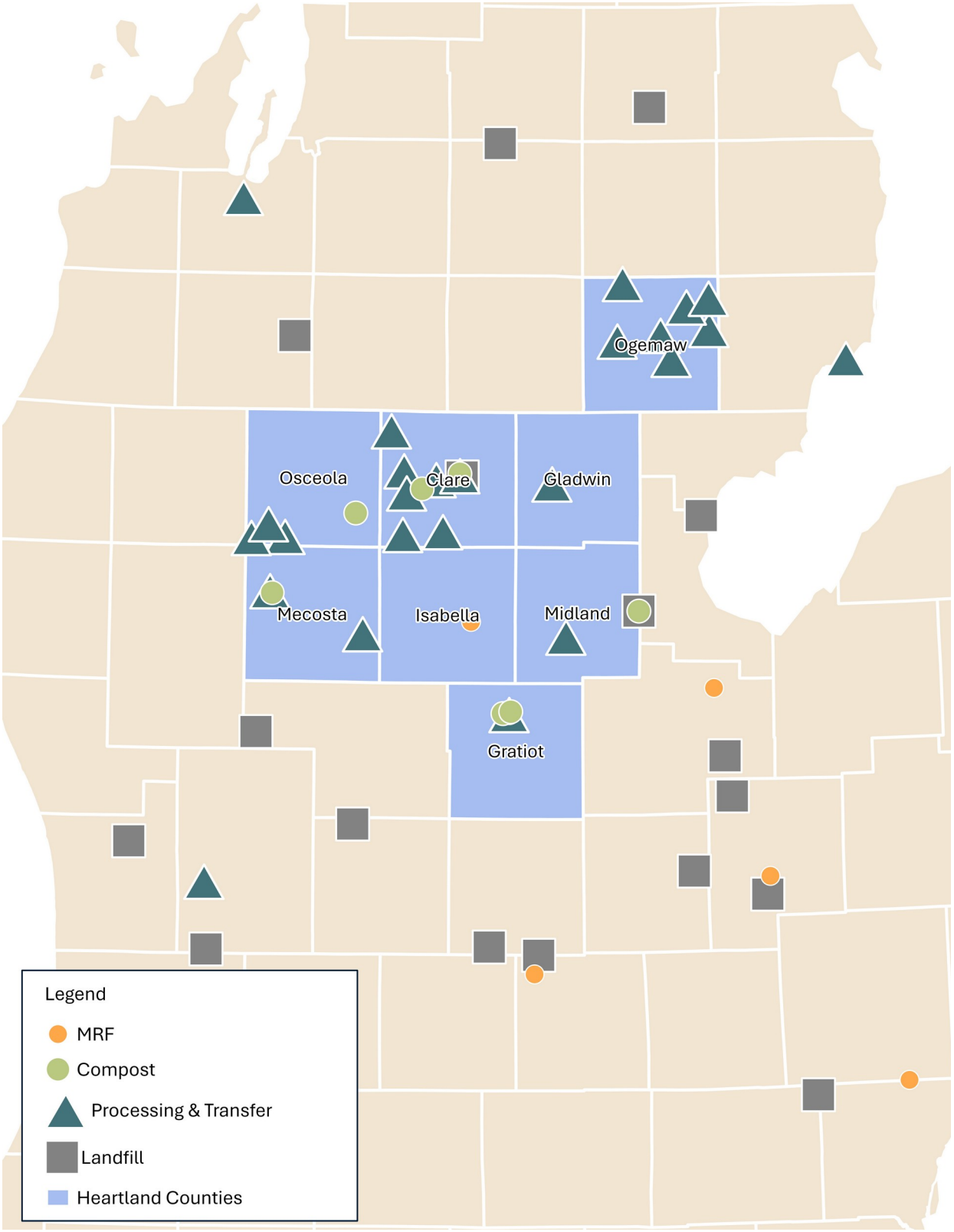
Curbside service, where it exists, is concentrated in incorporated cities and villages and provided through contracts with private haulers such as GFL, Granger Waste Services, Republic, Priority Waste, and WM. Township residents, by contrast, more often fall into one of three categories: covered by a township hauler contract, able to subscribe individually and directly with a private hauler at their own cost, or without any confirmed recycling access at all. Several townships across the region report no recycling program and no regular curbside trash collection of any kind, relying instead on periodic community cleanup days. This unevenness means that recycling access in the region is less a function of county boundaries than of the specific locality a resident lives in.

Household hazardous waste collection follows a similar mixed pattern, handled in some counties through a countywide annual event run by the county or a local health department (Gladwin, Midland, Isabella), and in others through multi county partnerships that pool resources across jurisdictions, such as the HHW collection jointly serving Mecosta and Osceola County residents. No county in the region currently has a countywide funding mechanism dedicated to materials management. Where funding exists, it takes the form of municipal millages, special assessments, or utility fees adopted individually by cities and townships, meaning the level of infrastructure investment a resident benefits from is tied closely to local capacity and willingness to fund it, rather than to any regional standard.

Materials Management Facilities Overview

Facilities serving the eight-county Heartland region include both fixed infrastructure located within the region and processors or disposal sites located elsewhere in Michigan that receive material collected in the region. Both are described below, organized by facility type.

Figure 1: Regional Materials Management Facilities Map, RRS



Existing Disposal Facilities

Only two Type II landfills are located within the region. Per EGLE's Annual Reports of Solid Waste Landfilled in Michigan for fiscal years 2022 through 2024, most Heartland counties send the majority of their landfilled waste outside the region, and the two landfills serve overlapping, rather than county exclusive, service areas.

- *Northern Oaks Recycling and Disposal Facility (Clare County)*. Located in Harrison and operated by WM, Northern Oaks is the region's largest and most widely used landfill. The majority of tons arriving there come from Clare, Isabella, and Missaukee counties, and it also receives a meaningful share of waste from Gladwin, Mecosta, and Osceola, making it the closest thing the region has to a shared, multi county disposal site.
- *City of Midland Sanitary Landfill (Midland County)*. Located in the City of Midland, this landfill functions almost entirely as a single county facility. It receives the large majority of Midland County's own waste, along with some Alternative Daily Cover material sourced from Bay County; however, it does not serve as a significant disposal point for the rest of the region.

Beyond these two facilities, the region's landfilled waste follows a few clear regional patterns. Bay County's Whitefeather Landfill is the dominant out of region destination for the northern part of the region, receiving the majority of waste from Gladwin and Ogemaw and a meaningful share from Clare and Midland. Clinton County, home to Granger's Wood Street and Grand River facilities, is the leading destination for Isabella and a secondary destination for Gratiot. Montcalm County's Central Sanitary Landfill is the leading destination for Mecosta and a secondary destination for Osceola. Genesee County's Brent Run is the leading destination for Gratiot, and Wexford County's landfill is the leading destination for Osceola. These patterns show a region whose disposal needs are met by a broad network of nearby landfills, not just the two located within its own borders, with Bay, Clinton, Montcalm, and Genesee counties each supplying meaningful capacity alongside the two in-region facilities.

The fiscal year 2022 through 2024 EGLE landfill reports also identify a broader set of out of region landfills that received Heartland waste at some point during that period: Arbor Hills Landfill in Washtenaw County, Citizens Disposal Inc in Genesee County, City Environmental Services Inc of Waters in Crawford County, Montmorency Oscoda Alpena SWMA in Montmorency County, Ottawa County Farms Landfill in Ottawa County, Peoples Landfill Inc in Saginaw County, Pitsch Sanitary Landfill in Ionia County, South Kent Landfill in Kent County, Venice Park Recycling and Disposal Facility in Shiawassee County, and Wexford County Landfill in Wexford County.

Existing Materials Recovery Facilities (MRFs)

Isabella County is home to the only MRF located within the eight-county region, the Isabella County Recycling Center in Mount Pleasant. No other county in the Heartland region has a MRF within its boundaries.

Recyclables collected in the region are also processed at MRFs outside the eight counties. Per EGLE's calendar year 2025 MRF reporting[5], several out-of-region MRFs reported receiving material from Heartland counties, including: Kent County Recycling and Education Center, GFL Environmental's MRF in Flint, the RRRASOC MRF in Southfield, Emterra's MRF in Lansing, and WM's MRF in Saginaw. At least one regional hauler also reports delivering recyclables to GFL Environmental's MRF in Traverse City.

Existing Compost Facilities and Anaerobic Digestion (AD)

Eight compost facilities were identified within the region, across five of the eight counties. No anaerobic digestion facilities are operating in the region. Most of these are small, municipally operated yard waste sites. Morgan Composting Inc in Osceola County is the exception, operating on a larger commercial scale and accepting organic material beyond yard waste, as noted in the previous section.

Two out-of-region compost facilities reported receiving Heartland material on EGLE's calendar year 2025 compost facility report[6];Granger's Wood Street facility in Clinton County, and WM's facility in Tawas, Iosco County.

Existing Transfer Stations

Municipal Transfer Stations

The majority of transfer facilities in the region are single site, township-operated transfer stations, most heavily concentrated in Clare and Ogemaw counties. Clare County alone accounts for six stations run by townships (Surrey, Redding, Summerfield, Freeman, Garfield, and Winterfield townships), and Ogemaw County accounts for eight (Hill, Rose, Cumming, Goodar, Klacking, Churchill, Foster, and West Branch townships). Additional single township stations appear in Osceola (Hersey and Richmond townships) and Midland (Lee Township). These sites function as small scale, low throughput consolidation points where residents and haulers drop off material for later transport, rather than as processing hubs in their own right. Municipal transfer stations play an important role in the region by providing residential drop-off opportunities for waste, and in some cases recyclables, where curbside service access is less readily available. These facilities serve as spokes in a “hub and spoke” model to collect material locally and send it on to a larger facility.

Commercial Transfer Stations

Commercial transfer stations are usually better positioned to accept larger vehicles and higher volumes than the township stations, and these facilities generally aggregate material from collection routes to send for disposal or recovery in larger quantities for efficiency. Granger operates a processing and transfer facility in Alma (Gratiot County) as well as Dent Disposal in Remus (Mecosta County), while Arnold Center Inc. operates the WeCycle processing and transfer facility in Gladwin County. We expect that out-of-region transfer stations are handling some Heartland material, but at this time none have reported receiving Heartland material on the state's 2025 Annual Facility Reports[7], nor have any been identified by haulers.

[5] https://www.michigan.gov/egle/-/media/Project/Websites/egle/Documents/Programs/MMD/Solid-Waste/Planning/Annual-Facility-Reports/2025-MRF-Annual-Reports.xlsx?rev=b1a223100ab2414e8b31c1b3f1998e21&hash=4E6AED2BAC2F7DE93DD618806BC109A2

[6] https://www.michigan.gov/egle/-/media/Project/Websites/egle/Documents/Programs/MMD/Solid-Waste/Planning/Annual-Facility-Reports/2025-Composting-Facility-Annual-Reports.xlsx?rev=0eb937b8252b4e8c99b3740d41f6f545&hash=653AD881C14CACDE7E5A5B7CAD80714C

[7] https://www.michigan.gov/egle/about/organization/materials-management/solid-waste/planning/planning-development-items

Table 1-3a: Materials Management Infrastructure, Facilities Located within the Heartland Region

COUNTY	NAME	ADDRESS	CITY	DESCRIPTION
Clare	Surrey Township Transfer Station	7590 Old State Ave.	Farwell	Processing & Transfer Facility
Clare	City of Harrison	2998 E Lilly Lake Rd	Harrison	Compost Facility
Clare	Northern Oaks Recycling and Disposal Facility	513 North County Farm Road	Harrison	Landfill Type II
Clare	Redding Township Transfer Station	8391 W Temple Dr	Harrison	Processing & Transfer Facility
Clare	Summerfield Township Transfer Station	Finley Lake Ave	Harrison	Processing & Transfer Facility
Clare	Garfield Township Transfer Station	Lake Station Ave	Lake	Processing & Transfer Facility
Clare	Lincoln Township Compost Field	4266 W Arthur Rd	Lake George	Compost Facility
Clare	Winterfield Township Transfer Station	Haskell Lake Road	Marion	Processing & Transfer Facility
Gladwin	Arnold Center Inc WeCycle Gladwin	409 Industrial Dr	Gladwin	Processing & Transfer Facility
Gratiot	City of Alma	909 Washington Ave	Alma	Compost Facility
Gratiot	Granger Disposal Center of Alma	2355 Michigan Ave	Alma	Processing & Transfer Facility
Gratiot	City of Saint Louis	1517 Virginia St	Saint Louis	Compost Facility
Isabella	Isabella County Materials Recovery Facility	4208 East River Rd	Mount Pleasant	Materials Recovery Facility
Mecosta	City of Big Rapids Compost Facility	614 S 3rd Ave	Big Rapids	Compost Facility
Mecosta	Canadian Lakes Refuse Center, LLC	10765 Pierce Rd.	Stanwood	Processing & Transfer Facility
Midland	City of Midland Sanitary Landfill	4311 E Ashman Rd	Midland	Compost Facility
Midland	City of Midland Sanitary Landfill	4311 E Ashman Rd	Midland	Landfill Type II
Midland	Lee Township Transfer Station	730 S 9 Mile Rd	Midland	Processing & Transfer Facility
Ogemaw	Hill Township Transfer Station	4985 Townhall Road	Hale	Processing & Transfer Facility
Ogemaw	Rose Township Transfer Station	Heath Rd	Lupton	Processing & Transfer Facility
Ogemaw	Cumming Township Transfer Station	901 East Sage Lake Road	Rose City	Processing & Transfer Facility
Ogemaw	Goodar Township Transfer Station	Heath Rd	South Branch	Processing & Transfer Facility

COUNTY	NAME	ADDRESS	CITY	DESCRIPTION
Ogemaw	Churchill Township Transfer Station	Quigley Rd	West Branch	Processing & Transfer Facility
Ogemaw	Foster Township Transfer Station	Clear Lake Rd	West Branch	Processing & Transfer Facility
Ogemaw	Klacking Township Transfer Station	405 N Campbell Rd.	West Branch	Processing & Transfer Facility
Ogemaw	West Branch Township Transfer Station	Section 5, West Branch Township	West Branch	Processing & Transfer Facility
Osceola	Hersey Township Transfer Station	170th Avenue and 2 Mile Road	Hersey	Processing & Transfer Facility
Osceola	Osceola Landfill/Transfer Station	1681 230th Ave	Reed City	Processing & Transfer Facility
Osceola	Richmond Township Transfer Station	4194 200th Avenue	Reed City	Processing & Transfer Facility
Osceola	Morgan Composting Inc	4353 U.S. 10	Sears	Compost Facility

Table 1-3b: Materials Management Infrastructure, Facilities Located Beyond the Heartland Region

NAME	ADDRESS	DESCRIPTION
Arbor Hills Landfill (Washtenaw) (GFL Environmental)	10699 W Six Mile Rd, Northville, MI	Landfill
Brent Run (Genesee)(Republic Services)	8335 W Vienna Rd, Montrose, MI	Landfill
Central Sanitary Landfill (Montcalm County)	21545 W Cannonsville Rd, Pierson, MI	Landfill
Citizens Disposal Inc (Genessee) (Republic Services)	2361 W Grand Blanc Rd, Grand Blanc, MI	Landfill
City Environmental Services Inc of Waters (Crawford County)	11375 Sherman Rd, Frederic, MI	Landfill
Granger Grand River (Clinton) (Granger III & Associates LLC)	8550 W Grand River Hwy, Grand Ledge, MI	Landfill
Granger Wood Street (Clinton) (Granger Container Service Inc)	16980 Wood Rd, Lansing, MI	Landfill
Montmorency-Oscoda-Alpena SWMA (Montmorency County)	6751 Landfill Road, P.O. Box 13, Atlanta, MI	Landfill
Ottawa County Farms Landfill (Ottawa County)	15550 68th Ave, Coopersville, MI	Landfill
Peoples Landfill, Inc. (Saginaw County)	4143 East Rathbun Road, Birch Run, MI	Landfill
Pitsch Sanitary Landfill (Ionia County)	7905 Johnson Rd, Belding, MI	Landfill
SOUTH KENT LANDFILL (KENT COUNTY)	10300 South Kent Drive SW, Byron Center, MI	Landfill

NAME	ADDRESS	DESCRIPTION
Venice Park Recycling and Disposal Facility (Shiawassee) (WM Inc)	9536 E Lennon Rd, Lennon, MI	Landfill
Wexford County Landfill (Wexford County)	990 Mackinaw Trail, Manton, MI	Landfill
Whitefeather Landfill (Bay County)	2401 E Whitefeather Rd, Pinconning, MI	Landfill
WM Saginaw MRF	1957 Findley Street, Saginaw, MI 48601	Materials Recovery Facility
Emterra Lansing MRF	1159 S Pennsylvania Ave, Lansing, MI	Materials Recovery Facility
Kent County Recycling and Education Center	977 Wealthy St SW, Grand Rapids, MI	Materials Recovery Facility
GFL Environmental MRF Flint	2051 Bristol Rd, Flint, MI 48507	Materials Recovery Facility
RRRASOC Southfield	20000 Eight Mile Rd, Southfield, MI	Materials Recovery Facility
GFL Environmental in Traverse City	280 Hughes Drive, Traverse City, MI	Materials Recovery Facility
Granger Wood Street (Granger Container Service Inc)	16980 Wood Rd, Lansing, MI	Compost Facility
Waste Management of Michigan, Inc. - Tawas	685 Aulerich Rd, East Tawas, MI	Compost Facility

Other Available Materials Management Collection Opportunities

Beyond the recycling, compost, and disposal infrastructure described above, residents across the region have access to a second layer of collection opportunities for hard-to-manage materials including household hazardous waste (HHW), sharps and medication disposal, electronics and others, and periodic community cleanup days. These opportunities vary by county; some are standing, year-round drop-offs housed at a facility already listed in Municipal Transfer Stations, while others are event-based occurring once or more per year.

Clare, Gladwin, and Midland each run their own countywide annual Household Hazardous Waste (HHW) event. Clare County's is hosted at Northern Oaks Recycling and Disposal Facility. Mecosta and Osceola instead participate in a shared, multi-county HHW collection day that also serves Lake County residents, pooling resources rather than each county running its own event. Isabella's HHW collection is run not by the county itself but by the Isabella County Conservation District, alongside a separate tire recycling event. There are no known county-level HHW programs in Ogemaw.

Electronics and other hard-to-manage materials are, in this region, almost never offered as a freestanding service. Instead, they are typically added on to an existing recycling site's operation: Midland Recyclers and the West Branch Recycling Center both accept electronics, the Isabella County MRF accepts tires and auto oil, Big Rapids City Hall accepts batteries, and the Mecosta Conservation District separately collects tires. In

addition, the Isabella Conservation District offers e-waste collection a couple times annually and Union Township has clean up days where they accept tires, HHW, and electronics.

In addition to countywide collection events, several townships host once a year cleanup days. Evart's Annual City Cleanup Days and the City's separate Township Dump Days, along with Middle Branch Township's Rubbish and Tire Collection Days in Osceola County, are the most structured examples, typically annual events at a fixed site. Others are more informal; Seville Township and Pine River Township in Gratiot County both report a single spring cleanup day where the township supplies one or two trash trucks for residents until the trucks are full or a set time limit is reached, with no recycling or hazardous material component at all. Morton Township also has an annual cleanup day, which includes trucks, roll-offs, and a scrap metal collector on site.

Hauler and Service Providers Serving Heartland Residents and Businesses

Collection service across the region is provided by a mix of private haulers, municipal public works departments, and, in one case, a countywide program. Several national and regional private haulers operate within the eight counties, including GFL, Republic Services, WM, Priority Waste, and Granger Waste Services.

Alongside these private haulers, a number of cities, villages, and townships collect waste, recycling, or yard waste using their own public works crews rather than contracting with a hauler. Municipalities identified as running municipally-operated service include Farwell Village, Bethany and Wheeler Townships, Ithaca City, St. Louis City, Fremont Township, Shepherd Village, Midland City, West Branch City, Evart City, and Alma City.

Isabella County stands out as the only county in the region to operate a curbside recycling program directly at the county-level, rather than leaving collection to individual municipalities. Elsewhere in the region, where curbside service exists at all, it is arranged municipality by municipality, either through a private hauler contract or a self-operated public works crew.

Transportation Infrastructure

The eight Heartland counties are connected by a network of state trunkline highways that form the backbone of long-haul truck routes to and from the region's transfer stations and processing facilities. Ogemaw County is the only county in the region served directly by an interstate, with I-75 providing a strong connection to statewide freight corridors. The remaining seven counties are each served by at least one U.S. or state trunkline highway (e.g. US 127, US 131, US 10), and together these routes link the region's county seats and larger municipal centers to the broader interstate and U.S. highway system.

All state trunklines are automatically classified as "Class A" or "all-season" roads under Michigan's road classification system, meaning they are built to a standard that allows them to carry truck traffic year-round without the seasonal weight restrictions ("frost laws") imposed on many local roads each spring. County road commissions each maintain and publish their own list of locally designated Class A roads, which extend the all-season network beyond state trunklines onto select county primary roads capable of handling the same truck loads. These locally designated Class A roads are particularly important for the region given how many transfer stations are township-operated and located off the state trunkline system.

For transportation planning purposes, this creates a layered network: state trunklines and I-75 provide reliable, unrestricted long-haul capacity through the region, while local Class A designations determine which county roads can reliably move material from the more remote township transfer stations to those trunklines without running into seasonal weight limits. Any facility located off both the state trunkline system and a locally designated Class A road may face seasonal access constraints during spring thaw, which is worth confirming directly with the relevant county road commission for any site specific transportation analysis.

MUNICIPAL SOLID WASTE RECYCLING RATE

Based on available data, and per Table 1-2, the Heartland region's MSW Recycling Rate is estimated to be 12.6%. The following describes the data used to calculate the planning area's Recycling Rate: EGLE's Mega Data Collection Project[8], conducted from 2020 to 2023 in partnership with RRS was used. These estimates were built from state level per capita tonnage data, with per capita rates then attributed to counties based on their 2020 census populations. As a result, they do not reflect actual differences in recycling performance between counties, and should be treated as preliminary, directional estimates only.

DATA GAPS

Regionally, there is currently very little measured recycling data available. Although several strong programs within the region track their own data, including Mecosta Recycles and the Isabella County Recycling Program, there is not enough measured data across the eight counties to generate a measured regional recycling rate.

EGLE has a framework for Materials Management Facilities to report annual tonnages and county-of-origin, but participation in this reporting remains sparse. As a result, the current data gaps include curbside recycling tonnages, which are not yet reported to the counties in most communities with curbside programs (tonnages from drop-off sites are generally tracked at the local level, but have not yet been passed up to the county or regional level systematically); commercial and industrial recycling tonnage, which is not currently tracked in the region; and compost and AD tonnages, where some facilities report to EGLE while others do not, leaving the resulting county-level totals incomplete. Small scale composting operations, such as municipal Departments of Public Works managing yard waste and backyard composting, fall outside this reporting structure entirely and are not captured in reported data at all.

Given these significant data gaps, it is possible that the current recycling rate is higher than the 12.6% figure generated through the Mega Data Collection Project, but this cannot yet be validated with measured data.

COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT AND SURVEY RESULTS

As part of the Heartland MMP planning process, RRS conducted two online surveys — a resident survey and an elected official survey — distributed through county channels via SurveyMonkey, with both surveys open for the entirety of May 2026. Participation in both surveys was low relative to the size of the region. The resident survey drew approximately 260 responses across all eight counties, against a combined 2025 population of roughly 336,000 — meaning well under one-tenth of one percent of residents responded. The elected official survey drew 25 complete responses across the eight counties, a modest showing given the number of cities, villages, and townships in the region. Given these response levels, the results below should be read as directional signals of resident and official sentiment rather than statistically representative findings, and should be weighed alongside county-level data and committee input rather than treated as a stand-alone basis for planning decisions.

Resident respondents painted a picture of a region still building out basic recycling infrastructure and habits: roughly 40% reported having curbside pickup available, while about half rely on drop-off sites, with about two-thirds of residents living within a 25-minute drive of a drop-off location (roughly 10% reported a drive of more than 45 minutes). Recycling is also inconsistent even among those with access — only about

[8] Michigan Department of Environment, Great Lakes, and Energy. (2023). *Mega data collection project*. Michigan.gov. https://www.michigan.gov/egle/about/organization/materials-management/materials-management-in-michigan/mega-data-collection-project

one in five residents recycle weekly, with another 30% recycling every other week or monthly. The most cited barriers were a desire for a broader list of accepted materials (about 40%) and inconvenience (about 30%), alongside a recurring lack of clarity on what materials are actually accepted. Residents most frequently asked for programs addressing hard-to-recycle items such as mattresses, appliances, and clothing. On cost, about 30% already pay for recycling service, and among those who do not, about 30% said they would pay $10–$20 per month for convenient service. Home composting is a meaningful existing behavior — about a quarter of residents compost their yard waste, and another quarter compost both yard waste and food scraps. Residents said they are most likely to get recycling information through county websites and social media, followed by email and printed materials.

Elected officials offered a complementary perspective, one that was more institutionally-focused . About 65% of responding communities reported using a single-hauler contract model, and ~40% reported having no formal waste diversion goals at all, suggesting recycling program development in much of the region has not yet been formalized at the local policy level. Cost to residents was by far the dominant concern, cited by about 80% of officials as a top issue — more than any other barrier. Food scraps programs were clearly not a near-term priority, with 80% of officials rating them "low priority" or "not a priority." Where funding is concerned, grants were the preferred mechanism (about 40%), ahead of user fees and subscription models, and officials most commonly said they would judge program success by participation rate (70%) and resident satisfaction (~50%).

Section Two: Materials Management Goals

The Heartland Materials Management Plan establishes five regional goals that apply to all eight participating counties: Clare, Gladwin, Gratiot, Isabella, Mecosta, Midland, Ogemaw, and Osceola. For all five goals, each of which contributes towards the statewide goals identified in Section 324.11507, there is a shared interest in working together as a region where possible, to benefit from shared resources, partnerships, and infrastructure. More detail on county-specific actions, responsible parties, and measurement targets is provided in each county's appendix.

REGIONAL RECYCLING GOAL 1: IMPROVE MUNICIPAL AND COMMERCIAL WASTE (MCW) RECYCLING RATES AND MEET BENCHMARK RECYCLING STANDARDS

The Heartland region's estimated current recycling rate is approximately 12.6%. BRS compliance status also varies: some counties already meet the standard because no municipality exceeds the 5,000-resident threshold that triggers curbside requirements, while others are working to verify or expand drop-off coverage and, where feasible, curbside service. This goal combines near-term BRS compliance actions — verifying and expanding drop-off coverage, and maintaining or growing curbside service where trash collection infrastructure already supports it — with medium- and longer-term funding and host agreement mechanisms needed to sustain and grow the recycling rate across the region over time.

#	OBJECTIVE	ACTION	RESPONSIBLE PARTIES	RESOURCES NEEDED	POTENTIAL PARTNERS	TIMELINE
1.1	Maintain and/or expand residential curbside recycling access to meet Benchmark Recycling Standards curbside requirements	Map which communities already have curbside recycling and which haulers provide it.	Counties – to be identified person, division, or department	Staffing	EGLE, local haulers	1-3 years
		Help townships without curbside recycling add it, using model contract language and hauler connections.	Counties – to be identified person, division, or department	Staffing, Coordination Capacity	EGLE, local haulers	3-5 years
1.2	Verify, maintain, and where needed, expand recycling drop-off site coverage to meet Benchmark Recycling Standards drop-off access requirements.	Check every drop-off site each year to confirm it meets minimum access requirements.	Counties – to be identified person, division, or department	Staffing	EGLE	1-3 years
		Map drive times to find any gaps in drop-off coverage.	Counties – to be identified person, division, or department	GIS/ Consultant Support	EGLE	1-3 years
		Add bins or dumpsters in underserved areas identified	Counties – to be identified person,	Bin Infrastructure,	EGLE, NextCycle Michigan	5-10 years

#	OBJECTIVE	ACTION	RESPONSIBLE PARTIES	RESOURCES NEEDED	POTENTIAL PARTNERS	TIMELINE
		through the analysis.	division, or department	Grant Funding		
1.3	Support cities, villages, and townships (CVTs) in pursuing coordinated or collective hauler contracts to keep recycling costs manageable for residents.	Identify townships without coordinated hauler contracts and understand their needs.	Counties – to be identified person, division, or department	Staffing, Coordination Capacity	EGLE, local haulers	1-3 years
		Provide model contract language and help neighboring townships join shared contracts to lower costs.	Counties – to be identified person, division, or department	Staffing, Coordination Capacity	EGLE, local haulers	3-5 years
1.4	Encourage new materials management facilities sited in the region to support residential recycling access and materials management programs through negotiated host agreements.	Update the regional facility siting process to include host agreement requirements.	MMPC	Legal/Policy Review, Coordination Capacity	EGLE	1-3 years
		Review and advise on host agreement terms for any new facility proposed in the region.	MMPC	Coordination Capacity	EGLE	3-5 years
1.5	Support multi-family housing residents in accessing recycling services and encourage local units to adopt model zoning language requiring adequate trash/recycling space in new multi-family construction.	Reach out to landlords and property managers to raise awareness of recycling access and identify barriers.	Counties – to be identified person, division, or department	Staffing	EGLE	1-3 years
		Draft model zoning language requiring recycling space in new multi-family construction.	Counties – to be identified person, division, or department	Legal/Policy Review	EGLE	3-5 years
		Share the model language with local zoning departments and help interested communities adopt it.	Counties – to be identified person, division, or department	Staffing, Coordination Capacity	EGLE	3-5 years
1.6	Develop and maintain funding mechanisms to support recycling programs,	Track existing funding sources, including user fees, grants, and host agreement	Counties – to be identified person, division, or	Funding, Staffing	EGLE	1-3 years

#	OBJECTIVE	ACTION	RESPONSIBLE PARTIES	RESOURCES NEEDED	POTENTIAL PARTNERS	TIMELINE
	including grants, user fees, host agreement revenue, and exploration of millages where feasible.	revenue, in an ongoing inventory.	department			
		Explore new funding options, including grants and, where feasible, township-level millages.	Counties – to be identified person, division, or department	Funding	EGLE	3-5 years
		Work with NextCycle Michigan and EGLE to identify and apply for eligible grants.	Counties – to be identified person, division, or department	Grant Funding, Coordination Capacity	NextCycle Michigan, EGLE, MMDC	1-3 years

REGIONAL ORGANICS GOAL 2: REDUCE FOOD WASTE AND ADVANCE ORGANICS MANAGEMENT

Food waste and organics represent a significant, largely untapped diversion opportunity across the Heartland region. Aside from municipal yard waste composting already available in several counties, the region has only one large-scale commercial composting operation. This goal focuses on building diversion infrastructure and behavior change in parallel: piloting food scrap drop-off in partnership with existing composting sites, supporting home composting for the region's largely rural, low-density communities, and reducing food waste at the source through prevention, donation, and school-based programs.

#	OBJECTIVE	ACTION	RESPONSIBLE PARTIES	RESOURCES NEEDED	POTENTIAL PARTNERS	TIMELINE
2.1	Establish a residential food scrap drop-off pilot program by engaging existing yard waste composting or organics processing sites to accept and process food scraps alongside yard waste.	Reach out to existing yard waste composting sites and farms to gauge interest in accepting food scraps.	Counties – to be identified person, division, or department	Staffing, Coordination Capacity	MSU Extension, EGLE	1-3 years
		Launch a pilot at one host site and track how much material is collected.	Counties – to be identified person, division, or department	Bin Infrastructure , Grant Funding	EGLE, NextCycle Michigan	3-5 years
2.2	Empower residents to manage food scraps independently through home composting	Create a home composting guide and distribute it through libraries, township offices, and the county website.	Counties – to be identified person, division, or department	Materials, Staffing	MSU Extension, Conservation District	1-3 years

#	OBJECTIVE	ACTION	RESPONSIBLE PARTIES	RESOURCES NEEDED	POTENTIAL PARTNERS	TIMELINE
	education, outreach, and material support.	Host home composting workshops.	Counties – to be identified person, division, or department	Staffing, Coordination Capacity	MSU Extension, Conservation District	1-3 years
		Pursue grant funding for compost bin giveaways or starter kits.	Counties – to be identified person, division, or department	Grant Funding	EGLE	3-5 years
2.3	Educate residents and businesses on food waste prevention and surplus food donation, with targeted outreach to sectors identified as significant food waste generators.	Reach out to schools, hospitals, restaurants, and grocery stores about preventing food waste and donating surplus food.	Counties – to be identified person, division, or department	Staffing, Marketing Materials	Local food banks/shelters, EGLE	1-3 years
		Run the EPA's food waste prevention marketing campaign regionally on a recurring basis.	Counties – to be identified person, division, or department, MMPC	Marketing Materials, Coordination Capacity	EPA	3-5 years
		Host at least one food waste prevention event each year for high-waste business sectors.	Counties – to be identified person, division, or department	Staffing, Marketing Materials	Local food banks/shelters, EGLE	3-5 years
2.4	Reduce food waste in K-12 schools through prevention-first strategies, including share tables and evidence-based cafeteria practices, while exploring food rescue partnerships.	Survey schools on current food waste practices through the regional ISDs.	Counties – to be identified person, division, or department, ISDs	Staffing, Coordination Capacity	Clare-Gladwin RESD, Mecosta-Osceola ISD	1-3 years
		Promote share tables and best cafeteria practices, like offer-versus-serve, to reduce waste.	Counties – to be identified person, division, or department, ISDs	Staffing, Marketing Materials	Michigan Green Schools	1-3 years
		Explore food rescue partnerships with schools where surplus food remains after prevention efforts.	Counties – to be identified person, division, or department, ISDs	Coordination Capacity	Feeding America	5-10 years

REGIONAL RECYCLING GOAL 3: ADVANCE RECYCLING EDUCATION AND OUTREACH

Community survey results point to a persistent education and trust gap: in Clare County, a 2024 survey found 40% of residents rarely or never recycle, citing a belief that recyclables end up in the landfill, cost concerns, and long drive times to drop-off locations as the top barriers. Mecosta County's planning process surfaced a related concern — that building public trust in where recyclables actually go is a prerequisite to expanding programs, not just a supporting activity. This goal treats education and outreach as foundational infrastructure that every other goal depends on, rather than an add-on communications effort.

#	OBJECTIVE	ACTION	RESPONSIBLE PARTIES	RESOURCES NEEDED	POTENTIAL PARTNERS	TIMELINE
3.1	Build and maintain a county recycling web presence that meets Part 115 recycling education and outreach requirements and serves as the central public resource for recycling information.	Create a mobile-friendly county recycling webpage with drop-off locations, accepted materials, and prep instructions.	Counties – to be identified person, division, or department	Website Development, Staffing	EGLE, MMPC	1-3 years
		Include on county recycling webpages information on re-use options and accompanying links (e.g. Facebook groups aka "buy nothing", Nextdoor, Salvation Army, Mom to Mom programs)	Counties – to be identified person, division, or department	Website development	Local repurpose and re-use centers	1-3 years
		Print the recycling guide and distribute copies at libraries, township offices, and other public sites.	Counties – to be identified person, division, or department	Printing/Distribution, Materials	Local municipalities	1-3 years
		Develop a strategic education and outreach plan, and keep the website updated annually.	Counties – to be identified person, division, or department, MMPC	Staffing, Coordination Capacity	EGLE	3-5 years
3.2	Ensure all county-owned and county-operated buildings have recycling collection in place,	Inventory all county-owned buildings to identify which have recycling collection and which do not.	Counties – to be identified person, division, or	Staffing	EGLE	1-3 years

#	OBJECTIVE	ACTION	RESPONSIBLE PARTIES	RESOURCES NEEDED	POTENTIAL PARTNERS	TIMELINE
	establishing the county as a model for the recycling practices it promotes publicly.		department			
		Set up recycling bins and hauler service at any county buildings that lack collection.	Counties – to be identified person, division, or department	Infrastructure, Funding	Local haulers	1-3 years
		Create internal recycling guidelines and signage for county employees; explore composting once recycling is stable.	Counties – to be identified person, division, or department	Materials, Marketing Materials	EGLE, MMPC	3-5 years
3.3	Promote recycling education and recycling programs in K-12 schools, encouraging adoption of recycling curriculum and active material collection.	Work with local ISDs to help schools add recycling curriculum and start material collection programs.	Counties – to be identified person, division, or department, ISDs	Staffing, Coordination Capacity	Michigan Green Schools	1-3 years
		Promote the Michigan Green Schools program to school administrators and staff.	Counties – to be identified person, division, or department, ISDs	Marketing Materials	Michigan Green Schools	1-3 years
		Support pilot recycling programs in a few schools, providing bins, signage, and collection logistics.	Counties – to be identified person, division, or department, ISDs	Infrastructure, Materials	Local school boards	3-5 years
3.4	Connect commercial businesses and institutions with available recycling services, resources, and technical assistance to improve recycling participation among non-residential	Launch a voluntary online survey for businesses to report recycling status, barriers, and tonnage estimates.	Counties – to be identified person, division, or department	Website Development, Staffing	Local Chamber of Commerce	1-3 years
		Reach out directly to businesses and institutions, using local chambers of	Counties – to be identified person,	Coordination Capacity, Marketing Materials	Local Chamber of Commerce, EGLE	1-3 years

#	OBJECTIVE	ACTION	RESPONSIBLE PARTIES	RESOURCES NEEDED	POTENTIAL PARTNERS	TIMELINE
	generators.	commerce to expand outreach.	division, or department			
		Develop business recycling resources and pursue grant funding for technical assistance where gaps exist.	Counties – to be identified person, division, or department	Grant Funding, Materials	EGLE	3-5 years
3.5	Broadly distribute and promote recycling opportunities and educational resources to all county residents and businesses through existing media channels and regional partnerships.	Promote the recycling guide, drop-off sites, and programs regularly through social media and local news.	Counties – to be identified person, division, or department	Marketing Materials	EGLE	1-3 years
		Add recycling messages to existing mailings, such as tax bills, to reach residents at low added cost.	Counties – to be identified person, division, or department	Printing/Distribution	EGLE	1-3 years
		Join EGLE's regional recycling awareness campaign and coordinate consistent messaging across the region.	Counties – to be identified person, division, or department, MMPC	Coordination Capacity, Marketing Materials	EGLE	3-5 years

REGIONAL DATA GOAL 4: TRACK AND REPORT RECYCLING PROGRAM PERFORMANCE

This goal is about closing the information gap: establishing a verified, data-driven recycling rate in each county based on actual hauler and program reporting, rather than continuing to rely on estimates. Counties will pursue this through a combination of hauler licensing, contract data-reporting requirements, or countywide ordinance, depending on what mechanism is legally and practically available to them — the approach is not identical everywhere. Beyond the recycling rate itself, this goal also establishes a recurring community survey in each county to track resident participation, awareness, and barriers over time — providing the region with a consistent way to measure whether the education and outreach investments under Goal 3 are changing behavior.

#	Objective	Action	Responsible Parties	Resources Needed	Potential Partners	Timeline
4.1	Establish a measured, data-driven recycling rate based on reported hauler and program data, replacing estimates with verified tonnage figures over time.	Identify what tonnage data EGLE already collects from haulers to avoid duplicative reporting.	Counties – to be identified person, division, or department, MMPC	Staffing, Legal/Policy Review	EGLE	1-3 years
		Ask major haulers to voluntarily report quarterly tonnage data for recycling and organics (if not already reported by materials management facilities).	Counties – to be identified person, division, or department	Coordination Capacity	WM, Republic, GFL, Granger, Others	1-3 years
		Develop model contract language requiring tonnage reporting, then compile data annually into a published recycling rate.	Counties – to be identified person, division, or department, MMPC	Legal/Policy Review, Staffing	Municipalities, EGLE	3-5 years
4.2	Engage the largest commercial and institutional generators to encourage voluntary recycling data sharing, and where feasible pursue data reporting through licensing or ordinance mechanisms.	Partner with an economic development organization to identify the largest local businesses and institutions.	Counties – to be identified person, division, or department	Coordination Capacity	MMDC	1-3 years
		Invite those large generators to voluntarily share recycling tonnage data each year.	Counties – to be identified person, division, or	Staffing	MMDC, Local Chamber of Commerce	3-5 years

#	Objective	Action	Responsible Parties	Resources Needed	Potential Partners	Timeline
			department			
		Where feasible, add data-reporting requirements for commercial tonnage into municipal contracts or ordinances.	Counties – to be identified person, division, or department, MMPC	Legal/Policy Review	Municipalities	5-10 years
4.3	Conduct a recurring community survey to measure resident recycling participation, awareness, and barriers, using results to inform and refine county outreach and program strategies.	Design a survey on recycling participation, awareness, and barriers.	Counties – to be identified person, division, or department, MMPC	Staffing, Funding	MSU Extension	1-3 years
		Distribute the survey countywide through libraries, township offices, and scheduled mailings.	Counties – to be identified person, division, or department	Printing/Distribution, Funding	Public Schools, Local libraries	1-3 years
		Publish results, use findings to refine outreach, and repeat the survey every three to five years.	Counties – to be identified person, division, or department, MMPC	Grant Funding, Staffing	EGLE	3-5 years

REGIONAL RECYCLING GOAL 5: SUPPORT REGIONAL HUB-AND-SPOKE RECYCLING INFRASTRUCTURE

As described in Section 1, Isabella County operates the region's only full-service Materials Recovery Facility (MRF) and already functions as a processing hub for the region. This goal formalizes that relationship: rather than each county pursuing separate, smaller-scale processing infrastructure, the region intends to build out a shared hub-and-spoke system centered on the Isabella MRF, with counties as spokes committing volume, sharing in governance and revenue, and coordinating hauling logistics.

This is the most structurally significant goal in the plan, since it requires the Isabella MRF to expand its building and equipment capacity to take in materials from neighboring counties, and requires a governance and ownership structure — led by Isabella County — that can hold the facility's assets and carry any associated capital debt while giving participating counties governance representation and a share of net commodity revenue.

#	OBJECTIVE	ACTION	RESPONSIBLE PARTIES	RESOURCES NEEDED	POTENTIAL PARTNERS	TIMELINE
5.1	Conduct a Regionalization Study to assess existing recycling collection across the eight Heartland counties and identify the most feasible, cost-effective routing of recyclable materials.	Hire a consultant to study current recycling collection and hauling systems across all eight counties.	MMPC	Consultant/Study Funding	Regional Planning Commissions	3-5 years
		Use the study's findings to map the most cost-effective way to move recyclables through the region.	MMPC	Consultant/Study Funding, Coordination Capacity	Regional Planning Commissions	3-5 years
5.2	Explore and pursue EGLE and other recycling infrastructure grants to fund the Regionalization Study and address capital improvement needs identified through that process.	Identify EGLE and other grant programs that could fund the study and future capital upgrades.	MMPC	Grant Funding	EGLE, Michigan Recycling Coalition	1-3 years
		Designate one county or regional entity to receive and manage grant funds on behalf of the region.	MMPC	Grant Funding, Legal/Governance Structure	EGLE, County Economic Development Commissions	1-3 years
5.3	Through hub-and-spoke network, commit some or all of a county's recycling volumes to the Isabella MRF.	Estimate how many tons of recycling each county can commit each year.	Counties – to be identified person, division, or department	Coordination Capacity	Isabella County MRF, MMPC	1-3 years
5.4	Secure funding for required building and equipment improvements to the Isabella MRF in order to take in materials from neighboring counties.	Apply for EGLE and other capital grants to support capital funding package for building and equipment upgrades.	Isabella County MRF	Capital Funding, Grant Funding	EGLE, NextCycle Michigan	0-1 years
		Expand and modernize the facility to handle added material from the region.	Isabella County MRF	Capital Funding, Infrastructure	EGLE	0-1 years
5.5	Establish the governance and ownership structure,	Design an ownership and governance structure that	Isabella County MRF	Legal/Governance Structure	EGLE	1-2 years

#	OBJECTIVE	ACTION	RESPONSIBLE PARTIES	RESOURCES NEEDED	POTENTIAL PARTNERS	TIMELINE
	led by Isabella County, for the expanded regional MRF, including capital debt and governance representation for participating counties.	can hold the facility's assets and carry its debt.				
		Define founding-partner status and assign governance seats and revenue share to participating counties.	Isabella County MRF	Legal/Governance Structure, Coordination Capacity	EGLE, MMPC	1-2 years

Section Three: Mechanisms

As the Heartland region develops funding and enforcement mechanisms to support materials management, the region is interested in identifying best practices from other rural Michigan counties facing similar challenges, including examples already emerging among member counties within this planning group. This section outlines the funding, enforcement, and siting mechanisms that will support implementation of the goals described in Section 2, and identifies opportunities to integrate county-level solutions with a shared regional approach where doing so offers a clear advantage over eight separate county-level solutions.

FUNDING AND ENFORCEMENT MECHANISMS

Michigan law allows counties and municipalities in a planning area to fund and enforce materials management programs through several mechanisms, including but not limited to franchise agreements, intergovernmental agreements, millages, service fees and assessments, ordinances, hauler licensing mechanisms, and supplemental fees. Counties in the Heartland region are at different points in evaluating these options, reflecting differences in existing infrastructure, county board appetite, and current public works (DPW) or licensing structures already in place.

Table 3-1 summarizes the funding and enforcement mechanisms discussed with each county to date, based on feedback gathered through the planning process. Several mechanisms are already in active use in one or more counties; others remain under evaluation or were identified as not currently preferred. This table reflects current county positions and should be revisited as programs are implemented and funding needs are refined through Section 2 goal implementation.

Table 3-1: Mechanisms

TYPE OF MECHANISM	REGION/ AREA IMPACTED	DESCRIPTION
Grants (e.g., EGLE Recycling Infrastructure Grants, NextCycle Michigan)	Heartland Region (all 8 counties)	All eight counties expressed general interest in continuing to pursue EGLE and other grant funding for infrastructure and program development.
• **Landfill / Transfer Station Surcharge** • **Act 69 / Act 138 Surcharge Fees** • **Act 185 County Public Works Assessment**	Clare County	• Already in place at the Northern Oaks landfill; revenue currently flows to the county general fund rather than being dedicated to materials management programs. • County leadership agreed the Act 69 / Act 138 mechanism merits further evaluation. • Act 185 is already in place for drain assessments; the existing DPW structure could potentially be expanded to include recycling program funding.
• **Hauler License Resource Recovery Fee** • **Act 69 / Act 138 Surcharge Fees** • **Act 185 County Public Works Assessment**	Gladwin County	• County expressed interest in pursuing hauler licensing fees. • County leadership agreed the Act 69 / Act 138 mechanism merits further evaluation. • Act 185 is already in place for water/wastewater; the existing DPW structure could potentially be expanded to include recycling program funding, though it ranked below the other mechanisms as a preferred option.

TYPE OF MECHANISM	REGION/ AREA IMPACTED	DESCRIPTION
• **Supplemental Fees for Service**		• Expressed interest in supplemental fees, potentially in combination with an Act 185 assessment to reduce the assessment amount
• **Hauler License Resource Recovery Fee** • **Act 69 / Act 138 Surcharge Fees**	Gratiot County	• County expressed interest in pursuing hauler licensing fees. • County leadership agreed the Act 69 / Act 138 mechanism merits further evaluation
• **Hauler License Resource Recovery Fee** • **Act 69 / Act 138 Surcharge Fees** • **Act 185 County Public Works Assessment** • **Supplemental Fees for Service**	Isabella County	• Already in place: haulers are licensed through the county and pay an annual fee that supports the county MRF budget. • County leadership agreed the Act 69 / Act 138 mechanism merits further evaluation. • Act 185 DPW already in place and supporting the Isabella MRF. • Supplemental fees are already in place at the county MRF for convenience services such as tire and yard waste drop-off.
• **Act 69 / Act 138 Surcharge Fees**	Mecosta County	• County leadership agreed that this mechanism merits further evaluation.
• **Hauler License Resource Recovery Fee** • **Act 185 County Public Works Assessment**	Midland County	• All options are conceivably viable, with feasibility dependent on gaining traction relative to other options. • County needs to research its current Act 185 structure to determine applicability to materials management funding.
• **Supplemental Fees for Service**	Ogemaw County	• Supplemental fees are currently used by the City of West Branch to fund its recycling program, so there may be appetite for something similar at the county-level.
• **Act 69 / Act 138 Surcharge Fees** • **General Fund**	Osceola County	• County leadership agreed the Act 69 / Act 138 mechanism merits further evaluation. • Potential interest in a cost-share arrangement between the county and its 16 townships and 5-6 cities/villages, pending a clearer understanding of the county funding gap. Ice Mountain, which sources water from Osceola County, was also identified as a potential model for private-partner cost-sharing.
• **Voter-Approved Countywide Millage**	Heartland Region (all 8 counties)	• All eight counties expressed general preference to avoid pursuing a millage at this time. Each County suggested that this would be their least desirable approach to pursue supporting BRS compliance and/or funding new programs, infrastructure, and outreach.
• **Enforcement Mechanisms**	Heartland Region (all 8 counties)	• The Heartland MMPC will serve as the body to enforce the procedures set forth in the MMP (e.g. facility applications and consistency determinations). • Each county board of commissioners will provide enforcement with respect to data gathering and reporting

TYPE OF MECHANISM	REGION/ AREA IMPACTED	DESCRIPTION
		in connection with the goals and objectives of the MMP (e.g. hauler licensing). • Local legislative bodies may be asked to enforce the MMP by and through service contracting, business registration processes, site planning reviews, and local purchase policies.

SITING PROCESS

1. Purpose and Authority

This Section establishes the procedure and the criteria that Clare, Gladwin, Gratiot, Isabella, Mecosta, Midland, Ogemaw, and Osceola Counties (the "Planning Area") shall use to determine whether a proposed materials management facility, or an expansion of an existing materials management facility, is consistent with this regional Materials Management Plan (the "Plan"). This Section of the Plan satisfies the siting process requirements of Part 115, Solid Waste Management, of the Natural Resources and Environmental Protection Act, 1994 PA 451, Subpart 11, including MCL 324.11578(1)(r) and 324.11579(1). This provision of the Plan establishes the minimum siting criteria that apply for purposes of MCL 324.11585(3).

Under MCL 324.11508(1)(c) and (2), no materials management facility may be permitted, approved, developed or operated in the Planning Area unless that materials management facility is consistent with the Plan. EGLE shall deny an application for registration, general permit approval, construction permit, or operating license for any materials management facility that is not consistent with the Plan. This provision establishes how consistency is determined and by what entity that determination is made.

A single region-wide process applies uniformly across the Planning Area, consistent with the regional governance structure established elsewhere in the Plan. The DPA shall receive and conduct initial review of siting applications. Each CAA in the Planning Area shall have responsibility for local implementation. The MMPC is the reviewing body for the regional consistency determination. Facility type eligibility, procedure, criteria, and fees do not vary by county within the Planning Area, except as provided in provision 3.1.

Consistency determination shall establish Plan consistency only. A consistency determination under the Plan is not a local zoning approval, a building permit, or an EGLE authorization.

2. Administering Entities

The MMPC shall issue all consistency determinations under this provision. The MMPC shall maintain the controlling register of Existing Facilities and the local ordinance inventory. The MMPC shall conduct all reviews for consistency determination using the consistency determination factors as set forth herein. That review may be initiated by the MMPC at any time but shall be conducted, at a minimum, every five years of the Plan being effective. The MMPC shall decide all requests for reconsideration under provision 11.

The DPA shall act as staff. The DPA receives applications and fees. The DPA performs completeness review, coordinates notices, and transmits determinations. The DPA does not determine consistency. Each CAA retains its other statutory roles. Each CAA receives a copy of every application and every consistency determination made by the MMPC. Any CAA may request a County Host Agreement under provision 7.2.

Under MCL 324.11585(5), EGLE independently determines consistency as part of its review of a registration, general permit, construction permit, or operating license application. Any applicant must transmit a consistency determination issued by the MMPC to EGLE to satisfy any EGLE review and determination. Any MMPC determination of consistency is not binding on EGLE.

3. Facility Types Authorized for Siting

All counties in the Planning Area authorize all types of materials management facilities to be sited within their boundaries, except as provided in provision 3.1. Authorization means a facility type is not categorically excluded in a given county in the Planning Area except as identified in provision 3.1. A facility not categorically excluded in a county within the Planning Area is not automatically a permitted use on any parcel of property and it does not create a right to site a facility on any particular parcel.

FACILITY TYPE	PART 115 CATEGORY	CONSISTENCY PATHWAY (Described in Section 5)
DISPOSAL AREA		
Landfill (Type II, Type III, captive)	Disposal area	C
Solid waste processing and transfer facility	Disposal area	B if notification or registration only (200 cubic yards or less on site); C if a construction permit and operating license are required
Municipal solid waste incinerator	Disposal area	C
Coal ash impoundment	Disposal area	C for a new impoundment; existing and captive facilities are consistent by operation of MCL 324.11585(7) and (8)
MATERIALS UTILIZATION FACILITY		
Materials recovery facility	Materials utilization facility	C
Composting facility (Class 1 and Class 2)	Materials utilization facility	B; C as limited by Section 6.1 only where no zoning ordinance applies to the site
Anaerobic digester	Materials utilization facility	B; C as limited by Section 6.1 only where no zoning ordinance applies to the site
Innovative technology facility	Materials utilization facility	B; C as limited by Section 6.1 only where no zoning ordinance applies to the site
WASTE DIVERSION CENTER		

FACILITY TYPE	PART 115 CATEGORY	CONSISTENCY PATHWAY (Described in Section 5)
DISPOSAL AREA		
Waste diversion center	Waste diversion center	A — automatically consistent as a facility type; MCL 324.11521b operating standards apply (Section 5.1.1)

3.1 County-Specific Eligibility: Materials Recovery Facilities

Notwithstanding provision 3, new development of a Materials Recovery Facility is not eligible for a consistency determination under this siting process in Isabella County. This is the result of Isabella County's role as the host community of the existing Isabella County Materials Recovery Facility. This exclusion applies to new facilities only. The Isabella County Materials Recovery Facility shall remain an Existing Facility automatically consistent with the Plan under provision 5.1 Pathway A. This includes any routine maintenance, equipment replacement, or operational changes at the Isabella County Materials Recovery Facility that occur or are scheduled within its authorized footprint and capacity.

In the other seven counties of the Planning Area, a proposed Materials Recovery Facility remains eligible for a consistency determination and is assigned to Pathway C (provision 5.3) in all application reviews, regardless of local zoning compliance.

An application proposing a new Materials Recovery Facility in Isabella County will not be accepted for processing under this Siting Process.

4. Local Zoning

The counties in the Planning Area shall be bound by local zoning ordinances to determine and establish specific siting allowances. County zoning applies where local zoning is not in place. Where a zoning ordinance has been adopted, it shall govern whether a facility type is a permitted use by right, by special or conditional use, or not at all in a given district absent a rezoning approval. Applicable and relevant local ordinances shall govern the dimensional, screening, access, and operational standards that attach to any facility established in the Planning Area. This provision does not preempt any local zoning determinations and does not enlarge or diminish any local zoning authority.

A materials utilization facility, other than a materials recovery facility, or a disposal area that does not require a Part 115 license or permit, that is proposed in a local unit of government that has a zoning ordinance, shall be determined to be consistent with the Plan if it complies with that local ordinance and the owner or operator presents documentation of compliance from the local zoning authority to EGLE and the CAA. For those facilities, zoning compliance is the test for consistency with the Plan.

Each local ordinance listed in the Appendix is incorporated in full into the Plan by reference as it exists as of July 2026 and as amended going forward and otherwise consistent with 11576(5)(d). Complete and up-to-date copies of the applicable local ordinances are maintained by the local planning agency. A jurisdiction's ordinance does not lose effect because it is not yet listed or codified or because it has been revised and not updated in the list.

5. Consistency Pathways

Every application is reviewed and resolved through only one pathway as set forth in this provision. The DPA shall confirm the applicable pathway at the completeness review stage.

PATHWAY	BASIS	APPLIES TO	REQUIREMENTS
A	MCL 324.11585(2), (7), (8)	Existing Facilities on the Plan inventory; waste diversion centers of any size	Per 324.11578, existing facilities must provide, at a minimum, latitude and longitude, estimated facility acreage, a description of the materials managed, the processes for handling materials at the facility, the total authorized capacity of the facility, and a written acknowledgement of their inclusion in the Plan.
B	MCL 324.11585(1)	All materials utilization facilities, other than materials recovery facilities, and any disposal area not requiring a Part 115 license or permit, proposed in a jurisdiction that has a zoning ordinance	Zoning compliance, documented in writing by the zoning authority and presented to EGLE and the Host County CAA. Data submission per Section 9 and potential for Host Community and/or Host County Agreement per Section 7.
C	MCL 324.11585(3)	Materials recovery facilities, landfills, municipal solid waste incinerators, new coal ash impoundments, processing and transfer facilities requiring a construction permit and operating license, and any facility on an un-zoned site	The facility follows this Section and meets the minimum siting criteria in Section 6; and the facility has host community approval or meets the supplemental criteria in Section 7.3

5.1 Pathway A — Automatic consistency

Under MCL 324.11585(2), a disposal area or materials utilization facility is automatically consistent with the Plan if the specific facility or the facility type is identified in the Plan as automatically consistent. The Plan designates the following facilities as automatically consistent with the Plan:

a) Existing Facilities. Every disposal area and materials utilization facility lawfully operating in the planning area on the effective date of the Plan and listed on the facility inventory prepared under MCL 324.11578(1)(f). Listing shall require the owner to meet written acknowledgment requirements under MCL 324.11578(1)(g), including latitude and longitude, estimated facility acreage, a description of the materials managed, the processes for handling materials at the facility, and the total authorized capacity of the facility.
b) Waste diversion centers, of any size, anywhere in the Planning Area. A waste diversion center is a separate category under MCL 324.11504(24)(c) and is not a disposal area or materials utilization facility.

Automatic consistency attaches to the facility only as authorized herein and is not a waiver of any local ordinance or any EGLE requirement. An expansion, an increase in authorized disposal capacity, a change in facility type, or a relocation is a new siting action that shall be managed and resolved under Pathway B or C. Routine maintenance, equipment replacement, and operational change within the existing and authorized footprint and capacity are not considered a new siting action. This does not apply to a waste diversion center, which remains automatically consistent in all cases. This paragraph does not apply to an expansion

that, at the time the Plan is effective, has already received a Part 115 construction permit and/or other applicable approval from EGLE.

A facility lawfully operating on the effective date that is not listed — including because the owner did not submit the MCL 324.11578(1)(g) acknowledgment — may be added to the register of facilities at any time by submitting that acknowledgment, at no charge, and that facility is automatically consistent from the date of listing. For such a facility, renewal of an existing EGLE authorization involving no expansion, no capacity increase, no type change, and no relocation is not a new siting action. Automatic consistency does not exempt a facility from provision 9.

5.1.1 Waste diversion center requirements

Automatic consistency under provision 5.1 Pathway B addresses Plan consistency only. A waste diversion center remains subject to MCL 324.11521b, the Part 115 subpart governing their facilities, and the applicable local zoning ordinances of the local municipality or the county where the waste diversion center is located.

5.2 Pathway B — Local zoning compliance

Pathway B is the siting pathway for composting facilities, anaerobic digesters, innovative technology facilities, and processing and transfer facilities authorized by notification or registration. Local zoning compliance is the only consistency test under Pathway B. The Plan adds no criteria. The applicant shall submit:

1. A completed application identifying Pathway B, the applicable fee under provision 10, and a signed acknowledgment of the obligations in provision 9.
2. A Zoning Compliance Letter from the local zoning authority, dated within the last 180 days, on letterhead and signed by the zoning administrator or other authorized official. The zoning compliance letter shall identify the parcel and parcel identification numbers, identify the zoning district and the provision under which the use is classified, states whether the use is permitted by right or requires discretionary approval, state that the facility complies with any applicable and relevant local ordinances, and represents that all necessary local approvals have been granted, or that the use is authorized in the district and eligible for the identified discretionary approvals, attaching any approval resolution and conditions; and confirms the authority's jurisdiction over the site.

The MMPC shall issue a determination of consistency with the Plan within the provision 8 timeline and shall transmit it, with the Zoning Compliance Letter, to the applicant, the Host County CAA, the local zoning authority, and EGLE. That transmittal is a service to the applicant and does not relieve the owner or operator from any duties under MCL 324.11585(1) to present the local zoning authority's documentation to EGLE and the CAA, or under MCL 324.11585(5) to include documentation of consistency in its EGLE application.

Where the local zoning authority confirms non-compliance or declines to confirm compliance, the facility is not consistent with the Plan. The remedy for the Applicant is with the local zoning authority. The MMPC has no authority to override, preempt or substitute its review and determinations for a local zoning decision. Any such applicant may choose to continue development by following the siting process contained here-in, including any applicable supplemental criteria with documentation as required to enable EGLE to determine that the Plan authorizes this facility type.

5.3 Pathway C — Full siting process

Under MCL 324.11585(3), a facility that is neither automatically consistent nor eligible for Pathway B is consistent with the Plan only if the MMPC determines that the Plan authorizes the facility type (provision 3),

the facility follows this provision and meets the minimum siting criteria in provision 6, and the facility has host community approval or meets the supplemental criteria in provision 7.3. Materials recovery facilities are assigned to Pathway C in all application processes, given their role in the region's Goal 5 hub-and-spoke materials utilization strategy. Local zoning remains a threshold requirement under provision 6.1.

For a captive Type III landfill under MCL 324.11583(3)(a), the first requirement is satisfied if the Type III landfill accepts only waste generated by its owner or operator and the Type III landfill has met local land use requirements when initially sited. The applicant must document both issues. The remaining requirements shall still apply.

5.4 Burden of proof

The burden of demonstrating consistency with the Plan is on the applicant as an affirmative duty. An application that does not affirmatively demonstrate consistency shall be incomplete. The DPA shall return an incomplete application to the applicant with a written notice of deficiency identifying the missing items, and the applicant may resubmit. Any application that does not satisfy its pathway on its face shall be rejected without further substantive review, with the basis stated in writing to the applicant.

6. Minimum Siting Criteria (Pathway C only)

6.1 Threshold: local zoning approval

The applicant must demonstrate that the facility is an authorized use and has received, or is eligible to receive, all approvals required. The applicant shall seek a Zoning Compliance Letter in compliance with provision 5.2(2), if the local government offers such a process. Where no local zoning ordinance applies, this criterion is inapplicable and the applicant must state so on the application, supported by written confirmation from the county and from the city, village, or township in which the parcel lies.

6.2 Criteria

a) Dimensional standards. Applicant shall submit a signed acknowledgement from the local unit of government affirming that the facility meets the parcel size, setbacks, coverage, and height standards of the applicable and relevant local ordinances for the zoning district and use. Where the applicable and relevant local ordinances is silent, a 300-foot setback applies from any occupied residential dwelling not on the facility parcel and from the boundary of any platted residential subdivision, mobile home park, school, licensed childcare center, or licensed health care facility.

b) Water supply protection. Applicant shall submit a signed acknowledgement from the local unit of government affirming that the facility meets applicable state setbacks from potable water supply wells and delineated wellhead protection areas, and, where the ordinance is silent, not less than 300 feet from any water supply well serving a dwelling or public water supply not on the parcel.

c) Environmental siting screen. Based on FEMA flood insurance rate maps, the EGLE wetlands inventory, EGLE high-risk erosion and critical dune designations, the designated natural rivers list, and the SHPO database, the facility shall demonstrate that it does not lie within the following (absent an applicable permit, authorization, or documented exemption):
    - 100-year floodplain;
    - a regulated wetland;
    - a critical dune or high-risk erosion area;
    - a designated natural river corridor;
    - or a designated historic or archaeological area.

d) Site access. Applicant shall submit a signed statement from the local unit of government indicating that the facility has adequate ingress and egress from a public road capable of accommodating anticipated truck traffic, confirmed in writing by the road agency having jurisdiction over the road at issue, and uses any truck routes designated by the zoning authority or road agency.
e) Screening and buffering. Applicant shall submit a signed statement to the local unit of government indicating that the facility will maintain required fencing, landscaping, berming, or retained natural buffer along property lines adjoining a residential use or district sufficient to mitigate visual, noise, dust, and litter impacts. A measurable document indicating that this criterion is achieved shall also be required.
f) Odor and nuisance control. The facility shall submit documentation, studies, or reports to demonstrate it will comply with Mich. Admin. Code R 336.1901 and the Part 115 operating requirements applicable to its type; a materials utilization facility is separately subject to MCL 324.11568(1)(a). A landfill, municipal solid waste incinerator, or processing and transfer facility requiring a construction permit and operating license must submit a written Odor Management Plan stating the control methodology, the maximum on-site retention period for putrescible material, and a written complaint log and 24-hour response protocol.
g) Stormwater and erosion control. The applicant shall submit a written stormwater management and soil erosion and sedimentation control plan consistent with county and state requirements and which identified the permits required under Part 91 and, where applicable, Part 31.
h) Litter, vector, and cleanliness. The applicant shall submit, in a written plan, its measures for daily litter control, vector and nuisance animal control, dust suppression, and control of tracking onto public roads.
i) Plan goals. The applicant shall submit in writing how the facility supports the materials management goals adopted under MCL 324.11578(1)(a) and the implementation strategy under MCL 324.11578(1)(b), including, for a disposal area, how its design and operation accommodate diversion of the streams the Plan targets.

7. Host Community Approval and Host Agreements

7.1 Host community approval

MCL 324.11585(3)(c) is satisfied by a written host community approval, a written agreement, a resolution, an executed letter, or other document indicating that the governing body of the local government municipality where the facility is proposed to be located has reviewed and approved that specific facility (MCL 324.11504(2)). A planning commission special land use approval is not a host community approval unless and until the governing body has itself acted on the use approval.

7.2 Host Agreements

Host Agreements may be required by either or both the host municipality and/or the host county. The Plan's preference is that it takes the form of a documented Host Community Agreement stating the agreed upon conditions of local approval.

- Municipal Host Agreement — on request of the host municipality's governing body. For a landfill, it may address the impact fee authorized under MCL 324.11532, including a fee above the statutory default by written agreement with the owner or operator of the facility. It may also include the provision of services by the facility that satisfy the requirements of the host community residents and businesses with regard to the goals as set forth in the Plan.
- County Host Agreement — on request of the Host County CAA or board of commissioners, in lieu of or in addition to a Municipal Host Agreement. This may include provision of services, fees, or

operational commitments that satisfy the requirements of the county regarding the goals as set forth in the Plan. The Agreement may specifically support for the Host County's obligations regarding the Benchmark Recycling Standards.
- Either may include a negotiated host fee, cost recovery, or in-kind service commitment, independent of the application fee in provision 10, at the requesting jurisdiction's discretion.
- Either may include reporting requirements concerning operating violations issued by EGLE and resolution of those operating violations.
- Either may include a provision for detailed data collection to be used to measure progress on the goals of the Plan.

Where a Host Agreement has been requested, the DPA records its status in the review file. The absence of an executed Host Agreement is not a basis for a non-consistency determination and does not delay a consistency determination beyond the provision 8 timeline.

Nothing in this Siting Process prohibits or is intended to restrict any local government or any county in the Planning Area from negotiating and entering into a Host Community Agreement or another form of agreement with a facility on the existing facilities register at the time this Plan becomes effective.

7.3 Supplemental Criteria

MCL 324.11585(3)(c)(ii) permits a facility without host community approval to be consistent if it meets supplemental criteria set forth in the Plan. The following supplemental criteria provides for a documented record of local engagement and specific criteria for impact mitigation as a substitute for the absence of applicable host community support

A Pathway C applicant without host community approval must satisfy all of the following in addition to provision 6:

1. Written notice from the proposed facility to the host municipality's governing body and to the Host County CAA at least 90 days before submittal, which sets forth an offer to meet with each, a record of that notice and the offer, and the results of any meeting.
2. At least one public informational meeting in the host municipality, noticed at least 15 days in advance by newspaper publication and by mail to owners within 1,000 feet of the site boundary, with the notice, attendance record, materials, and a written summary of issues raised submitted by the facility to the host municipality.
3. A written response to each substantive issue raised by the municipality, the Host County, or the public, and identifying the change made in response or the reason no change was made.
4. A written impact mitigation plan addressing traffic and road impacts, noise, odor, dust, litter, hours of operation, lighting, and screening, with commitments stated as conditions the applicant accepts as conditions of the determination.
5. Documentation of direct access from the proposed site to designated all-weather truck routes or state highways rather than local residential streets. The documentation shall include a traffic impact study by a licensed professional engineer addressing the proposed haul route, peak and daily trip generation, intersection and pavement capacity, and proposed improvements, along with written comments of the road agency having jurisdiction.
6. A buffer along each property line adjoining a residential use or district of not less than 150 percent of the setback as set forth in the applicable and relevant local ordinances, or, where the ordinance is silent or no ordinance applies, 150 percent of the provision 6.2(a) default.

7. Acceptance, as conditions of the determination, of a written complaint log and 24-hour response protocol, semiannual reporting for the first three years of operation, and the submittal of one third-party compliance audit at the applicant's expense within 24 months of commencing operation, reported to the MMPC, the Host County CAA, and the host municipality.
8. A written and enforceable community benefit commitment of relevant and demonstrated value to the host municipality. For example, recycling drop-off access, household hazardous waste or bulky item collection, road maintenance contribution, or a negotiated per-ton payment. The applicant is responsible to propose the measure. The MMPC evaluates only whether it bears a reasonable relationship to the facility's local impacts.

The MMPC shall determine these criteria satisfied when the applicant has substantially complied with each. Any consistency determination by the MMPC under this provision shall require a unanimous open meeting roll-call vote with all members of the then current MMPC present.

8. Application and Review Procedure

8.1 Application contents

An applicant submits the following to the DPA. Items marked (C) are required only for Pathway C.

1. Completed application form identifying the pathway relied on.
2. The applicable fee under provision 10, and for Tier 4 the security required by provision 10.3.
3. Facility description: type and Part 115 category, EGLE authorization level, design and authorized capacity, materials handled, hours of operation, and anticipated daily and peak truck volumes.
4. Proof of site control; legal description and parcel identification number for each parcel; location map.
5. Zoning Compliance Letter meeting provision 5.2(2), or written confirmation that no zoning ordinance applies to the parcel.
6. Site plan showing site boundary, facility footprint, setbacks to nearest occupied dwellings and adjoining residential districts, water supply wells, screening, access and internal circulation, and stormwater features.
7. Documentation of compliance with each applicable criterion in provision 6.2. (C)
8. Host community approval, or the documentation required by provision 7.3. (C)
9. Documentation of any executed Municipal or County Host Agreement requested under provision 7.2.
10. Copies of every EGLE notification, registration, general permit, construction permit, and operating license application filed or to be filed.
11. For a disposal area, the applicable engineering and environmental reports, including hydrogeologic assessment, wetland delineation, floodplain determination, and closure and post-closure cost estimate with the proposed financial assurance mechanism. (C)
12. A written Odor Management Plan where required by provision 6.2(f), and road agency confirmation of site access; traffic impact study where provision 7.3(5) applies. (C)
13. Evidence of any notice required under provision 8.3.
14. Signed acknowledgment of the obligations in provision 9, and any additional information the DPA or MMPC reasonably requests.

A pre-application meeting with the DPA is encouraged and will be without cost. Its purpose is to confirm the pathway, fee tier, zoning authority, and notice obligations before the application is assembled.

8.2 Timeline

STEP	ACTION	TIMELINE
1	Submittal of complete application, fee, and any Tier 4 security	—
2	DPA completeness review and written notice of deficiency	21 days for Pathway A and B; 30 days for Pathway C. The review period shall be suspended until a complete application is resubmitted.
3	DPA notice to Host County CAA, local zoning authority, and any municipality entitled to notice under Section 8.3	Within 10 days of a complete application.
4	Public notice and comment	Pathway C only: notice within 14 days of a complete application; comment period of not less than 21 days.
5	Technical review against the pathway and, for Pathway C, Section 6	Concurrent with steps 3 and 4
6	MMPC written determination, stating the basis for any non-consistency determination	New facilities following Pathway A: 21 days from a complete application. Pathway B: 45 days from a complete application. Pathway C: 90 days from the close of comment, extendable once by 45 days on written notice stating the reason.
7	DPA transmittal to the applicant, Host County CAA, zoning authority, host municipality, and EGLE	Within 10 days; issuance and transmittal together satisfy the prompt written notice required by MCL 324.11585(4)

Where a determination deadline falls between regular meetings, the MMPC may delegate issuance of a Pathway A confirmation, and of an unopposed Pathway B determination in which the zoning authority confirmed compliance without condition, to the DPA, subject to a ratification motion and vote at the next regular meeting.

A Pathway C determination is valid for 36 months. A Pathway B determination is valid for 24 months, or the term of the underlying zoning approval if shorter. Either may be extended once by up to 12 months on written request filed before expiration if the facility, site, zoning classification, and applicable ordinances have not materially changed. A determination does not expire once the facility has commenced construction in reliance on the determination and holds the EGLE authorization required to operate, and thereafter runs with the facility, transferring to any new owner or operator on written notice to the DPA. Administrative amendments, clerical corrections, ownership changes, and non-material changes not affecting the footprint, authorized capacity, facility type, or basis for the determination — shall be issued by the DPA at no charge.

8.3 Notice to adjacent municipalities

Under MCL 324.11578(3), where a landfill is proposed within two miles of a municipality located adjacent to the Planning Area, or a processing and transfer facility or materials utilization facility is proposed within one mile of such a municipality, the Host County CAA shall notify that municipality's legislative body in writing, and the notice shall include a copy of MCL 324.11578(3). The MMPC shall provide an opportunity to comment. The DPA shall prepare and transmits the notice on the CAA's behalf which shall include any comment in the record. As a matter of Plan policy, the DPA provides the same notice and comment opportunity, at the same distances, to municipalities within the planning area.

9. Ongoing Obligations

9.1 Data submission

The owner or operator of a materials management facility in the Planning Area shall submit annually to the DPA, or more frequently upon written request, material types and tonnages received, processed, utilized, or disposed, source of material by jurisdiction of origin, to the extent known, residual tonnage and its disposition, remaining authorized and available capacity, and any other information the MMPC reasonably requests to support the five-year Plan review under MCL 324.11576(7), the capacity determination under MCL 324.11578(1)(c), the recycling rate calculation under MCL 324.11578(1)(k), and the annual facility evaluation under MCL 324.11578(1)(b).

Reporting obligations shall also be written into local contracts and hauler licenses and shall serve as the basis of enforcement.

10. Application Fee

10.1 Fee schedule

The fee is tiered to the level of the EGLE authorization the facility requires, which tracks the size, risk, and complexity of the review and is a bright line the applicant knows before applying. Except at Tier 1, where EGLE charges nothing and the Heartland fee recovers only the cost of verifying a Zoning Compliance Letter, each tier is set at or below the corresponding EGLE fee. Fees are cost-recovery charges and shall not be a source of revenue.

TIER	EGLE AUTHORIZATION	FACILITY TYPES & THRESHOLDS	MMP APPLICATION FEE
0	None — automatic consistency confirmation	Any Existing Facility listed in the Plan inventory; waste diversion center of any size (EGLE notification only, and only where MCL 324.11521b(1)(k) applies)	$0
1	Notification only, or exempt	Composting 500–1,000 cubic yards; materials recovery facility under 100 tons per year with under 100 tons on site; anaerobic digester at 20 percent or less off-site material; processing and transfer under 50 cubic yards on site	$250
2	Registration, 5-year	Composting 1,000–10,000 cubic yards; materials recovery facility over 100 tons per year with under 100 tons on site; anaerobic digester over 20 percent off-site material; processing and transfer 50–200 cubic yards on site	$750

3	General permit, 5-year (2-year for innovative technology)	Composting over 10,000 cubic yards or any Class 2; materials recovery facility over 100 tons on site; anaerobic digester managing off-site source-separated material, manures, bedding, or crop residuals; innovative technology facility at any size	$1,000
4	Construction permit and operating license	Landfill, new or expansion; municipal solid waste incinerator; new coal ash impoundment; processing and transfer over 200 cubic yards on site	$2,500 + $10,000 escrow or letter of credit

10.2 Cost basis

At a blended loaded rate of approximately $85 per hour, the tiers correspond to roughly 3–4 hours (Tier 1, $255–$340), 8–10 hours (Tier 2, $680–$850), 10–14 hours (Tier 3, $850–$1,190), and 30–40 hours (Tier 4, $2,550–$3,400) of DPA and consultant review, plus notice and administrative costs. Tier 4 is deliberately set below full cost recovery, with outside engineering, hydrogeologic, and legal review recovered separately under Section 10.3. Each CAA should confirm the rate assumption against its own staff and consultant billing rates before adoption. The MMPC may adjust the schedule and the Tier 4 rates not more than once per calendar year on written findings that the adjustment reflects actual administrative cost; a fee adjustment is not a Plan amendment.

The fee may be reduced by 50 percent where the applicant is a county, city, village, township, enacted authority, school district, or 501(c)(3) organization and the facility will serve the planning area.

If the applicant withdraws, the following calculation will be applied to the refund of the application fee: 75 percent refunded before the completeness determination; 50 percent within 14 days after it; none thereafter. Tier 4 security is reconciled and released net of documented costs.

10.3 Tier 4 security

A Tier 4 applicant shall submit, at its election, $10,000 as either a cash escrow deposit held by the Host County or an irrevocable letter of credit from a financial institution acceptable to the Host County, naming the Host County as beneficiary and payable on demand. The Host County shall draw against the deposit to reimburse actual, documented third-party review costs as incurred. The Host Community shall compile and keep on record an itemized accounting of each draw. Any unused balance shall be refunded or the undrawn letter of credit released on issuance or denial of the determination. Documented costs exceeding the security shall be itemized, invoiced, and payable before a determination issues.

11. Reconsideration

An applicant who receives a non-consistency determination, or a determination subject to conditions it disputes, may request reconsideration by the MMPC within 30 days. The request for reconsideration must be in writing and shall identify the specific basis, including any additional or corrected information. The MMPC will decide within 45 days of receipt or at its next regular meeting occurring more than 14 days after receipt, whichever is earlier, and in no event later than 90 days after receipt. Where the determination rests on a zoning authority's finding of non-compliance, reconsideration is limited to whether the MMPC correctly applied that finding. The MMPC cannot review the merits of a local zoning decision. Reconsideration does not limit any other right of review under Part 115 or other law and does not affect EGLE's independent evaluation under MCL 324.11585(5).

12. Effective Date and Amendment

These provisions of Section three shall be effective when EGLE approves the Plan under MCL 324.11575(9). Until the effective date, MCL 324.11508(2) and provision 5.3 govern. An application complete and pending under a county's prior solid waste management plan siting process on the effective date is completed under that process unless the applicant elects in writing to proceed under these provisions.

If any provision herein is held invalid or conflicts with Part 115, the remaining provisions shall remain in effect and the provision applies to the fullest extent consistent with Part 115. Substantive amendment requires a Plan Amendment. Any Appendix updates and fee adjustments do not require a Plan Amendment.

Section Four: Administration

Administration of the Heartland MMP is structured around three entities established under the Heartland Interlocal Agreement and Part 115: each of the eight participating Counties, acting as its own County Approval Agency (CAA); the Isabella County Materials Recovery Facility, whose Director (or designee) serves as the region's single Designated Planning Agency (DPA); and the Heartland Materials Management Planning Committee (MMPC), the multi-county body established under the Urban Cooperation Act (MCL 124.501 et. seq.) that has taken on the planning process as provided for under MCL 324.11572. The MMPC has voting representation from all eight counties and its mission covers both plan development as well as subsequent administration of the plan. In general, county-level implementation and enforcement sits with each County, region-wide coordination, and EGLE-facing reporting sits with the DPA, and cross-county goal setting and oversight sits with the MMPC. County-specific administrative details named staff, local ordinances, and county board designations — are provided in each county's appendix rather than repeated here.

Table 4-1: Responsibilities

RESPONSIBILITIES	NAME/TITLE/ ORGANIZATION	QUALIFICATIONS/AUTHORITY
Implementing the access requirements of the Benchmark Recycling Standards	Each participating County, acting through its County Board of Commissioners and county Department of Public Works (DPW) or designated recycling coordinator, in coordination with the Heartland Materials Management Planning Committee (MMPC)	Each County Board of Commissioners holds statutory authority under Part 115 and the Heartland Interlocal Agreement to adopt the local ordinances, licensing requirements, and funding mechanisms needed to meet BRS access requirements within its jurisdiction (see Table 3-1). County DPW departments and recycling coordinators bring direct operational experience administering existing drop-off, transfer, and, where applicable, curbside programs. The Heartland MMPC provides regional coordination, shares practices across counties, and may serve as a backstop implementation body to support consistent BRS compliance region-wide.
Identifying the materials utilization framework and the achievement of the materials management goals	Heartland Materials Management Planning Committee (MMPC), supported by the Designated Planning Agency (DPA)	The MMPC established under the Urban Cooperation Act (MCL 124.501 et. seq.) with voting representation from each of the eight participating counties, including at least one elected official and one business representative per county as a matter of right, giving it both the statutory authority and the cross-sector composition needed to a) identify the

RESPONSIBILITIES	NAME/TITLE/ ORGANIZATION	QUALIFICATIONS/AUTHORITY
		region's materials utilization framework (including the Isabella County MRF hub-and-spoke system described in Section 2, Goal 5), b) track progress on the five regional goals and c) serve as a backstop implementation body to support consistent progress towards those goals region-wide. The DPA, housed at the Isabella County Materials Recovery Facility under the direction of its director (or designee), coordinates this work at the region-wide level per the Interlocal Agreement.
Otherwise monitoring, implementing, and enforcing the MMP and providing any required reports to the Department	Designated Planning Agency (DPA) — Isabella County Materials Recovery Facility Director or designee — in coordination with the Heartland MMPC and each County Approval Agency (CAA)	The Heartland Interlocal Agreement designates the Isabella County MRF Director (or designee) as the region's DPA for all purposes under Part 115, with express responsibility for coordinating the overall MMP process, facilitating communication among the eight counties and with EGLE, and overseeing compliance with Part 115's procedural requirements, including goal certification and progress reporting under MCL 324.11582. Each County, as its own CAA, retains responsibility for monitoring and enforcement actions specific to its jurisdiction, acting either independently and/or with the support of the MMPC.
Administering the funding mechanisms that will be used to implement the MMP	Each County (as CAA), individually, for the county-specific mechanisms identified in Table 3-1; the DPA, for coordination, reporting, and oversight of the overall MMP process budget; and the Heartland MMPC, for approval of any jointly incurred shared costs	Under the Interlocal Agreement, each County is designated as the CAA responsible for receiving and administering its own State and grant funding and for independently contracting for and paying its own consulting and program costs, with statutory authority to adopt the county-specific mechanism(s) identified in Table 3-1 (e.g., Act 185 assessments, hauler licensing fees). The DPA's role is limited to coordination and quarterly financial disclosure to all CAAs; jointly incurred shared MMP activities (such as joint meetings or shared printing) may be administered through the DPA as approved by the MMPC, consistent with Article III(D) of the Interlocal Agreement.

Appendix A – Clare County

MATERIALS MANAGEMENT FACILITIES IN CLARE COUNTY



GOAL 1: IMPROVE MUNICIPAL AND COMMERCIAL WASTE (MCW) RECYCLING RATES AND MEET BENCHMARK RECYCLING STANDARDS

Description

Clare County currently meets Michigan's Benchmark Recycling Standards (BRS): no municipality in the county exceeds 5,000 residents, so curbside recycling access is not required, and the county maintains at least four confirmed drop-off sites, exceeding the state's calculated three-site minimum for the county. Curbside recycling service exists only in Clare City (served by GFL) and Hamilton Township (served by Republic); many other communities in the county lack basic curbside trash collection, which makes expanding curbside recycling a longer-term rather than near-term priority.

DROP-OFF SITE	≥24 HRS/MONTH?
Arthur Township Hall	Confirmed
Greenwood Township Hall	Confirmed
Northern Oaks	Confirmed
Surrey Township Transfer Station	Confirmed

The first objective is to verify and maintain drop-off coverage within a 15-minute drive for all residents. This includes a baseline GIS or consultant-supported drive-time analysis, annual verification that at least three sites meet the state's 24-hours-per-month operating requirement, and pursuit of the aspirational goal that every township has at least one recycling bin or dumpster — including a bin at the county building. The county will also maintain a public list of drop-off site locations, hours, and accepted materials, and conduct an annual data request to track BRS compliance and flag any community that grows past 5,000 residents.

A second, explicitly later-date objective is to survey cities, villages, and townships (CVTs) on their current trash and recycling contract status and expiration dates, and to offer model RFP language and technical assistance to communities interested in bundling trash and recycling collection through joint RFPs. This work is deliberately deferred given that many communities in Clare County still lack even basic contracted trash service, and it will be activated and timebound once that underlying infrastructure matures.

A third objective targets multi-family housing: the county will conduct outreach to landlords and property managers — acknowledging this outreach is expected to be challenging given landlords' existing difficulties with basic trash disposal compliance — and will develop model zoning language for municipalities with zoning authority to require adequate trash and recycling space in new construction.

Resources Needed

For the drop-off verification and township-bin objective: staff time for the drive-time analysis, annual site verification, and municipal engagement; GIS software access or consultant support in Year 1; bin or dumpster infrastructure for any coverage gaps, potentially funded through an EGLE infrastructure grant; hauler service contracts for any new bins or dumpsters; and EGLE technical assistance as available.

For the later-date CVT and coordinated-contract objective: costs are to be determined at the time of activation, since this objective has no near-term targets and will be scoped once trash and drop-off infrastructure matures across the county.

For the multi-family zoning objective: staff time for landlord and property manager outreach and zoning language development, EGLE technical assistance as available, and legal review support for model ordinance language, potentially funded through county general funds or EGLE MMP Implementation funds.

Clare's near-term Goal 1 cost gap estimate reflects no hard costs. Combined staff hours across these objectives are estimated at roughly 450 hours annually.

Education and Outreach Program

The county will maintain and publish an up-to-date public list of drop-off site locations, hours, and accepted materials on the county's website (or Heartland's website). Later-date curbside and coordinated hauler contract work will include model RFP language and technical assistance to help cities, villages, and townships understand the cost savings available through bundled trash-and-recycling contracts, developed in coordination with the Heartland MMPC.

Outreach to landlords and property managers of multi-family properties will focus on raising awareness of existing services and identifying barriers to tenant access, while model zoning language will be shared with municipal zoning and planning departments as an optional resource.

Implementation Timeline

In Year 1, the county will complete its baseline drive-time analysis, verify all existing drop-off sites meet BRS hours requirements, and engage NextCycle Michigan and EGLE on grant-eligible projects.

In Year 2, the county expects to have identified and begun addressing any geographic coverage gaps, established a recycling bin at the county building, published a maintained inventory of existing funding mechanisms, and submitted at least one grant application; outreach to landlords and property managers will also be underway, with barriers to multi-family access documented.

By Year 3, at least one additional township should have a recycling bin or dumpster where the drive-time analysis identified a gap, the funding gap for achieving township-level drop-off coverage will be documented, and at least one municipality will have adopted or be actively considering model zoning language for multi-family construction.

By Year 10, every township in Clare County is expected to have at least one recycling bin or dumpster accessible to residents, and the county's later-date curbside and coordinated-contract objectives will be reassessed for activation as trash collection infrastructure matures.

Responsible Party and Potential Partners

Responsibility for this goal rests primarily with the Clare County CAA, working alongside the Clare County Department of Public Works on day-to-day site verification and outreach; the Heartland MMPC holds an advisory and regional-coordination role, particularly for the siting-process update and any host agreement negotiations, and is the named responsible party for that objective specifically. Key partners include local municipal leaders and township boards, the Clare County Board of Commissioners, Northern Oaks Recycling and Disposal Facility, haulers, EGLE, NextCycle Michigan, the Middle Michigan Development Corporation (MMDC), and MSU Extension, along with area landlords and property managers on the multi-family housing objective.

GOAL 2: REDUCE FOOD WASTE AND ADVANCE ORGANICS MANAGEMENT

Description

A first objective supports residents composting at home, through a guide developed with MSU Extension and the Clare County Conservation District and distributed through township offices, the county website, libraries, and community organizations, paired with countywide composting workshops. The county will

also pursue funding for a composting toolkit program — bin giveaways, starter kits, or informational kits — while being transparent in outreach that toolkit availability may be limited or grant-dependent.

A second objective targets food waste prevention and surplus donation among schools, hospitals, restaurants, and grocery stores, emphasizing the legal protections available under the Bill Emerson Good Samaritan Food Donation Act, and connecting businesses with local food banks and shelters. The county will run the EPA's Preventing Food Waste in Your Community Social Marketing Kit campaign on a biennial basis, coordinated through the Heartland MMPC, and host at least one educational event per year targeting the business sectors identified as significant generators in the Natural Resources Defense Council (NRDC) food waste calculator model.

A third objective addresses K-12 schools through the Clare-Gladwin RESD: surveying current food waste practices, promoting USDA best practices such as offer-versus-serve policies and cafeteria share tables, and coordinating with the Heartland MMPC to share findings with Gladwin County — which has expressed openness to a similar approach — toward a replicable regional school food waste model. Where significant food surplus remains after prevention efforts, the county will explore a food rescue pilot in partnership with the Clare County Health Department, Feeding America, and school boards.

Resources Needed

For home composting support: staff time for guide development, partner coordination, and workshop planning; MSU Extension and Conservation District coordination and content support; printing and distribution costs for the composting guide; grant funding for bin giveaways or starter kits if pursued; and venue and materials costs for workshops, potentially offset through the MSU Extension partnership.

For food waste prevention and donation outreach: staff time for outreach planning, event coordination, and campaign adaptation; the EPA's Social Marketing Kit materials, which are publicly available and customizable; outreach materials on the Bill Emerson Act; Heartland MMPC coordination capacity for regional campaign support; and venue and event costs, which may be offset through partner co-hosting.

For the school food waste objective: staff time for school outreach, survey coordination, and Clare-Gladwin RESD and Heartland MMPC engagement; survey development and distribution support; outreach materials on USDA best practices, share tables, and Michigan Department of Education guidance; Michigan Green Schools coordination capacity; and, if food rescue is pursued, engagement capacity with the Clare County Health Department and Feeding America.

Goal 2 region-wide cost gap estimate for personnel to manage regional K-12 school food waste reduction efforts is between $100,000-$160,000 annually for 1-2 staff. All eight counties could consider hiring 1 or more staff to handle education outreach to schools, among other things including: business outreach, grant writing, social media and marketing, etc.

Education and Outreach Program

Education efforts under this goal target residents, who need practical information on collecting and dropping off food scraps and on starting a home composting practice. The county will develop a home composting guide in coordination with MSU Extension and the Conservation District, distributed through township offices, the county website, libraries, and community organizations, and will host composting workshops at accessible community venues countywide.

Food waste prevention outreach will target schools, hospitals, restaurants, and grocery stores using the EPA's Social Marketing Kit, with messaging that emphasizes the legal protections available to businesses donating surplus food under the Bill Emerson Good Samaritan Food Donation Act.

On the school side, the county will work through the Clare-Gladwin RESD to promote USDA best practices such as offer-versus-serve policies and share tables and will coordinate with the Heartland MMPC to share findings with Gladwin County toward a replicable regional school food waste model.

Implementation Timeline

In Year 1, the county will survey schools on current food waste practices through the Clare-Gladwin RESD, develop a targeted outreach plan for food waste-generating businesses and institutions, and quantify the county's local meals gap using Feeding America data to prioritize donor outreach.

In Year 2, the home composting guide will be in distribution through at least three channels; at least one educational event on food waste prevention will be held, along with the first run of the EPA Social Marketing Kit campaign; and initial donor outreach on the meals-gap objective will be underway with at least one grocery store, restaurant, or farm.

By Year 3, outreach will have reached businesses in at least two sectors identified through the NRDC food waste model, at least one school district will have adopted a USDA best practice or share table program, and at least one new food donation partnership will have been established connecting a local business with a food bank or pantry.

From Year 4 onward, the county expects to distribute the at-home composting guide countywide, run the EPA campaign on a two-year cycle, add at least one new school food waste program and Michigan Green School certification per year, and add at least one new meals-gap donor partnership per year, with food rescue piloted in partnership with the Clare County Health Department and Feeding America if surplus food is identified.

Responsible Party and Potential Partners

Responsibility for this goal is shared between the Clare County CAA, which leads the home composting programming, and school, business, and donor outreach, and the Heartland MMPC, which plays a planning and advisory role on the food scrap pilot and coordinates the EPA Social Marketing Kit campaign and regional school food waste model. Key partners include the MSU Extension and the Clare County Conservation District on home composting; the EPA, local food banks and shelters, and area schools, hospitals, restaurants, and grocery stores on prevention and donation; the Clare-Gladwin RESD, Michigan Green Schools, the Clare County Health Department, and Feeding America on school-based work; and the Clare County Health Department, Feeding America, and area food banks and pantries on the meals-gap objective specifically.

GOAL 3: ADVANCE RECYCLING EDUCATION AND OUTREACH

Description

A 2024 community survey found that 40% of Clare County residents rarely or never recycle, citing a belief that recyclables end up in the landfill, cost concerns, and long drive times to drop-off locations as the top barriers. That finding shapes this entire goal: education and outreach are treated as foundational infrastructure underlying every other goal in this plan, not an optional add-on.

The first objective is a new, Part 115-compliant recycling guide published on a cell phone-friendly website — meeting MCL 324.11578(1)(q)'s requirements to identify recycling locations and materials, explain preparation, describe best practices, and list a contact number — potentially developed as part of a shared Heartland MMP regional website to reduce duplicative costs. Printed copies will be available at township offices, libraries, and other public locations, alongside a strategic education and outreach plan identifying roles, responsibilities, and funding sources, reviewed and updated annually.

A second objective brings county-owned and county-operated buildings into compliance: an inventory of current recycling collection, followed by bin infrastructure and hauler arrangements where gaps exist, internal guidelines and signage for employees, and — once recycling is stable — exploration of food waste collection in county buildings.

A third objective works through the Clare-Gladwin RESD to encourage schools to incorporate recycling and composting into curriculum and to establish active collection programs, promoting the Michigan Green Schools program and supporting pilot recycling programs in one to two willing schools.

A fourth objective engages commercial and institutional entities through a voluntary business recycling survey, hosted on the county website, this effort is framed primarily as documenting existing activity and connecting remaining gaps to grant-funded technical assistance rather than building new programs from scratch.

A fifth objective uses existing county media channels and scheduled mailings to directly counter the top barriers identified in the 2024 survey — including reassurance that recyclables collected in the county are not landfilled — and coordinates with EGLE's Recycling Raccoons campaign and neighboring Heartland counties on uniform regional messaging about what materials are recyclable.

Resources Needed

For the recycling guide and website: staff time for website development, guide production, and strategic plan drafting; printing and distribution costs for physical guides; and web hosting and maintenance costs, which could be shared across Heartland Region counties.

For the county building's objective: staff time for a facility's inventory and hauler coordination; bin infrastructure and signage for county buildings; and hauler contract amendments or new service agreements as needed.

For the school outreach objective: coordination capacity through the Clare-Gladwin RESD; classroom bins and educational materials for pilot schools, likely grant-dependent; and Michigan Green Schools program support.

For the commercial and institutional outreach objective: staff time for survey coordination and business engagement; web hosting for the voluntary business survey; grant funding for technical assistance where participation gaps are identified, with EGLE recycling grants as a potential source; and EGLE recycling specialist support.

For the countywide media objective: staff time for content development, campaign coordination, and regional partnership management; printing costs for messages included in tax bill or scheduled mailings (if applicable); EGLE's publicly available Recycling Raccoons campaign materials; and Heartland MMPC coordination capacity for regional messaging alignment.

Clare's near-term Goal 3 cost gap estimate is anchored by a $10-per-household education and outreach baseline (per The Recycling Partnership), which for Clare's 13,279 households totals ~$133,000. On top of that, $5,000 to $7,000 is estimated for commercial outreach materials; no cost gap has yet been estimated for the county-building recycling objective. Combined staff hours across all five Goal 3 objectives are estimated at roughly 365 hours.

Education and Outreach Program

This goal itself is the county's education and outreach program. The county will publish a new recycling guide meeting all Part 115 requirements — identifying recycling locations and materials, explaining preparation, and including a contact phone number — as a standalone county webpage and as part of a shared Heartland MMP regional website, and will make printed copies available at public locations countywide.

School outreach through the Clare-Gladwin RESD will promote the Michigan Green Schools and support pilot recycling programs in one to two willing schools. Commercial outreach will center on a voluntary business recycling survey hosted on the county website, coordinated through Clare County Administration.

Broader messaging will use existing county media channels and scheduled mailings to directly counter the top barriers identified in the 2024 survey, including reassurance that recyclables collected in the county are not landfilled, and will coordinate with EGLE's Recycling Raccoons campaign and neighboring Heartland counties on uniform regional messaging about what materials are recyclable.

Implementation Timeline

By January 1, 2028, the recycling guide website will be live and mobile-friendly, with printed guides available at public locations, and a draft strategic education and outreach plan in hand; a facilities inventory identifying which county buildings lack recycling will also be complete in Year 1, alongside initial outreach to school districts, all local units of government, and County businesses, and the first countywide media messaging addressing the landfill misconception.

In Year 2, recycling collection will be established at all county-owned buildings with internal guidelines and signage in place, at least one school will be piloting a recycling program, the voluntary business survey will be live with results reported to the MMPC, and uniform regional recyclable-materials messaging will be adopted with at least one neighboring county.

By Year 3, at least one school district will have an established recycling program and at least one Michigan Green School certification, and at least one grant application will have been submitted to support commercial technical assistance where gaps are identified.

From Year 4 onward, the website, printed guide, and strategic plan will be reviewed and updated annually, county building recycling participation will be tracked and reported, and at least one additional school district will adopt a program each year, with ongoing regional messaging coordination and countywide media outreach continuing at least twice annually.

Responsible Party and Potential Partners

The Clare County CAA leads most objectives under this goal, with county administration and facilities staff responsible for the county-building work specifically. Key partners include the Clare County Department of Public Works and Heartland MMPC across nearly every objective, the Clare-Gladwin RESD and Michigan Green Schools on the school objective, MSU Extension and Clare Conservation District, and EGLE recycling

specialists on commercial outreach, and neighboring Heartland counties and EGLE's Recycling Raccoons campaign on regional messaging.

GOAL 4: TRACK AND REPORT RECYCLING PROGRAM PERFORMANCE

Description

The first objective is to identify what tonnage data EGLE already collects, then approach the three major haulers operating in Clare County — Waste Management, Republic, and GFL — to request voluntary quarterly tonnage reporting. The county will also develop model contract language that municipalities may optionally adopt.

A second objective engages the county's largest commercial and institutional generators: partnering with the Middle Michigan Development Corporation (MMDC) to identify roughly the ten largest employers, then inviting voluntary participation in annual recycling data sharing, framed as a contribution to countywide planning goals rather than a compliance requirement.

A third objective establishes a recurring community survey to track resident recycling participation, awareness, and barriers over time, coordinated with MSU Extension and the Heartland MMPC and repeated on a three-to-five-year cycle.

Resources Needed

For the EGLE data and voluntary hauler reporting objective: staff time for hauler outreach, EGLE platform research, model contract language development, and municipal outreach, ideally aligning with EGLE's reporting platform to avoid a duplicative burden on haulers; and EGLE technical assistance as available.

For the top-business engagement objective: staff time for MMDC partnership coordination, business outreach, and data tracking; a voluntary data-reporting tool on the county website; and EGLE technical assistance as available.

For the community survey objective: funding for survey development, distribution, and analysis, potentially through EGLE MMP Implementation funds; MSU Extension support on survey design and methodology; and printing and web hosting costs if physical or online distribution is pursued.

Clare's near-term Goal 4 cost gap estimate totals $20,000-$40,000 in hard costs (every few years), for a recurring community survey to measure recycling participation and awareness; no hard cost is attached to the recycling-rate tracking or commercial data-engagement objectives themselves. Combined staff hours across all Goal 4 objectives are estimated at roughly 170 hours.

Education and Outreach Program

This goal is primarily a measurement function, but the recurring community survey doubles as an engagement tool, feeding results back into the messaging and outreach built under Goal 3. Voluntary hauler and business participation will be framed as a contribution to countywide planning goals rather than a compliance requirement.

Implementation Timeline

In Year 1, the county will identify what tonnage data EGLE already collects, request voluntary quarterly reporting from Waste Management, Republic, and GFL, complete a municipal contract inventory (including expiration dates and interest in joint RFPs), and partner with MMDC to identify the county's largest commercial generators; the first community survey will also be developed and fielded, building on the county's strong initial response rate.

In Year 2, model contract language will be available to local units, at least one municipality will be engaged on incorporating data reporting into a new contract, and direct outreach to the largest identified businesses will be complete with a voluntary data-sharing mechanism live on the county website.

By Year 3, a county-level tonnage data compilation process will be established using voluntary hauler data, drop-off records, and EGLE databases, survey findings will be published and presented to the MMPC, and at least five of the ten largest identified businesses will be voluntarily sharing data.

By Year 4, the county's first measured recycling rate will be calculated and published, with data gaps documented; by Year 5, at least ten businesses will be voluntarily reporting, at least one local unit will have adopted model contract data-reporting language, and the recycling rate will be updated annually going forward, with mandatory reporting mechanisms explored only if voluntary participation proves insufficient. The community survey will be repeated on a three-to-five-year cycle to track changes over time.

Responsible Party and Potential Partners

The Clare County CAA holds primary responsibility for this goal. Key partners include Waste Management, Republic, and GFL on voluntary hauler reporting; municipalities and the Heartland MMPC on contract inventory and data compilation; the Middle Michigan Development Corporation on identifying and engaging top commercial generators; and MSU Extension on community survey design.

GOAL 5: SUPPORT REGIONAL HUB-AND-SPOKE RECYCLING INFRASTRUCTURE

Description

The first objective is Clare County's commitment to a recycling processing solution that connects its materials to end markets: the county will maintain its current private sector arrangements as its established primary solution, while also serving as a preferred-customer of the Isabella County MRF with priority access to facility capacity and end-market connections. Preferred-customer status does not carry an ownership interest in the facility, a governing seat on the facility organizing committee, or a share of facility revenue, which are reserved for counties that commit as core members.

The second objective is participation in a region-wide Regionalization Study of collection led by the Heartland MMPC, with findings to be presented to the Heartland MMPC and county CAAs and used to develop a regional infrastructure investment priority list.

A third objective is pursuing grant opportunities and capital improvement funding identified through the Regionalization Study, including designation of a fiscal agent county or regional entity to receive and administer grant funds on behalf of the Heartland Region.

A fourth, county-specific objective is confirming the current hauling-destination and contract end-dates for all recyclables collected at Clare County drop-off sites, coordinating with currently-contracted haulers to establish potential hauling to the Isabella MRF.

Resources Needed

Formalizing the preferred-customer relationship with the Isabella MRF requires no capital commitment or county board resolution; it is documented through a simple intergovernmental understanding rather than the ownership and governance agreements core member counties will need to execute.

For the Regionalization Study objective: consultant procurement and study costs will depend on scope and regional complexity, alongside Heartland MMPC staff time for RFP development, consultant management, stakeholder engagement, and presentation of findings — this is a regional cost, with Clare County's role primarily to support the process and document local community need.

For the grant and fiscal agent objective: staff time for grant research and regional coordination, with match funds potentially required for some grants, plus education and outreach materials documenting community need to support the grant process.

For the hauling-destination objective: confirming and potentially updating hauling arrangements to the Isabella MRF may draw on EGLE recycling infrastructure grants to address capital improvement needs such as containers, trailers, or site improvements at Clare County's drop-off locations.

Clare's near-term Goal 5 cost gap estimate carries no identified near term hard costs, though the Regionalization Study will likely cost in the tens of thousands, if not more (for the region). Combined staff hours across Goal 5 objectives are estimated at roughly 500-600 hours.

Education and Outreach Program

This goal is primarily an infrastructure and intergovernmental coordination effort rather than a resident-facing campaign. The Heartland MMPC will lead communication with county boards and EGLE's Materials Management Division as the Regionalization Study and MRF governance structure are developed; Clare County's role is to keep its preferred-customer relationship with the Isabella MRF current and visible, so that it functions as a real continuity option rather than a nominal one, while coordinating with its primary hauler or processor on day-to-day service.

Implementation Timeline

Clare County will document its current primary processing arrangement and formalize its preferred-customer relationship with the Isabella MRF as a backstop.

By 2029, the Heartland MMPC expects to have identified all grant programs relevant to regional recycling infrastructure, prioritizing those that can fund the Regionalization Study; by 2030, at least one grant application will have been submitted for the study, and Clare County will have confirmed current hauling-destinations and contract end-dates for its recyclables.

By 2031, a fiscal agent will be designated to receive and administer regional grant funds.

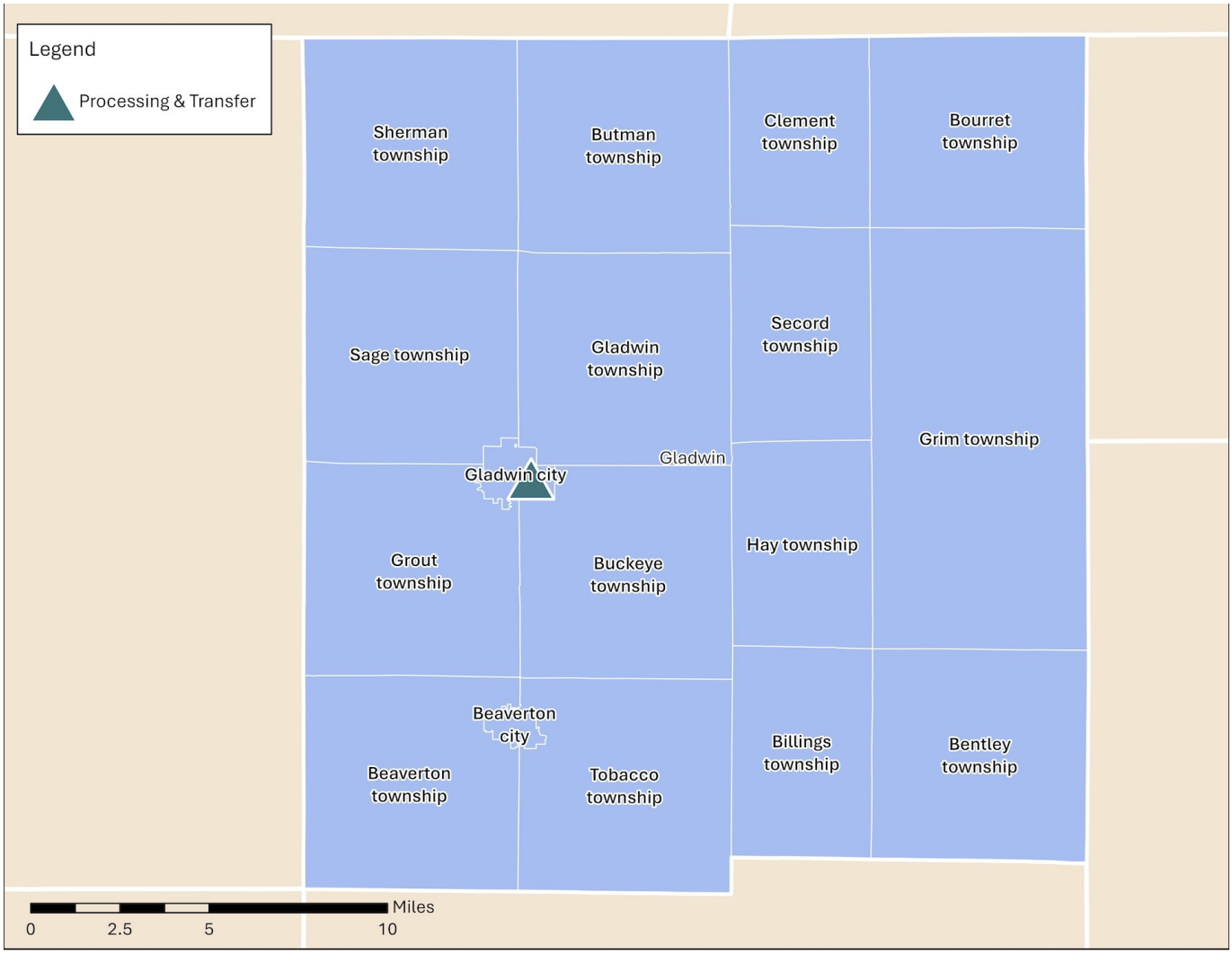
By 2032, the Regionalization Study will be complete and its findings presented to the Heartland MMPC and county CAAs, informing a regional infrastructure investment priority list.

Responsible Party and Potential Partners

This goal is led regionally by the Heartland MMPC for the Regionalization Study, grant strategy, and Isabella MRF intergovernmental agreement, with Clare County's DPW responsible for confirming its own hauling arrangements and documenting its preferred-customer relationship. Key partners include the other Heartland County CAAs and regional planning commissions, the Isabella County MRF, EGLE's Materials Management Division, county Economic Development Commissions, and the Michigan Recycling Coalition.

Appendix B – Gladwin County

MATERIALS MANAGEMENT FACILITIES IN GLADWIN COUNTY



GOAL 1: IMPROVE MUNICIPAL AND COMMERCIAL WASTE (MCW) RECYCLING RATES AND MEET BENCHMARK RECYCLING STANDARDS

Description

Gladwin County currently meets Michigan's Benchmark Recycling Standards: no community in the county exceeds 5,000 residents, so curbside recycling access is not required under BRS, and the county's three confirmed 24/7 unstaffed drop-off sites — Beaverton City, Beaverton Township Hall, and Tobacco Township Hall — likely satisfy the state's drop-off requirement of two sites for the county, though annual verification is still needed to formally document compliance. Curbside recycling service currently exists in Gladwin City, Billings Township, Butman Township, and Secord Township, all through municipal contracts, and affordability concerns dominate the county's approach to this goal.

DROP-OFF SITE	≥24 HRS/MONTH?
Beaverton City	Confirmed
Beaverton Township Hall	Confirmed
Tobacco Township	Confirmed

The first objective is to establish a baseline inventory of communities with and without contracted curbside recycling access, documenting which haulers currently serve Gladwin City, Billings Township, Butman Township, and Secord Township. The county will share this hauler information with local units so that adjacent communities can explore extending existing contracts or hauler capacity to their residents, provide technical assistance to units with trash-only contracts interested in adding an opt-in recycling component, and make model contract language available to any local unit pursuing a new or updated hauler contract that includes curbside recycling.

The second objective is to verify and maintain drop-off site compliance. The county will conduct annual outreach to confirm that Beaverton City, Beaverton Township Hall, and Tobacco Township Hall remain open at least 24 hours per month as BRS requires, complete a baseline drive-time analysis to determine whether Grim area and other residents fall outside a 25-minute drive of a drop-off site, and, if a gap is confirmed, pursue equipment quotes and a funding assessment.

The third objective provides technical assistance to cities, villages, and townships (CVTs) that currently have no contracted hauler at all. The county will convene a learning session or focus group with unserved CVTs to understand their needs and barriers, offer technical assistance to build community and elected-official buy-in given documented affordability concerns, and provide model RFP language covering trash, recycling, yard waste, and food waste collection — including data-reporting requirements — to any CVT ready to go out to bid, while encouraging adjacent CVTs to coordinate joint RFPs to achieve economies of scale.

The fourth objective targets multi-family housing: the county will conduct outreach to landlords and property managers to raise awareness of available recycling services and understand access barriers and will develop model zoning language that municipalities may optionally adopt requiring adequate trash and

recycling space in new multi-family construction, sharing that language with local zoning and planning departments as an advisory resource.

Resources Needed

For the curbside inventory and hauler outreach objective: staff time or a designated point of contact for hauler outreach, municipal engagement, and ongoing inventory maintenance; staff or consultant time to support contract negotiation assistance and resident surveying in target communities; and EGLE technical assistance and grant funding as available.

For the drop-off verification and Grim area objective: staff time for annual site verification and municipal engagement; GIS software access or consultant support for the baseline drive-time analysis; vendor quotes and procurement support for any bins or signage needed; and EGLE Recycling Infrastructure Grant funding, potentially requiring local match, if a new site or dumpster is warranted.

For the CVT technical assistance objective: staff time for outreach, baseline inventory, and learning-session coordination in Year 1, followed by ongoing technical assistance and contract support; consultant support for community buy-in strategy and RFP development, potentially funded through county general funds, EGLE MMP Implementation funds, or grants; and model RFP template development.

For the multi-family zoning objective: staff time for landlord and property manager outreach and zoning language development, EGLE technical assistance as available, and legal review support for model ordinance language, potentially funded through county general funds or EGLE MMP Implementation funds.

Gladwin's near-term Goal 1 cost gap estimate reflects no hard costs. Combined staff hours across these objectives are estimated at roughly 450 hours.

Education and Outreach Program

The county will maintain and publish an up-to-date public list of drop-off site locations, hours, and accepted materials on the county's website (or Heartland's website). Later-date curbside and coordinated hauler contract work will include model RFP language and technical assistance to help cities, villages, and townships understand the cost savings available through bundled trash-and-recycling contracts, developed in coordination with the Heartland MMPC.

Implementation Timeline

In Year 1, the county will complete its baseline curbside recycling access inventory, establish its annual BRS verification process and confirm all three drop-off sites remain compliant, initiate the baseline drive-time analysis to assess the Grim area and other potential coverage gaps.

In Year 2, the county will have shared hauler service information with relevant local units and published a living curbside access tracking document, completed the drive-time analysis and identified options for addressing any Grim area gap, begun a funding assessment for any new site, engaged at least one CVT lacking a contracted hauler through a learning session, and initiated outreach to landlords and property managers on multi-family zoning.

By Year 3, the county will have engaged at least one municipality without a contracted hauler and at least one trash-only community on adding recycling service, completed its funding assessment for any Grim area improvement and seen at least one municipality adopt or actively consider model multi-family zoning language.

By Year 5, Gladwin County will continue to meet BRS drop-off requirements, will have at least one additional community with contracted curbside service, and will maintain a documented record of technical assistance offered to CVTs pursuing new or coordinated hauler contracts.

Responsible Party and Potential Partners

Responsibility for this goal rests with the Gladwin County CAA, with the Heartland MMPC serving in an advisory and regional-coordination role, particularly on the siting-process update and any host agreement negotiations. Key partners include local municipal leaders and township boards, the Gladwin County Board of Commissioners, contracted haulers, EGLE, NextCycle Michigan, the Middle Michigan Development Corporation (MMDC), and county and municipal zoning and planning departments and area landlords and property managers on the multi-family housing objective.

GOAL 2: REDUCE FOOD WASTE AND ADVANCE ORGANICS MANAGEMENT

Description

Gladwin County does not currently operate a food scrap collection program, so this goal focuses on building organics diversion capacity largely from scratch. Given the county's agricultural character and the strong interest county leadership has expressed in farm-based composting partnerships, farms are treated as a priority partner to engage early in the planning process, alongside existing yard waste sites such as the City of Gladwin compost site and the Billings Township yard waste drop-off.

The first objective supports residents composting at home, through a guide developed with MSU Extension and the Gladwin County Conservation District and distributed through township offices, the county website, libraries, and community organizations, paired with countywide composting workshops. The county will also pursue funding for a composting toolkit program — bin giveaways, starter kits, or informational kits — while being transparent in outreach that toolkit availability may be limited or grant-dependent.

The second objective targets food waste prevention and surplus donation among schools, hospitals, restaurants, and grocery stores, emphasizing the legal protections available under the Bill Emerson Good Samaritan Food Donation Act and connecting businesses with local food banks and shelters. The county will run the EPA's Preventing Food Waste in Your Community Social Marketing Kit campaign on a biennial basis, coordinated through the Heartland MMPC, and host at least one educational event per year targeting the business sectors identified as significant generators in the NRDC food waste calculator model.

The third objective addresses K-12 schools through the Clare-Gladwin RESD: surveying current food waste practices, promoting USDA best practices such as offer-versus-serve policies and cafeteria share tables, and coordinating with Clare County and the Heartland MMPC to build toward a replicable regional school food waste model. Where significant food surplus remains after prevention efforts, the county will explore a food rescue pilot in partnership with the Gladwin County Health Department, Feeding America, and school boards, contingent on the availability of rescuable surplus food.

Resources Needed

For home composting support: staff time for guide development, partner coordination, and workshop planning; MSU Extension and Gladwin County Conservation District coordination and content support; printing and distribution costs for the composting guide; grant funding for bin giveaways or starter kits if

pursued; and venue and materials costs for workshops, potentially offset through the MSU Extension partnership.

For food waste prevention and donation outreach: staff time for outreach planning, event coordination, and campaign adaptation; the EPA's Social Marketing Kit materials, which are publicly available and customizable; outreach materials on the Bill Emerson Act; Heartland MMPC coordination capacity for regional campaign support; and venue and event costs, which may be offset through partner co-hosting.

For the school food waste objective: staff time for school outreach, survey coordination, and Clare-Gladwin RESD and Heartland MMPC engagement; survey development and distribution support; outreach materials on USDA best practices, share tables, and Michigan Department of Education guidance; Michigan Green Schools coordination capacity; and, if food rescue is pursued, engagement capacity with the Gladwin County Health Department and Feeding America.

Goal 2 region-wide cost gap estimate for personnel to manage regional K-12 school food waste reduction efforts is between $100,000-$160,000 annually for 1-2 staff. All eight counties could consider hiring 1 or more staff to handle education outreach to schools, among other things including: business outreach, grant writing, social media and marketing, etc.

Education and Outreach Program

Education efforts will target residents who need practical home composting information — delivered through a composting guide distributed via township offices, the county website, libraries, and community organizations, alongside workshops hosted at accessible venues countywide.

Food waste prevention outreach will target schools, hospitals, restaurants, and grocery stores using the EPA's Social Marketing Kit, with messaging that emphasizes the Bill Emerson Good Samaritan Food Donation Act's liability protections; school outreach through the Clare-Gladwin RESD will promote USDA best practices and share tables, with findings shared with Clare County and the Heartland MMPC to build toward a regional school food waste model.

Implementation Timeline

In Year 1, the county will survey schools through the Clare-Gladwin RESD on current food waste practices while beginning coordination with Clare County on a regional school model.

In Year 2, the home composting guide will be in distribution through at least three channels.

By Year 3, at least one composting workshop will have been hosted countywide, and at least one school district will have adopted a USDA best practice or share table program.

From Year 4 onward, the county expects to distribute the composting guide countywide, and add at least one new school food waste program per year, with food rescue piloted in partnership with the Gladwin County Health Department and Feeding America if surplus food is identified. Donor outreach for the meals-gap objective will also be underway by this point, with at least one new grocery store, restaurant, or farm donation partnership added each year.

Responsible Party and Potential Partners

Responsibility for this goal is shared between the Gladwin County CAA, which leads pilot coordination, home composting programming, and school and donor outreach, and the Heartland MMPC, which coordinates the EPA Social Marketing Kit campaign and regional school food waste model. Key partners

include the City of Gladwin, Billings Township; MSU Extension and the Gladwin County Conservation District on home composting; the EPA, local food banks and shelters, and area schools, hospitals, restaurants, and grocery stores on prevention and donation; the Clare-Gladwin RESD, Michigan Green Schools, and the Clare County CAA on school-based work; and, for the meals-gap objective specifically, the Gladwin County Health Department, Feeding America, and area food banks and pantries.

GOAL 3: ADVANCE RECYCLING EDUCATION AND OUTREACH

Description

This goal establishes Gladwin County's first comprehensive recycling education and outreach program, built around a new recycling guide meeting Part 115 requirements, county building recycling, K-12 school programming through the Clare-Gladwin RESD, commercial and institutional outreach, and regional media coordination.

The first objective is a new, Part 115-compliant recycling guide published on a cell phone-friendly website — meeting MCL 324.11578(1)(q)'s requirements to identify recycling locations and materials, explain preparation, describe best practices, and list a contact number — potentially developed as part of a shared Heartland MMP regional website. Printed copies will be available at township offices, libraries, and other public locations, alongside a strategic education and outreach plan identifying roles, responsibilities, and funding sources, reviewed and updated annually.

The second objective brings county-owned and county-operated buildings into compliance: an inventory of current recycling collection, followed by bin infrastructure and hauler arrangements where gaps exist, internal guidelines and signage for county employees, and — once recycling is stable and consistently practiced — exploration of food waste collection or composting in county buildings where operationally feasible.

The third objective works through the Clare-Gladwin RESD to encourage schools to incorporate recycling and composting into curriculum and to establish active collection programs.

The fourth objective engages commercial and institutional entities through a voluntary business recycling survey hosted on the county website and direct outreach coordinated through the Gladwin County Chamber of Commerce and the Gladwin Business and Professional Association, supplemented by curated education resources on available haulers and accepted materials and by grant funding pursued to support technical assistance for businesses seeking to establish or improve recycling programs.

The fifth objective uses existing county media channels — social media, print media, and countywide mailings such as tax bill inserts — to promote the recycling guide, drop-off locations, and education resources, participating in EGLE's Recycling Raccoons campaign and coordinating with neighboring Heartland counties, particularly Clare County, on uniform regional messaging about what materials are recyclable.

Resources Needed

For the recycling guide and website: staff time for website development, guide production, and strategic plan drafting; printing and distribution costs for physical guides; and web hosting and maintenance costs, which could be shared across Heartland Region counties.

For the county building's objective: staff time for facilities inventory and hauler coordination; bin infrastructure and signage for county buildings; and hauler contract amendments or new service agreements as needed.

For the school outreach objective: coordination capacity through the Clare-Gladwin RESD; classroom bins and educational materials for pilot schools, likely grant-dependent; and Michigan Green Schools program support once the coordinator vacancy is filled.

For the commercial and institutional outreach objective: staff time for survey coordination and business engagement through the Chamber of Commerce and Business and Professional Association; web hosting for the voluntary business survey; grant funding for technical assistance where participation gaps are identified, with EGLE recycling grants as a potential source; and EGLE recycling specialist support.

For the countywide media objective: staff time for content development, campaign coordination, and regional partnership management; printing costs for messages included in tax bill or scheduled mailings; EGLE's publicly available Recycling Raccoons campaign materials; and Heartland MMPC coordination capacity for regional messaging alignment.

Gladwin's near-term Goal 3 cost gap estimate is anchored by the $10-per-household education and outreach baseline from The Recycling Partnership, which for Gladwin's 11,006 households totals ~$110,000. On top of that, $5,000 to $7,000 is estimated for commercial outreach materials; no cost gap has yet been estimated for the county-building recycling objective. Combined staff hours across all five Goal 3 objectives are estimated at roughly 365 hours.

Education and Outreach Program

The county will publish a new recycling guide meeting all Part 115 requirements, either as a standalone webpage or as part of a shared Heartland MMP regional website, with printed copies at public locations countywide. School outreach through Clare-Gladwin RESD will promote Michigan Green Schools and support pilot recycling programs in one to two willing schools.

Commercial outreach will center on a voluntary business recycling survey hosted on the county website, coordinated through the Chamber of Commerce and Business and Professional Association, and county media channels will promote the recycling guide and coordinate with neighboring Heartland counties on uniform regional recyclable-materials messaging.

Implementation Timeline

By January 1, 2028, the recycling guide website will be live and mobile-friendly, with printed guides available at public locations and a facilities inventory of county buildings complete.

In Year 2, the strategic plan will be finalized, recycling collection will be established at all county-owned buildings, at least one school will be piloting a recycling program, and the voluntary business survey will be live with results reported to the MMPC.

By Year 3, at least one school district will have an established recycling program or Michigan Green School certification, and at least one grant application will have been submitted to support commercial technical assistance.

From Year 4 onward, the website, guide, and strategic plan will be reviewed annually, county building participation tracked, and at least one additional school district will adopt a program each year, with ongoing regional messaging coordination continuing at least twice annually.

Responsible Party and Potential Partners

The Gladwin County CAA leads most objectives under this goal, with Gladwin County administration and facilities staff responsible for the county-building work specifically. Key partners include the Heartland MMPC across nearly every objective, the Clare-Gladwin RESD and Michigan Green Schools on the school objective, the Gladwin County Chamber of Commerce and Gladwin Business and Professional Association and EGLE recycling specialists on commercial outreach, and neighboring Heartland counties and EGLE's Recycling Raccoons campaign on regional messaging.

GOAL 4: TRACK AND REPORT RECYCLING PROGRAM PERFORMANCE

Description

The first objective is to identify what tonnage data EGLE already collects from haulers operating in Gladwin County and determine whether existing EGLE reporting platforms can serve as the foundation for a county-level recycling rate, reducing duplicative reporting burden on haulers. The county will develop model contract language that local units may optionally incorporate into hauler contracts to require annual tonnage reporting, survey municipalities on single-hauler contract status and joint-RFP interest, and compile reported tonnage data annually — from hauler reports, municipal program data, and EGLE databases — to calculate and publish a county-level recycling rate.

The second objective engages the county's largest commercial and institutional generators: partnering with the Middle Michigan Development Corporation (MMDC) to identify the ten largest employers by count, then inviting voluntary participation in annual recycling data sharing through the survey infrastructure established under Goal 3, framed as a contribution to countywide sustainability goals rather than a compliance requirement. Model contract language developed under the first objective will also encourage local units to require commercial tonnage data alongside residential data over time.

The third objective establishes a recurring community survey — covering recycling participation rates, awareness of programs and drop-off locations, understanding of accepted materials, and perceived barriers — coordinated with MSU Extension and the Heartland MMPC to align with regional data needs, with findings published publicly and used to refine outreach and program priorities, and the survey repeated on a three-to-five-year cycle.

Resources Needed

For the EGLE data and hauler contract-language objective: staff time for EGLE platform research, model contract language development, and municipal outreach, ideally aligning with EGLE's reporting platform to avoid a duplicative burden on haulers; legal review support for model contract language, potentially funded through county general funds or EGLE MMP Implementation funds; and EGLE technical assistance as available.

For the top-business engagement objective: staff time for MMDC partnership coordination, business outreach, and data tracking; the voluntary data-reporting tool established under Goal 3; and EGLE technical assistance as available.

For the community survey objective: staff time for survey development, distribution, and results analysis; funding for survey development, distribution, and analysis, potentially through EGLE MMP Implementation funds; MSU Extension support on survey design and methodology; and printing and web hosting costs if physical or online distribution is pursued.

Gladwin's near-term Goal 4 cost gap estimate totals $20,000-$40,000 in hard costs (every few years), for a recurring community survey to measure recycling participation and awareness; no hard cost is attached to the recycling-rate tracking or commercial data-engagement objectives themselves. Combined staff hours across all Goal 4 objectives are estimated at roughly 170 hours.

Education and Outreach Program

This goal is primarily a measurement function, but the recurring community survey doubles as an engagement tool feeding results back into Goal 3's messaging. Voluntary hauler and business participation will be framed as a contribution to countywide planning goals rather than a compliance requirement, consistent with the county's broader preference for facilitative rather than regulatory approaches.

Implementation Timeline

In Year 1, the county will identify what tonnage data EGLE already collects, complete a municipal contract inventory including expiration dates and interest in joint RFPs, and partner with MMDC to identify the county's largest commercial generators.

In Year 2, model contract language will be available to local units, at least one municipality will be engaged in incorporating data reporting into a new contract, and direct outreach to the largest identified businesses will be underway with a voluntary data-sharing mechanism live on the county website.

By Year 3, at least one local unit will have adopted model contract language, a county-level tonnage compilation process will be established, and the first community survey will be developed and fielded.

By Year 4, the county's first measured recycling rate will be calculated and published, with data gaps documented; by Year 5, at least ten businesses will be voluntarily reporting, and the recycling rate will be updated annually going forward.

Responsible Party and Potential Partners

The Gladwin County CAA holds primary responsibility for this goal. Key partners include municipalities and the Heartland MMPC on contract inventory and data compilation, the Middle Michigan Development Corporation (MMDC) and the Gladwin County Chamber of Commerce on identifying and engaging top commercial generators, and MSU Extension on community survey design.

GOAL 5: SUPPORT REGIONAL HUB-AND-SPOKE RECYCLING INFRASTRUCTURE

Description

The first objective is Gladwin County's commitment to a recycling processing solution that connects its materials to end markets: as a core member of the Isabella County MRF, Gladwin County commits to directing its recyclable materials — covering all of the county's recycling volume, not just drop-off tonnage — to the facility, holding in return an ownership interest, a governing seat and vote on the facility organizing committee, and a corresponding share of facility revenue, in recognition of that commitment.

The second objective is participation in a region-wide Regionalization Study of collection led by the Heartland MMPC, with findings to be presented to the Heartland MMPC and county CAAs and used to develop a regional infrastructure investment priority list.

A third objective is pursuing grant opportunities and capital improvement funding identified through the Regionalization Study, including designation of a fiscal agent county or regional entity to receive and administer grant funds on behalf of the Heartland Region.

A fourth, county-specific objective is confirming the current hauling-destination and contract end-dates for all recyclables collected at Gladwin County drop-off sites, coordinating with currently-contracted haulers to establish potential hauling to the Isabella MRF, and pursuing a collective RFP for county drop-off recyclables to be hauled to the Isabella MRF — via transfer station if necessary — once existing contracts lapse.

Resources Needed

Formalizing Gladwin County's core-member status will require staff time for tonnage estimation and county board action to adopt a founding-partner resolution.

For the Regionalization Study objective: consultant procurement and study costs will depend on scope and regional complexity, alongside Heartland MMPC staff time for RFP development, consultant management, stakeholder engagement, and presentation of findings.

For the grant and fiscal agent objective: staff time for grant research and regional coordination, with match funds potentially required for some grants, plus education and outreach materials documenting community need to support the grant process.

For the intergovernmental agreement objective: this is primarily a regional legal and coordination cost, covered through intergovernmental agreements or MOUs between the Heartland counties and Isabella County, with no direct cost anticipated for Gladwin County beyond staff and board time to review and adopt the agreement.

For the hauling-destination objective: confirming and potentially updating hauling arrangements to the Isabella MRF may draw on EGLE recycling infrastructure grants to address capital improvement needs such as containers, trailers, or site improvements at Gladwin County's drop-off locations.

Gladwin's near-term Goal 5 cost gap estimate carries no identified near term hard costs, though the Regionalization Study will likely cost in the tens of thousands, if not more (for the region). Combined staff hours across Goal 5 objectives are estimated at roughly 500-600 hours.

Education and Outreach Program

This goal is primarily an infrastructure and intergovernmental coordination effort rather than a resident-facing campaign. The Heartland MMPC will lead communication with county boards and EGLE's Materials Management Division as the Regionalization Study, grant strategy, and Isabella MRF governance structure are developed; Gladwin County's role is to stay engaged in that regional process and to confirm its core-member commitment ahead of the milestone Isabella County establishes for founding participation.

Implementation Timeline

By 2027, Gladwin County will estimate its annual tonnage available to pledge and adopt a county board resolution committing as a core member of the Isabella County MRF, ahead of financing close, securing its ownership interest, governing seat, and revenue share before that milestone closes.

By 2028, the county will have confirmed current hauling-destinations and contract end-dates for its recyclables and formalized an intergovernmental agreement or MOU with the Isabella County MRF for regional processing.

By 2029 and 2030, the Heartland MMPC will identify grant programs relevant to regional infrastructure and pursue funding for the Regionalization Study, with Gladwin County coordinating hauling arrangements to the Isabella MRF — via transfer station if necessary — once existing hauler contracts lapse.

By 2031, a fiscal agent will be designated to receive and administer regional grant funds.

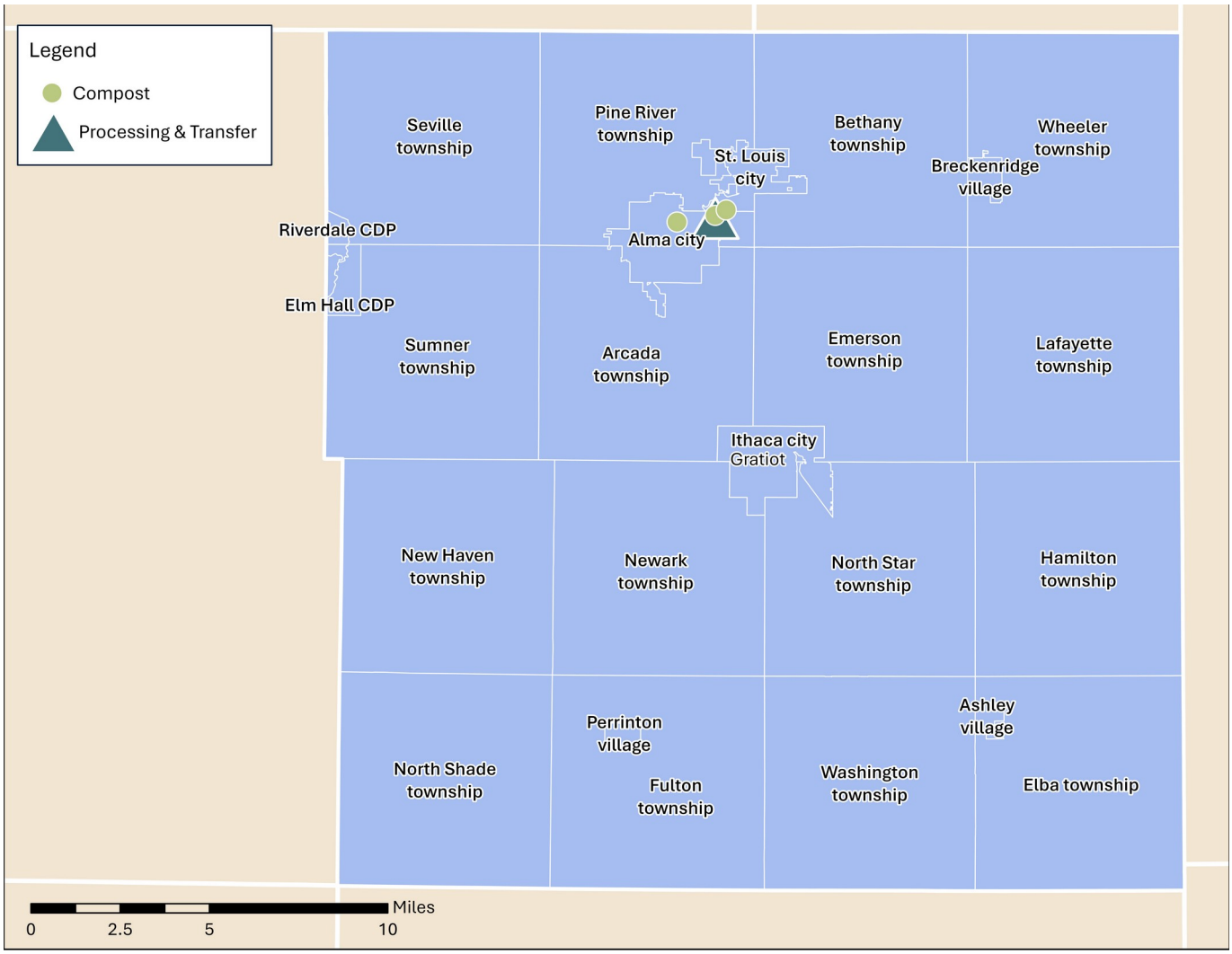
By 2032, the Regionalization Study will be complete and its findings presented to the Heartland MMPC and county CAAs, informing a regional infrastructure investment priority list.

Responsible Party and Potential Partners

This goal is led regionally by the Heartland MMPC for the Regionalization Study, grant strategy, and Isabella MRF intergovernmental agreement, with Gladwin County itself responsible for its core-member commitment and for confirming its own hauling arrangements to the Isabella County MRF. Key partners include the Isabella County MRF, other Heartland County CAAs, EGLE's Materials Management Division, county Economic Development Commissions, and the Michigan Recycling Coalition.

Appendix C – Gratiot County

MATERIALS MANAGEMENT FACILITIES IN GRATIOT COUNTY



GOAL 1: IMPROVE MUNICIPAL AND COMMERCIAL WASTE (MCW) RECYCLING RATES AND MEET BENCHMARK RECYCLING STANDARDS

Description

Gratiot County's curbside recycling landscape includes contracted service in Alma City, St. Louis City, and Washington Township, alongside municipally provided service in Bethany Township, Wheeler Township, and Breckenridge Village. Ithaca currently has a trash-only contract and is a near-term target for county technical assistance on adding an opt-in recycling component, while several other communities in the county have no contracted hauler at all. The first objective establishes this coverage picture as a working baseline: documenting which haulers serve which communities, sharing that information so adjacent

communities can explore extending existing hauler service, and making model contract language and technical assistance available to any local unit — including Ithaca — pursuing a new or updated hauler contract that adds curbside recycling.

MUNICIPALITY WITH CURBSIDE REQUIREMENT	2020 POPULATION	≥2X/MONTH?
Alma City	9,488	Confirmed
St. Louis City	7,009	Confirmed

A second objective addresses the county's drop-off network. Gratiot County currently has a single confirmed drop-off site, at Sumner Township, which falls short of the three-site minimum the county needs to meet Benchmark Recycling Standards (BRS), and whose hours and access also need to be expanded to meet BRS's minimum operating so the county is not yet BRS-compliant on the drop-off side. This objective will complete a drive-time analysis to determine how many residents currently fall outside a 25-minute drive of a drop-off site, engage Sumner Township on expanding its site's hours and access, identify locations for at least one additional site using the drive-time findings, obtain equipment cost quotes, and conduct a funding assessment.

DROP-OFF SITE	≥24 HRS/MONTH?
Sumner Township	Confirmed

A third objective works in parallel on the funding and policy side of drop-off expansion: ensuring the updated Heartland Region siting process creates host agreement opportunities that can generate program funding, conducting exploratory outreach to municipal leaders on a countywide or local millage dedicated to recycling, and tracking and publishing a living inventory of existing recycling funding mechanisms across the county. This objective will also identify the specific funding gap between current resources and what is needed to establish and operate the additional drop-off site the county needs to meet BRS, and document potential funding options to close that gap.

A fourth objective targets commercial, institutional, and multi-family recycling access, which is a significant data gap for the county today. The county will inventory which haulers offer recycling service to businesses, institutions, and multi-family properties and in which service areas, publish those findings, coordinate with local chambers of commerce and economic development agencies to promote participation in identified services.

A fifth objective addresses cities, villages, and townships (CVTs) that currently lack contracted curbside recycling: convening a learning session or focus group to understand their needs and barriers, offering technical assistance and community buy-in support, and providing model RFP language covering trash, recycling, yard waste, and food waste collection — including hauler data-reporting requirements — while encouraging adjacent CVTs to pursue joint RFPs to achieve economies of scale.

Resources Needed

For the curbside baseline: county recycling coordinator staff time, or a designated point of contact, for hauler outreach, municipal engagement, and maintaining the coverage inventory; staff or consultant time to support contract negotiation assistance and resident surveying in target communities such as Ithaca; and EGLE technical assistance and grant funding as available.

For the drop-off site expansion objective: staff time for the baseline inventory, drive-time analysis, and Sumner Township engagement; GIS software access or consultant support for the drive-time analysis; consultant support for site selection, funding plan development, and any interlocal agreement drafting; vendor quotes and procurement support for equipment; and EGLE Recycling Infrastructure Grant funding for bins, signage, and site buildout.

For the funding and host-agreement-tracking objective: staff time for funding mechanism tracking, inventory maintenance, and municipal engagement; consultant support for financial analysis as needed, potentially through EGLE MMP Implementation funds; and educational and outreach materials explaining funding mechanism options for municipal officials and residents.

For the commercial and institutional hauler-inventory objective: staff time for hauler outreach, inventory compilation, and website publication; staff time for chamber of commerce and economic development agency coordination and ongoing promotion; web development support for the survey form; and grant funding from EGLE or The Recycling Partnership as available to offset outreach material costs and staff capacity for this newer area of work.

For the CVT learning-session and model-RFP objective: staff time for CVT outreach, baseline inventory, and learning-session coordination; consultant support for community buy-in strategy and RFP development, potentially funded through county general funds, EGLE MMP Implementation funds, or grants; model RFP template development; and EGLE technical assistance as available.

Gratiot's near-term Goal 1 cost gap estimate reflects no hard costs. Combined staff hours are estimated at roughly 470 hours.

Education and Outreach Program

The county will maintain and publish an up-to-date public list of drop-off site locations, hours, and accepted materials on the county's website (or Heartland's website). Later-date curbside and coordinated hauler contract work will include model RFP language and technical assistance to help cities, villages, and townships understand the cost savings available through bundled trash-and-recycling contracts, developed in coordination with the Heartland MMPC.

Outreach on drop-off funding options will be documented for municipal officials and residents as the county's funding assessment and gap analysis are completed, and CVTs lacking curbside recycling will receive direct outreach through a learning session or focus group to understand needs and barriers before technical assistance is offered.

Implementation Timeline

In Year 1, the county will complete its baseline curbside inventory and drive-time analysis for drop-off sites, publish the commercial and institutional hauler inventory, initiate the drop-off funding assessment, and begin engaging Sumner Township and NextCycle Michigan/EGLE on site expansion and grant-eligible projects.

In Year 2, the county will have shared hauler service area information and published a living curbside-access tracking document, made model contract language available to local units including Ithaca, completed engagement with Sumner Township on expanding its site's hours and access, identified locations for at least two additional drop-off sites, launched the voluntary commercial survey, and convened a learning session with CVTs lacking curbside recycling.

By Year 3, the drop-off funding assessment will be presented to the MMPC, and county administration; at least one grant application will have been submitted; at least one municipality will have been engaged on adding recycling to a trash-only contract or on cooperative funding; technical assistance will have been provided to at least one CVT pursuing a new hauler contract; and the voluntary business survey will have a defined response target following Year 1 inventory results.

By Year 5, Gratiot County will meet BRS drop-off site requirements, with all required sites — including an expanded or additional site beyond Sumner Township — open at least 24 hours per month and accessible to all residents; at least two additional communities will have gained curbside or expanded recycling access; and at least one new CVT per year will be adding contracted curbside recycling with data-sharing provisions in place.

Responsible Party and Potential Partners

Responsibility for this goal rests primarily with the Gratiot County CAA, which leads curbside and drop-off site coordination, funding tracking, and commercial and CVT outreach; the Heartland MMPC holds an advisory and regional-coordination role, particularly for the siting-process update and any host agreement negotiations. Key partners include Sumner Township and other township boards, the Gratiot County Board of Commissioners, contracted haulers, EGLE, NextCycle Michigan, Heartland Region planning partners, local chambers of commerce and economic development agencies, and The Recycling Partnership.

GOAL 2: REDUCE FOOD WASTE AND ADVANCE ORGANICS MANAGEMENT

Description

A first objective supports residents composting at home, through a guide developed with MSU Extension and the Gratiot County Conservation District and distributed through township offices, the county website, libraries, community organizations, and MSU Extension channels, paired with countywide composting workshops. The county will also pursue funding for a composting toolkit program — bin giveaways, starter kits, or informational kits — while being transparent in outreach that toolkit availability may be limited or grant-dependent.

A second objective targets food waste prevention and surplus donation among schools, hospitals, restaurants, and grocery stores, emphasizing the legal protections available under the Bill Emerson Good Samaritan Food Donation Act and connecting businesses and institutions with local food banks and shelters that have capacity to receive donations. The county will run the EPA's Preventing Food Waste in Your Community Social Marketing Kit campaign on a biennial basis, coordinated through the Heartland MMPC, and host at least one educational event per year targeting the business sectors identified as significant generators in the NRDC food waste calculator model.

A third objective addresses K-12 schools through the Gratiot-Isabella RESD: surveying current food waste practices, promoting USDA best practices such as offer-versus-serve policies and cafeteria share tables, and supporting adoption of the Michigan Green Schools program, noting that Gratiot County currently has no certified Michigan Green Schools. Where significant food surplus remains after prevention efforts, the county will explore a food rescue pilot in partnership with the Gratiot County Health Department, Feeding America, and school boards.

A fourth objective addresses agricultural plastics and chemical-container recycling, a gap identified by the Gratiot Conservation District. The county will partner with the Conservation District to establish periodic collection events for farm plastics (bale wrap, silage film, twine) and empty pesticide/fertilizer containers, and will publicize collection dates and drop-off requirements directly to the county's agricultural producers

Resources Needed

For home composting support: staff time for guide development, partner coordination, and workshop planning; MSU Extension and Conservation District coordination and content support; printing and distribution costs for the composting guide; grant funding for bin giveaways or starter kits if pursued; and venue and materials costs for workshops, potentially offset through the MSU Extension partnership.

For food waste prevention and donation outreach: staff time for outreach planning, event coordination, and campaign adaptation; the EPA's Social Marketing Kit materials, which are publicly available and customizable; outreach materials on the Bill Emerson Act; Heartland MMPC coordination capacity for regional campaign support; and venue and event costs, which may be offset through partner co-hosting.

For the school food waste objective: staff time for school outreach, survey coordination, and Gratiot-Isabella RESD engagement; survey development and distribution support; outreach materials on USDA best practices, share tables, and Michigan Department of Education guidance; Michigan Green Schools coordination capacity; and, if food rescue is pursued, engagement capacity with the Gratiot County Health Department and Feeding America.

For the agricultural plastics and container recycling objective: staff time for Conservation District, event planning, and event-day inspections; collection equipment or bins as identified through program setup; outreach materials targeting agricultural producers; and grant or vendor-partnership funding as available to offset collection and hauling costs.

Goal 2 region-wide cost gap estimate for personnel to manage regional K-12 school food waste reduction efforts is between $100,000-$160,000 annually for 1-2 staff. All eight counties could consider hiring 1 or more staff to handle education outreach to schools, among other things including: business outreach, grant writing, social media and marketing, etc.

Education and Outreach Program

Education will target home composting information, delivered through a guide distributed via township offices, the county website, libraries, community organizations, and MSU Extension channels, alongside countywide workshops.

Food waste prevention outreach will target schools, hospitals, restaurants, and grocery stores using the EPA's Social Marketing Kit, with messaging that emphasizes the Bill Emerson Good Samaritan Food Donation Act's liability protections. School outreach through Gratiot-Isabella RESD will promote USDA best practices and share tables and support Michigan Green Schools certification, while exploring collective hauling contracts across districts that could also support recycling and organics collection. Outreach for agricultural recycling will be led by the Conservation District, with support from the county, using existing channels.

Implementation Timeline

In Year 1, the county will survey schools through Gratiot-Isabella RESD on current food waste practices, develop a targeted outreach plan for food waste-generating businesses, and quantify the county's local

meals gap using Feeding America data to prioritize donor outreach. The county will also scope a farm plastics and container collection program with the Conservation District.

In Year 2, the home composting guide will be in distribution through at least three channels, at least one educational event on food waste prevention will be held along with the first run of the EPA Social Marketing Kit campaign, and initial donor outreach on the meals-gap objective will be underway with at least one grocery store, restaurant, or farm.

By Year 3, at least one composting workshop will have been hosted, at least one farm plastic collection event will have been held, at least one school district will have adopted a USDA best practice or share table program, and at least one new food donation partnership will have been established connecting a local business with a food bank or pantry.

From Year 4 onward, the county will distribute the guide countywide, add at least one new school food waste program per year, and add at least one new meals-gap donor partnership per year, with food rescue piloted in partnership with the Gratiot County Health Department and Feeding America if surplus food is identified.

Responsible Party and Potential Partners

Responsibility for this goal is shared between the Gratiot County CAA, which leads home composting programming, and school, business, and donor outreach, and the Heartland MMPC, which coordinates the EPA Social Marketing Kit campaign. Key partners include MSU Extension and the Gratiot County Conservation District on composting; the EPA, local food banks and shelters, and area schools, hospitals, restaurants, and grocery stores on prevention and donation; the Gratiot-Isabella RESD, Michigan Green Schools, and local school boards on school-based work; the Gratiot Conservation District for the on-farm agricultural work; and the Gratiot County Health Department and Feeding America on food rescue and the meals-gap objective specifically.

GOAL 3: ADVANCE RECYCLING EDUCATION AND OUTREACH

Description

The first objective is a new, Part 115-compliant recycling guide published on a cell phone-friendly county website, meeting MCL 324.11578(1)(q)'s requirements to identify recycling locations and materials, explain preparation, describe best practices, and list a contact number. Printed copies will be available at township offices, libraries, and other public locations, alongside a strategic education and outreach plan identifying roles, responsibilities, and funding sources, coordinated as much as possible with the Heartland MMP group and reviewed and updated annually.

A second objective brings county-owned and county-operated buildings into compliance: an inventory of current recycling collection, followed by bin infrastructure and hauler arrangements where gaps exist, internal guidelines and signage for employees, and — once recycling is stable — exploration of food waste collection or composting programs in county buildings.

A third objective works through the Gratiot-Isabella RESD to encourage schools to incorporate recycling and composting into curriculum and to establish active collection programs, promoting the Michigan Green Schools program to administrators, reviewing school hauling contracts for opportunities to add recycling and exploring collective hauling contracts across districts for competitive pricing, and supporting pilot recycling programs in one to two willing schools.

A fourth objective engages commercial and institutional entities through direct outreach coordinated with the Gratiot Area Chamber of Commerce, professional associations, and the Gratiot Young Professionals Network, partnering with existing outreach organizations rather than duplicating infrastructure, developing tailored education resources, and pursuing grant funding — potentially from EGLE and the Gratiot County Community Foundation — for technical assistance to businesses seeking to establish or improve recycling programs.

A fifth objective uses existing county media channels and scheduled mailings such as tax bill distributions to promote the recycling guide, drop-off locations, and recycling programs, and coordinates with EGLE's Recycling Raccoons campaign and neighboring Heartland counties on uniform regional messaging about what materials are recyclable.

Resources Needed

For the recycling guide and website: staff time for website development, guide production, and strategic plan drafting; printing and distribution costs for physical guides; and web hosting and maintenance costs.

For the county building's objective: staff time for facilities inventory and hauler coordination; bin infrastructure and signage for county buildings; and hauler contract amendments or new service agreements as needed.

For the school outreach objective: coordination capacity through the Gratiot-Isabella RESD; classroom bins and educational materials for pilot schools, likely grant-dependent; and Michigan Green Schools program support.

For the commercial and institutional outreach objective: staff time for sector engagement, resource development, and partner coordination through the Chamber of Commerce, professional associations, and the Gratiot Young Professionals Network; grant funding for technical assistance, with EGLE recycling grants and the Gratiot County Community Foundation as potential sources; and EGLE recycling specialist support.

For the countywide media objective: staff time for content development, campaign coordination, and regional partnership management; printing costs for messages included in tax bill or scheduled mailings; EGLE's publicly available Recycling Raccoons campaign materials; and Heartland MMPC coordination capacity for regional messaging alignment.

Gratiot's near-term Goal 3 cost gap estimate is anchored by the $10-per-household education and outreach baseline (per The Recycling Partnership), which for Gratiot's 14,764 households totals ~$150,000 annually. On top of that, $5,000 to $7,000 is estimated for commercial outreach materials; no cost gap has yet been estimated for the county-building recycling objective. Combined staff hours across all five Goal 3 objectives are estimated at roughly 365 hours.

Education and Outreach Program

The county will publish a new recycling guide meeting all Part 115 requirements — identifying recycling locations and materials, explaining preparation, and including a contact phone number — with printed copies available at public locations countywide, and will develop a strategic education and outreach plan coordinated with the Heartland MMP group.

School outreach through the Gratiot-Isabella RESD will promote the Michigan Green Schools program and support pilot recycling programs in one to two willing schools. Commercial outreach will center on a

voluntary business recycling survey hosted on the county website, coordinated through the Chamber of Commerce, professional associations, and the Gratiot Young Professionals Network.

Broader messaging will use existing county media channels and scheduled mailings to promote the recycling guide and drop-off locations, and will coordinate with EGLE's Recycling Raccoons campaign and neighboring Heartland counties on uniform regional messaging about what materials are recyclable.

Implementation Timeline

In Year 1, the recycling guide website will be live and mobile-friendly, with printed guides available at public locations and a draft strategic education and outreach plan in hand; a facilities inventory identifying which county buildings lack recycling will also be complete, alongside initial outreach to school districts and Chamber of Commerce members and the first countywide media messaging.

In Year 2, the strategic plan will be finalized, recycling collection will be established at all county-owned buildings with internal guidelines and signage in place, at least one school will be piloting a recycling program, the voluntary business survey will be live with results reported to the Heartland MMPC, and uniform regional recyclable-materials messaging will be adopted with at least one neighboring county.

By Year 3, at least one school district will have an established recycling program or Michigan Green School certification, and at least one grant application will have been submitted to support commercial technical assistance.

From Year 4 onward, the website, printed guide, and strategic plan will be reviewed and updated annually, county building recycling participation will be tracked and reported, and at least one additional school district will adopt a program each year, with ongoing regional messaging coordination continuing.

Responsible Party and Potential Partners

The Gratiot County CAA leads most objectives under this goal, with county administration and facilities staff responsible for the county-building work specifically. Key partners include the Heartland MMPC and local municipalities on the recycling guide and messaging, the Gratiot-Isabella RESD and Michigan Green Schools on the school objective, the Gratiot Area Chamber of Commerce, professional associations, and the Gratiot Young Professionals Network on commercial outreach, and EGLE — including its Recycling Raccoons campaign — and neighboring Heartland counties on regional messaging.

GOAL 4: TRACK AND REPORT RECYCLING PROGRAM PERFORMANCE

Description

The first objective is establishing a measured, EGLE-aligned recycling rate: identifying what tonnage data EGLE already collects from haulers and programs operating in Gratiot County, developing model hauler licensing ordinance language and model contract language that local units may optionally adopt to require tonnage reporting, surveying municipalities on contract status and interest in joint RFPs that could build in data-reporting requirements, and compiling reported tonnage annually from haulers, municipal programs, and EGLE publications to calculate and publish a county-level recycling rate.

A second objective engages the county's largest commercial and institutional generators: partnering with Greater Gratiot Development, Inc. (GGDI) to identify the ten largest employers, then inviting voluntary

participation in annual recycling data sharing — framed as a contribution to countywide sustainability goals rather than a compliance requirement — while using the model licensing and contract language developed under the first objective to build a longer-term pathway toward comprehensive commercial data reporting.

A third objective establishes a recurring community survey to track resident recycling participation, awareness, and barriers over time, coordinated with MSU Extension and the Heartland MMPC to align with regional data needs and avoid duplicative surveying, and repeated on a three-to-five-year cycle.

Resources Needed

For the EGLE data, model ordinance, and model contract objective: staff time for EGLE data coordination, ordinance and contract language development, municipal outreach, and data compilation; access to or alignment with EGLE's tonnage reporting platform; online software for license or permit tracking; and EGLE technical assistance as available.

For the top-business engagement objective: staff time for GGDI partnership coordination, business outreach, and survey development and distribution; funding for survey analysis, potentially through EGLE MMP Implementation funds; and a voluntary data-reporting tool on the county website.

For the community survey objective: funding for survey development, distribution, and analysis, potentially through EGLE MMP Implementation funds; and EGLE technical assistance as available.

Gratiot's near-term Goal 4 cost gap estimate totals $20,000-$40,000 in hard costs (every few years), for a recurring community survey to measure recycling participation and awareness; no hard cost is attached to the recycling-rate tracking or commercial data-engagement objectives themselves. Combined staff hours across all Goal 4 objectives are estimated at roughly 170 hours.

Education and Outreach Program

This goal is primarily a measurement function, but the recurring community survey doubles as an engagement tool, feeding results back into the messaging and outreach built under Goal 3. Voluntary hauler and business participation will be framed as a contribution to countywide sustainability goals rather than a compliance requirement while the model licensing ordinance and contract language pathways are developed and adopted.

Implementation Timeline

In Year 1, the county will identify what tonnage data EGLE already collects, complete a municipal contract inventory including expiration dates and interest in joint RFPs, and partner with GGDI to identify the county's largest commercial generators; the first community survey will also be in development.

In Year 2, model hauler licensing ordinance language and model contract language will both be available to local units, with at least one municipality engaged on adopting one of the two mechanisms, and direct outreach to the largest identified businesses will be complete with a voluntary data-sharing mechanism live on the county website.

By Year 3, at least one local unit will have adopted model licensing or contract language, a county-level tonnage compilation process will be established, and at least five of the ten largest identified businesses will be voluntarily sharing data; the first community survey will be published and presented to the MMPC.

By Year 4, the county's first measured recycling rate will be calculated and published; by Year 5, at least ten businesses will be voluntarily reporting; and from Year 7 onward, the recycling rate will be updated on a biennial basis, with the community survey repeated on a three-to-five-year cycle.

Responsible Party and Potential Partners

The Gratiot County CAA holds primary responsibility for this goal. Key partners include municipalities and haulers on tonnage data reporting, GGDI and local chambers of commerce on identifying and engaging top commercial generators, and MSU Extension and the Heartland MMPC on community survey design and regional coordination.

GOAL 5: SUPPORT REGIONAL HUB-AND-SPOKE RECYCLING INFRASTRUCTURE

Description

The first objective is Gratiot County's commitment to a responsible recycling processing solution for all of the recycling volume it manages under this Plan. Gratiot County has the opportunity to join as a core member of the Isabella County MRF — with an ownership interest, a governing seat on the facility organizing committee, and a share of facility revenue — provided it commits prior to financing close. If the county does not commit by that point, it may still participate as a preferred-customer, directing material to the facility with priority access to capacity and end-market connections, but without the ownership, governance, or revenue-share benefits reserved for core members.

The second objective is participation in a region-wide Regionalization Study of collection led by the Heartland MMPC, with findings to be presented to the Heartland MMPC and county CAAs and used to develop a regional infrastructure investment priority list.

A third objective is pursuing grant opportunities and capital improvement funding identified through the Regionalization Study, including designation of a fiscal agent county or regional entity to receive and administer grant funds on behalf of the Heartland Region.

A fourth, county-specific objective is confirming the current hauling-destination and contract end-dates for all recyclables collected at Gratiot County drop-off sites, coordinating with currently contracted haulers to establish potential hauling to the Isabella MRF where not already directed there.

Resources Needed

Estimating annual tonnage available to pledge and, if the county elects to pursue core-member status, formalizing an ownership and governance commitment ahead of financing close will require staff time for tonnage estimation and county board action, along with legal and municipal-finance advisory support to execute the ownership and governance agreements; if the county instead continues toward preferred-customer status, and the relationship can be documented through a simpler intergovernmental understanding.

For the Regionalization Study objective: consultant procurement and study costs will depend on scope and regional complexity, alongside Heartland MMPC staff time for RFP development, consultant management, stakeholder engagement, and presentation of findings.

For the grant and fiscal agent objective: staff time for grant research and regional coordination, with match funds potentially required for some grants, plus education and outreach materials documenting community need to support the grant process.

For the intergovernmental agreement objective: this is primarily a regional legal and coordination cost, covered through intergovernmental agreements or MOUs between the Heartland counties and Isabella County, with no direct cost anticipated for Gratiot County.

For the hauling-destination objective: confirming and potentially updating hauling arrangements to the Isabella MRF may draw on EGLE recycling infrastructure grants to address capital improvement needs such as containers, trailers, or site improvements at Gratiot County's drop-off locations.

Gratiot's near-term Goal 5 cost gap estimate carries no identified near term hard costs, though the Regionalization Study will likely cost in the tens of thousands, if not more (for the region). Combined staff hours across Goal 5 objectives are estimated at roughly 500-600 hours.

Education and Outreach Program

This goal is primarily an infrastructure and intergovernmental coordination effort led by the Heartland MMPC, with Gratiot County's role focused on staying engaged in the regional process, weighing the core-member decision as financing close approaches, and coordinating with the Isabella MRF and its current haulers on drop-off logistics in the interim.

Implementation Timeline

By 2027, Gratiot County will estimate its annual tonnage available to pledge and decide whether to commit as a core member of the Isabella County MRF ahead of financing close, or to continue toward a preferred-customer relationship if it does not commit by that point.

By 2029, the Heartland MMPC expects to have identified all grant programs relevant to regional recycling infrastructure, prioritizing those that can fund the Regionalization Study; by 2030, at least one grant application will have been submitted for the study, and Gratiot County will have confirmed current hauling-destinations and contract end-dates for its recyclables, coordinating with currently-contracted haulers on potential hauling to the Isabella MRF.

By 2031, a fiscal agent will be designated to receive and administer regional grant funds on behalf of the Heartland Region.

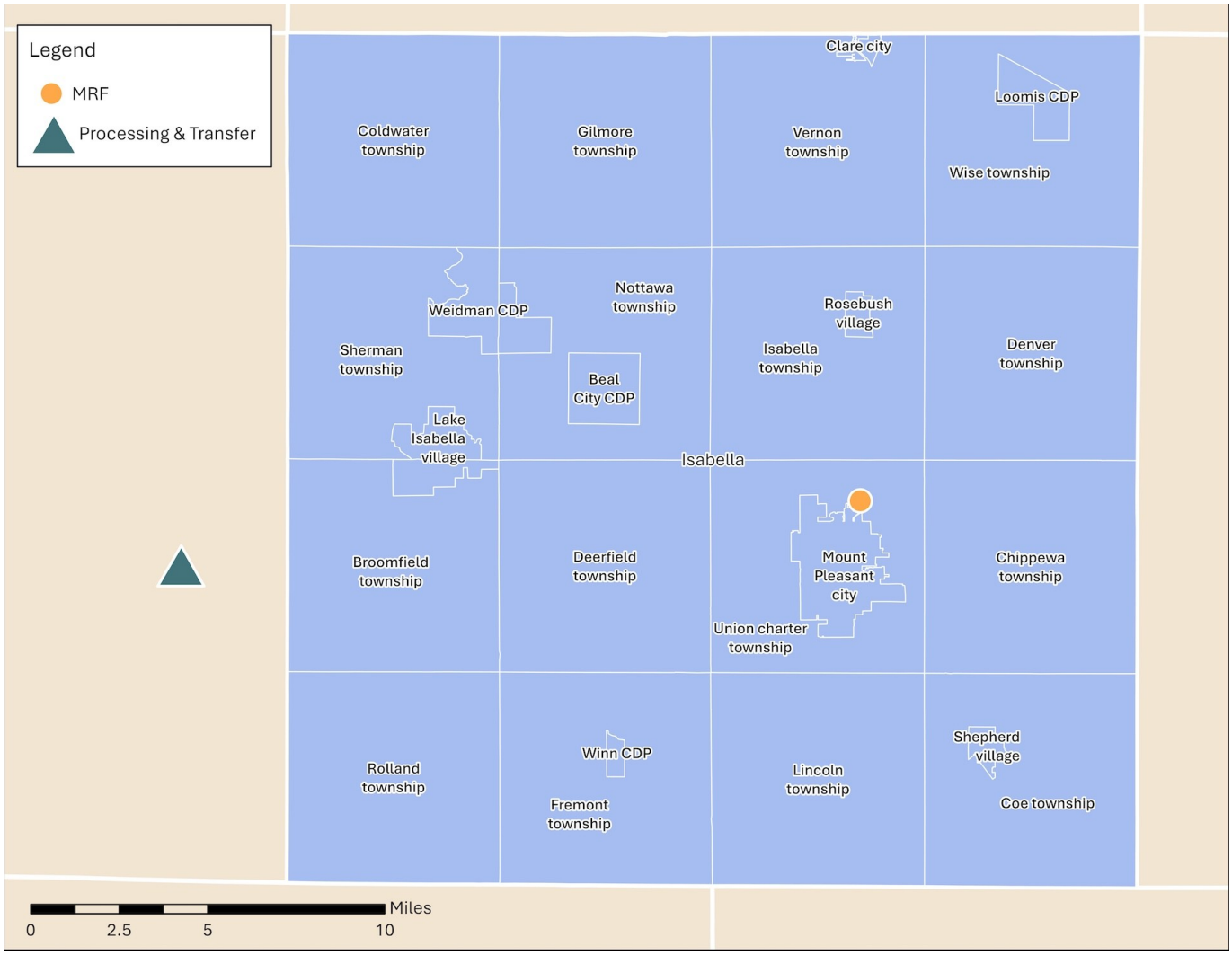
By 2032, the Regionalization Study will be complete and its findings presented to the Heartland MMPC and county CAAs, informing a regional infrastructure investment priority list, with Gratiot County's hauling arrangements to the Isabella MRF formalized regardless of which membership tier it ultimately elects.

Responsible Party and Potential Partners

This goal is led regionally by the Heartland MMPC for the Regionalization Study, grant strategy, and Isabella MRF intergovernmental agreement, with Gratiot County itself responsible for its core-member commitment and for confirming its own hauling arrangements to the Isabella MRF. Key partners include the Isabella County MRF, the other Heartland County CAAs and regional planning commissions, EGLE's Materials Management Division, county Economic Development Commissions, and the Michigan Recycling Coalition.

Appendix D – Isabella County

MATERIALS MANAGEMENT FACILITIES IN ISABELLA COUNTY



GOAL 1: IMPROVE MUNICIPAL AND COMMERCIAL WASTE (MCW) RECYCLING RATES AND MEET BENCHMARK RECYCLING STANDARDS

Description

Isabella County has a strong existing recycling infrastructure, with nine confirmed drop-off sites exceeding the state's BRS threshold and verified curbside recycling access in multiple communities, including both of the county's municipalities with populations over 5,000 at the time of planning. The first objective builds on that base: an inventory of communities with and without contracted curbside recycling service, documentation of which haulers currently provide curbside service and where, and outreach sharing that hauler service-area information with adjacent local units so they can explore extending existing contracts or

hauler capacity to their residents. The county will also provide technical assistance to local units with trash-only contracts interested in adding an opt-in recycling component, conduct outreach to municipalities without any contracted hauler, and make model contract language available to any local unit pursuing a new or updated hauler contract that includes curbside recycling — serving throughout as a resource and connector rather than a negotiator on municipalities' behalf. The Saginaw Chippewa Indian Tribe is a distinct governmental partner in this work, and the county will engage the Tribe alongside municipal leaders on curbside access verification.

MUNICIPALITY WITH CURBSIDE REQUIREMENT	2020 POPULATION	≥2X/MONTH?
Mt. Pleasant	21,688	Confirmed
Union Charter Township	11,699	Confirmed

The second objective is to verify and maintain drop-off site coverage (per state requirements, four county sites are needed): an annual review confirming all nine existing sites remain operational at least 24 hours per month and continue to meet BRS requirements, paired with a baseline GIS or consultant-supported drive-time analysis confirming that residents in the eastern part of the county have reasonable access within a 25-minute drive. Where that analysis identifies a gap, the county will explore options such as adjusted hours at an existing site, a new site, or shared access with neighboring communities, obtain vendor cost quotes for any needed bins or signage, and conduct a funding assessment covering EGLE infrastructure grants, user fees, host agreement revenue, and other mechanisms such as cooperative funding arrangements. The county will also engage NextCycle Michigan and EGLE on eligible grant projects and conduct an annual data request to confirm ongoing BRS compliance, flagging any community that grows past 5,000 residents.

DROP-OFF SITE	≥24 HRS/MONTH?
Isabella County Recycling Center	Confirmed
Gilmore Township Depot	Confirmed
Lincoln Township Hall	Confirmed
Rosebush Depot	Confirmed
Saginaw Chippewa Depot	Confirmed
Village of Shepherd at the Coe Twp. Hall	Confirmed
Weidman Depot	Confirmed
Winn Village / Fremont Township Depot	Confirmed
Wise Township Depot	Confirmed

A third objective supports cities, villages, and townships (CVTs) that lack contracted curbside recycling: a baseline inventory of CVT contract status, a learning session or focus group with unserved CVTs to understand needs and barriers, and technical assistance — directly or through consultant support — to help build community buy-in and develop bid documents. The county will make model RFP language available covering trash, recycling, yard waste, and food waste collection and requiring hauler data reporting to the county, and will encourage adjacent CVTs to coordinate joint RFPs or join existing contracts where terms permit to achieve economies of scale.

A fourth objective targets multi-family housing: outreach to landlords and property managers to raise awareness of existing recycling services and identify barriers to tenant access — acknowledging that outreach to existing landlords is expected to be more incremental than encouraging new-construction requirements — paired with model zoning language for municipalities with zoning authority to require adequate trash and recycling space in new multi-family construction.

A fifth objective addresses funding for the drop-off and recycling network: ensuring the updated Heartland Region siting process creates host agreement provisions that can generate program funds, conducting exploratory outreach to municipal leaders on a local resident-driven millage, tracking existing funding mechanisms as a living inventory, and engaging NextCycle Michigan and EGLE on eligible grant projects — reflecting the strong political support Isabella County's elected officials have shown for grant-seeking.

Resources Needed

For the curbside inventory and hauler outreach objective: a county recycling coordinator or designated point of contact for hauler outreach, municipal engagement, and inventory maintenance; staff or consultant time to support contract negotiation assistance and resident surveying in target communities; and EGLE technical assistance and grant funding as available.

For the drop-off verification and eastern-county gap objective: staff time for annual site verification and the drive-time assessment; GIS software access or consultant support; vendor quotes and procurement support for any needed equipment; EGLE Recycling Infrastructure Grant funding for bins, signage, or site buildout, with match funding potentially required; and consultant support for site selection and interlocal agreement drafting as needed.

For the CVT technical assistance objective: staff time for outreach, baseline inventory, and learning session coordination; consultant support for community buy-in strategy and RFP development, potentially funded through county general funds, EGLE MMP Implementation funds, or grants; and EGLE technical assistance as available.

For the multi-family zoning objective: staff time for landlord and property manager outreach and zoning language development, EGLE technical assistance as available, and legal review support for model ordinance language, potentially funded through county general funds or EGLE MMP Implementation funds.

For the funding-mechanism objective: staff time for funding mechanism tracking, inventory maintenance, municipal outreach, and grant coordination; EGLE technical assistance and grant funding as available; county general funds or Heartland Region planning support for consultant assistance if needed, with local match funding possibly required; and educational materials explaining funding mechanism options to municipal officials and residents.

Isabella's near-term Goal 1 cost gap estimate reflects no hard costs. Combined staff hours across these objectives are estimated at roughly 450 hours.

Education and Outreach Program

The county will maintain and publish an up-to-date public list of drop-off site locations, hours, and accepted materials on the county's website (or Heartland's website). Later-date curbside and coordinated hauler contract work will include model RFP language and technical assistance to help cities, villages, and townships understand the cost savings available through bundled trash-and-recycling contracts, developed in coordination with the Heartland MMPC.

CVTs considering hauler contract changes will have access to model RFP language covering trash, recycling, yard waste, and food waste collection, with adjacent communities encouraged to coordinate joint RFPs for economies of scale, and funding-mechanism education materials will help municipal officials and residents understand options.

Implementation Timeline

In Year 1, the county will complete a baseline inventory of curbside recycling access by community, establish its annual BRS verification process, confirm all nine drop-off sites remain compliant, begin the eastern-county drive-time assessment, complete a baseline inventory of CVT curbside contract status, convene a learning session with unserved CVTs, and engage NextCycle Michigan and EGLE on grant-eligible projects.

In Year 2, the county will share hauler service-area information with relevant local units, publish its living curbside-access tracking document, complete the drive-time analysis and identify options for any eastern-county gap, provide technical assistance to at least one CVT pursuing a new or improved hauler contract, share model zoning language with at least three municipalities, and publish an inventory of existing recycling funding mechanisms.

By Year 3, the county will have conducted outreach to at least one unserved municipality and engaged at least one trash-only community on adding recycling service, completed and presented its eastern-county funding assessment with at least one grant application submitted if warranted, and seen at least one municipality adopt or actively consider model multi-family zoning language.

By Year 4 and beyond, at least one additional community will gain contracted curbside recycling service each year, at least one new CVT per year will have curbside recycling with data-sharing provisions in place, any warranted eastern-county site improvement will be underway, and the county will maintain an established annual data request process confirming ongoing BRS compliance, with all residents without curbside access living within a 25-minute drive of a qualifying drop-off site by Year 5.

Responsible Party and Potential Partners

Responsibility for this goal rests with the Isabella County DPW working alongside the Isabella County Board of Commissioners on funding and siting decisions; the Heartland MMPC holds an advisory role specifically on the regional siting-process objective. Key partners include Saginaw Chippewa Indian Tribe/Soaring Eagle Casino and Resort, local municipal leaders and township boards, contracted haulers, the Middle Michigan Development Corporation (MMDC), EGLE, NextCycle Michigan, and county and municipal zoning and planning departments and area landlords and property managers on the multi-family housing objective.

GOAL 2: REDUCE FOOD WASTE AND ADVANCE ORGANICS MANAGEMENT

Description

Isabella County's organics work benefits from a distinctive set of potential partners: Morgan's Dairy Doo Composting in neighboring Osceola County as a regional processing option, the Mount Pleasant Water Resource Recovery Facility (WRRF) — which hopes to have a food waste receiving station operational, with a targeted goal of spring 2027 — and Central Michigan University, whose existing institutional sustainability practices make it a natural model and potential partner for both food waste and school-based education

efforts. The first objective is to confirm the capacity and interest of Morgan's and the WRRF to accept residential food waste, conduct outreach to any other yard waste or commercial composting operations in the county, and identify a willing single-location pilot host, whether a composting facility or an anaerobic digestion facility. Once a host is identified, the county will assess operational readiness, develop education materials for both site operators and residents in coordination with MSU Extension and CMU, launch the pilot, track tonnage collected, and use the results to inform expansion to additional sites and farm-based composting operations.

A second objective supports residents composting at home, through a guide developed with MSU Extension and the Isabella County Conservation District and distributed through township offices, the county website, libraries, and community organizations, paired with countywide composting workshops. The county will also pursue funding for a composting toolkit program — bin giveaways, starter kits, or informational kits — while being transparent in outreach that toolkit availability may be limited or grant-dependent.

A third objective targets food waste prevention and surplus donation among schools, hospitals, restaurants, and grocery stores, emphasizing the legal protections available under the Bill Emerson Good Samaritan Food Donation Act and connecting businesses and institutions with local food banks and shelters. The county will run the EPA's Preventing Food Waste in Your Community Social Marketing Kit campaign on a biennial basis, coordinated through the Heartland MMPC, and host at least one educational event per year targeting the business sectors identified as significant generators in the NRDC food waste calculator model.

A fourth objective addresses K-12 schools: surveying Isabella County school districts on current food waste practices, coordinating where relevant with the Gratiot-Isabella RESD, and promoting USDA best practices such as offer-versus-serve policies and cafeteria share tables. CMU's existing food waste reduction and institutional sustainability practices will be highlighted as a local model and potential resource for school outreach and workshops. Where significant food surplus remains after prevention efforts, the county will explore a food rescue pilot in partnership with the Isabella County Health Department, Feeding America, and school boards.

Resources Needed

Early conversations with Morgan's and the WRRF will require staff time and no significant capital investment; once a pilot host and processing pathway are identified, the county will need grant-dependent bin infrastructure (with the EGLE Organics Infrastructure Grant as a potential source) and outreach materials developed with MSU Extension and CMU.

For home composting support: staff time for guide development, partner coordination, and workshop planning; MSU Extension and Conservation District coordination and content support; printing and distribution costs for the composting guide; grant funding for bin giveaways or starter kits if pursued; and venue and materials costs for workshops, potentially offset through the MSU Extension partnership.

For food waste prevention and donation outreach: staff time for outreach planning, event coordination, and campaign adaptation; the EPA's Social Marketing Kit materials, which are publicly available and customizable; outreach materials on the Bill Emerson Act; Heartland MMPC coordination capacity for regional campaign support; and venue and event costs, which may be offset through partner co-hosting.

For the school food waste objective: staff time for school outreach, survey coordination, CMU engagement, and Gratiot-Isabella RESD coordination; survey development and distribution support; outreach materials on

USDA best practices, share tables, and Michigan Department of Education guidance; Michigan Green Schools coordination capacity; and, if food rescue is pursued, engagement capacity with the Isabella County Health Department and Feeding America.

Isabella's near-term Goal 2 cost gap estimate totals $2,000-$4,000 for compost bins and starter materials for a residential food scrap drop-off pilot at an existing composting site. Goal 2 region-wide cost gap estimate for personnel to manage regional K-12 school food waste reduction efforts is between $100,000-$160,000 annually for 1-2 staff. All eight counties could consider hiring 1 or more staff to handle education outreach to schools, among other things including: business outreach, grant writing, social media and marketing, etc.

Education and Outreach Program

Education will target both facility operators — who need clarity on capacity and interest before committing to a pilot — and residents, who need practical drop-off and home composting information distributed through township offices, the county website, libraries, and MSU Extension channels.

CMU's existing food waste reduction practices will be highlighted as a local model for K-12 schools and the broader community, and the university may be able to support school outreach or workshops directly given its institutional experience; food waste prevention outreach to schools, hospitals, restaurants, and grocery stores will use the EPA's Social Marketing Kit alongside messaging on the Bill Emerson Good Samaritan Food Donation Act's liability protections.

Implementation Timeline

In Year 1, meetings with Morgan's Composting and the Mount Pleasant WRRF will be complete, with current operations, capacity, and interest in expanded food scrap acceptance documented for each, alongside a school survey conducted in coordination with the Gratiot-Isabella RESD, CMU practice documentation, and quantification of the county's local meals gap using Feeding America data to prioritize donor outreach.

In Year 2, a pilot program will launch at one site, with education materials developed and distributed in coordination with MSU Extension; the home composting guide will be in distribution through at least three channels; at least one educational event on food waste prevention will be held, along with the first run of the EPA Social Marketing Kit campaign; and initial donor outreach on the meals-gap objective will be underway with at least one grocery store, restaurant, farm, or CMU dining partner.

By Year 3, the pilot will have a full season of tonnage data to evaluate, at least one composting workshop will have been hosted countywide, at least one school district will have adopted a USDA best practice or share table program informed in part by CMU's example, and at least one new food donation partnership will have been established connecting a local business with a food bank or pantry.

From Year 4 onward, the county will engage additional composting sites about joining an expanded food scrap network, potentially including expanded WRRF food waste receiving capacity, distribute the composting guide countywide, run the EPA campaign on a two-year cycle, add at least one new school food waste program per year, and add at least one new meals-gap donor partnership per year, with food rescue piloted in partnership with the Isabella County Health Department and Feeding America.

Responsible Party and Potential Partners

Responsibility for this goal rests with the Isabella County DPW with the Heartland MMPC playing a planning and advisory role on the food scrap pilot and EPA campaign coordination. Key partners include Saginaw

Chippewa Indian Tribe/Soaring Eagle Casino and Resort, Morgan's Dairy Doo Composting, the Mount Pleasant Water Resource Recovery Facility, and CMU on the composting and food scrap side; MSU Extension and the Isabella County Conservation District on home composting; local food banks, shelters, and area schools, hospitals, restaurants, and grocery stores on prevention and donation; and the Gratiot-Isabella RESD, Michigan Green Schools, the Isabella County Health Department, and Feeding America on school-based work.

GOAL 3: ADVANCE RECYCLING EDUCATION AND OUTREACH

Description

Isabella County will expand its existing recycling landing page into a comprehensive, Part 115-compliant recycling guide, meeting MCL 324.11578(1)(q)'s requirements to identify recycling locations and materials, explain preparation, describe best practices, and list a contact number. As an alternative or complement to a county-specific page, the county will explore whether this guide could be developed as part of a shared Heartland MMP regional website that serves all member counties, reducing duplicative development costs. Printed copies will be available at township offices, libraries, and other public locations, alongside a strategic education and outreach plan identifying roles, responsibilities, and funding sources, reviewed and updated annually. A recurring theme in Isabella County's planning discussions is that education and outreach responsibilities have historically been spread across the same staff role also responsible for grant writing, which limits the depth of outreach possible in both areas — a capacity constraint worth flagging for county leadership as this goal is implemented.

A second objective brings county-owned and county-operated buildings into compliance: an inventory of current recycling collection, followed by bin infrastructure and hauler arrangements where gaps exist, internal guidelines and signage for employees, and — once recycling is stable — exploration of food waste collection or composting programs in county buildings.

A third objective works with Isabella County school districts to encourage schools to incorporate recycling and composting into curriculum and to establish active collection programs, promoting the Michigan Green Schools program, reviewing school hauling contracts where accessible, and supporting pilot recycling programs in one to two willing schools, with CMU engaged as a potential educational resource and model given its existing institutional sustainability practices.

A fourth objective engages commercial and institutional entities through a voluntary business recycling survey hosted on the county website and outreach coordinated through the Mt. Pleasant Area Chamber of Commerce and the Isabella Business and Professional Association, developing tailored education resources and pursuing grant funding for technical assistance where participation gaps are identified.

A fifth objective uses existing county media channels and scheduled mailings — such as tax bill distributions — to promote the recycling guide, drop-off locations, and recycling education resources, and coordinates with EGLE's Recycling Raccoons campaign and neighboring Heartland counties on uniform regional messaging about what materials are recyclable.

Resources Needed

Expanding the recycling website and guide will require staff time for development and strategic plan drafting, plus printing and distribution costs, with hosting potentially shared across Heartland Region counties. Dedicated education staff time — distinct from grant writing duties — would meaningfully

strengthen school outreach, commercial engagement, and media campaign management under this goal. A shared position funded by the broader Heartland region could also be worth pursuing.

For the county building's objective: staff time for a facilities inventory and hauler coordination; bin infrastructure and signage for county buildings; and hauler contract amendments or new service agreements as needed.

For the school outreach objective: staff time for school outreach, pilot support, and program coordination; Michigan Green Schools coordination capacity once the coordinator vacancy is filled; classroom bins and educational materials for pilot schools, likely grant-dependent; and CMU coordination capacity as available.

For the commercial and institutional outreach objective: dedicated education staff capacity, distinct from grant writing responsibilities, to lead outreach; grant funding for technical assistance, with EGLE recycling grants as a potential source; outreach materials tailored to commercial and institutional audiences; EGLE recycling specialist support; and web hosting for the voluntary business survey.

For the countywide media objective: dedicated education staff capacity to manage ongoing media outreach and campaign coordination; printing costs for messages included in tax bill or scheduled mailings; EGLE's publicly available Recycling Raccoons campaign materials; and Heartland MMPC coordination capacity for regional messaging alignment.

Isabella's near-term Goal 3 cost gap estimate is anchored by the $10-per-household education and outreach baseline (The Recycling Partnership), which for Isabella's 25,191 households totals ~$250,000. Isabella also carries a distinct $60,000 to $80,000 hard cost tied to all its outreach objectives, reflecting the county's stated interest in a dedicated education staff position to support Goal 3 activities as a whole (this could be removed if region-wide shared personnel are acceptable). In addition, $5,000 to $7,000 was identified for commercial outreach materials. Combined staff hours across all five Goal 3 objectives are estimated at roughly 365 hours.

Education and Outreach Program

The county will publish an expanded recycling guide meeting all Part 115 requirements, with printed copies at public locations countywide. School outreach will promote Michigan Green Schools directly to administrators in the near term and engage CMU as a potential resource for school workshops.

Commercial outreach will center on a voluntary business recycling survey hosted on the county website, coordinated through the Mt. Pleasant Area Chamber of Commerce and the Isabella Business and Professional Association, and county media channels will promote the recycling guide while coordinating with neighboring Heartland counties on uniform recyclable-materials messaging.

Implementation Timeline

In Year 1, the expanded recycling guide website will be live, printed guides available at public locations, and a facilities inventory of county buildings complete.

In Year 2, the strategic plan will be finalized, recycling collection established at all county buildings, and the voluntary business survey live with results reported to the MMPC.

By Year 3, at least one school district will have an established recycling program or Michigan Green School certification, informed in part by CMU's example, and at least one grant application will have been submitted for commercial technical assistance.

From Year 4 onward, the website, guide, and strategic plan will be reviewed annually, with ongoing regional messaging coordination and, ideally, dedicated education staff capacity supporting deeper outreach across all sectors.

Responsible Party and Potential Partners

The Isabella County DPW leads most objectives under this goal, with county administration and facilities staff responsible for the county-building work specifically. Key partners include the Heartland MMPC on regional website and messaging coordination, Michigan Green Schools and CMU on the school objective, the Mt. Pleasant Area Chamber of Commerce and Isabella Business and Professional Association on commercial outreach, EGLE recycling specialists, and neighboring Heartland counties on regional messaging. The Saginaw Chippewa Indian Tribe/Soaring Eagle Casino and Resort will also be valuable partners for this goal.

GOAL 4: TRACK AND REPORT RECYCLING PROGRAM PERFORMANCE

Description

Unlike most Heartland counties, Isabella County already has an existing hauler licensing framework in place. The first objective builds on that foundation rather than starting from a countywide ordinance discussion: identifying what tonnage data EGLE already collects, confirming the legal basis of the existing licensing resolution, and determining whether it can be updated to require annual tonnage data reporting or whether a new ordinance is the more appropriate mechanism. The county will also develop model contract language that local units may optionally incorporate into single-hauler contracts, survey municipalities on contract expiration and interest in joint RFPs, and compile reported tonnage data annually to calculate and publish a county-level recycling rate.

A second objective engages the county's largest commercial and institutional generators: partnering with local economic development agencies to identify the ten largest employers, then inviting voluntary participation in annual recycling data sharing, framed as a contribution to countywide sustainability goals rather than a compliance requirement. Mandatory commercial tonnage reporting will follow once the updated licensing framework, ordinance, or model contract language developed under the first objective is in place.

A third objective establishes a recurring community survey to track resident recycling participation, awareness of available programs and drop-off locations, and perceived barriers over time, coordinated with MSU Extension and the Heartland MMPC and repeated on a three-to-five-year cycle.

Resources Needed

Confirming the legal basis for the existing licensing framework and updating it, if warranted, will require legal review and drafting support, potentially funded through county general funds or EGLE MMP Implementation funds, along with staff time for EGLE platform research, model contract language development, and municipal outreach.

For the top-business engagement objective: staff time for economic development agency partnership coordination, business outreach, and data tracking; a voluntary data-reporting tool on the county website; and EGLE technical assistance as available.

For the community survey objective: funding for survey development, distribution, and analysis, potentially through EGLE MMP Implementation funds; MSU Extension support on survey design and methodology; and printing and web hosting costs if physical or online distribution is pursued.

Isabella's near-term Goal 4 cost gap estimate totals $20,000-$40,000 in hard costs (every few years), for a recurring community survey to measure recycling participation and awareness; no hard cost is attached to the recycling-rate tracking or commercial data-engagement objectives themselves. Combined staff hours across all Goal 4 objectives are estimated at roughly 170 hours.

Education and Outreach Program

This goal is primarily a measurement function, but the recurring community survey doubles as an engagement tool, feeding results back into the messaging and outreach built under Goal 3. Voluntary hauler and business participation will be framed as a contribution to countywide sustainability goals in the near term, while the county works to confirm and, if needed, update its existing licensing framework to require mandatory tonnage reporting.

Implementation Timeline

In Year 1, the county will identify EGLE data collection requirements, locate and confirm the legal basis for the existing hauler licensing resolution, complete a municipal contract inventory, and partner with local economic development agencies to identify the county's ten largest commercial generators.

In Year 2, the existing licensing framework will be updated to include tonnage reporting requirements, or a countywide ordinance drafted for adoption, alongside model contract language for local units; direct outreach to the largest identified businesses will be complete with a voluntary data-sharing mechanism live on the county website; and the first community survey will be developed and fielded.

By Year 3, the updated licensing framework or ordinance will be in effect, with haulers operating in Isabella County reporting annual tonnage data and a county-level compilation process established, and at least five of the ten largest identified businesses will be voluntarily sharing data.

By Year 4, the county's first measured recycling rate will be calculated and published; by Year 5, 100% of haulers operating in the county are expected to hold an active license and report tonnage data annually, at least ten businesses will be voluntarily reporting, and the recycling rate will be updated biennially from Year 7 onward, with mandatory commercial reporting mechanisms explored if voluntary participation proves insufficient.

The community survey will be repeated on a three-to-five-year cycle to track change over time, with findings published and presented to the MMPC within one year of each survey cycle.

Responsible Party and Potential Partners

The Isabella County DPW holds primary responsibility for this goal in its county-level capacity. Key partners include Saginaw Chippewa Indian Tribe/Soaring Eagle Casino and Resort, municipalities and haulers on tonnage reporting and contract inventory, local economic development agencies and the Mt. Pleasant Area Chamber of Commerce on identifying and engaging top commercial generators, MSU Extension on community survey design, and the Heartland MMPC on data compilation and regional coordination.

GOAL 5: SUPPORT REGIONAL HUB-AND-SPOKE RECYCLING INFRASTRUCTURE

Description

Isabella County occupies a distinct role in this goal compared to the other seven Heartland counties: it is the planned host of the region's Materials Recovery Facility, and its remodeled MRF — targeting a nameplate capacity of roughly 10 tons per hour, or approximately 15,000 tons per year on a single shift. Sourcing and processing single-stream material from across the region is scheduled to be implemented in 2028.

The first objective is Isabella County's own commitment as the host county for the regional MRF: the county directs all of its recyclable material — covering all recycling volume generated in the county, not just drop-off tonnage — to its own facility, and will formalize that commitment through a county board resolution electing founding-partner status, alongside an estimate of the tonnage it can pledge annually, by the financing close. As the hub county, Isabella County is also expected to convene the other participating Heartland counties to design the MRF's ownership and governance structure, organized as a facility organizing committee. That structure ties core-member status — an ownership interest, a governing seat, and a revenue share — to counties that commit to direct their recyclable material to the facility, with counties that have not yet committed retaining a defined window to join as core members on the same terms provided they do so before financing close; counties that do not commit by that point may still participate as preferred-customers, with facility access but without ownership, governance, or revenue-share standing. A fiscal agent within the structure will also need to be designated.

The second objective is participation in a region-wide Regionalization Study of collection led by the Heartland MMPC, with findings to be presented to the Heartland MMPC and county CAAs and used to develop a regional infrastructure investment priority list.

A third objective is pursuing grant opportunities and capital improvement funding identified through the Regionalization Study, including designation of a fiscal agent county or regional entity to receive and administer grant funds on behalf of the Heartland Region.

A fourth, county-specific objective is confirming the current hauling-destination and contract end-dates for all recyclables collected at Isabella County's own drop-off sites and through curbside programs, coordinating with currently-contracted haulers to establish potential hauling to the Isabella MRF where not already directed there, and pursuing a collective RFP with other Heartland counties in support of securing more than 10,000 tons per year of recycling volume across the region.

Resources Needed

Structuring the MRF's ownership and governance, and formalizing Isabella County's own founding-partner commitment, will require legal and municipal-finance advisory support, staff time for tonnage estimation and structuring work, and county board action to adopt a founding-partner resolution and secure approvals from each participating county. RRS is expected to continue supporting this process as planning consultant.

For the Regionalization Study objective: consultant procurement and study costs will depend on scope and regional complexity, alongside Heartland MMPC staff time for RFP development, consultant management, stakeholder engagement, and presentation of findings.

For the grant and fiscal-agent objective: staff time for grant research and regional coordination, with match funds potentially required for some grants, plus education and outreach materials documenting community and regional need to support the grant process.

For the intergovernmental agreement objective: this is primarily a regional legal and coordination cost, covered through intergovernmental agreements or MOUs between the Heartland counties and Isabella County.

For the hauling-destination objective: confirming and, where needed, redirecting hauling arrangements for Isabella County's own drop-off and curbside recyclables may draw on EGLE recycling infrastructure grants to address capital improvement needs such as containers, trailers, or site improvements.

Isabella's near-term Goal 5 cost gap estimates are likely in excess of $10,000,000 to renovate the Isabella MRF – more precise modeling will be conducted by County personnel. The Regionalization Study will also likely cost in the tens of thousands, if not more (for the region). Combined staff hours across Goal 5 objectives are estimated at roughly 500-600 hours.

Education and Outreach Program

This goal is fundamentally an infrastructure and governance effort rather than a resident-facing campaign. Isabella County, working with the Heartland MMPC, will lead communication with the other seven counties as governance terms, core-member and preferred-customer definitions, and revenue-share arrangements are negotiated and formalized, and as each county's tier assignment and volume-scope commitments are documented in its own MMP.

Implementation Timeline

By 2027, the governance and ownership framework will be drafted, and founding-partner commitments and apportionment — governance representation and revenue share — will be defined for Tier 1 counties, with the window for Tier 2 counties to join on the same terms held open until financing close; Isabella County will formalize its own founding-partner commitment, including its county board resolution and pledged tonnage, by this deadline as well.

By 2028, the remodeled MRF, with its target nameplate capacity of around 10 tons per hour, will be sourcing material from the region and processing it via single stream, with formal intergovernmental agreements between Isabella County and the other Heartland counties in place, reflecting each county's confirmed tier.

By 2030, the region will work to secure more than 10,000 tons per year of recycling volume across all recycling material with Isabella County confirming hauling-destinations and contract end-dates for its own drop-off and curbside recyclables and coordinating collective RFPs with other Heartland counties where needed to consolidate material at the Isabella MRF.

By 2031, a fiscal agent will be designated to receive and administer regional grant funds.

By 2032, the region-wide Regionalization Study will be complete, with findings presented to the Heartland MMPC and county CAAs to inform a regional infrastructure investment priority list.

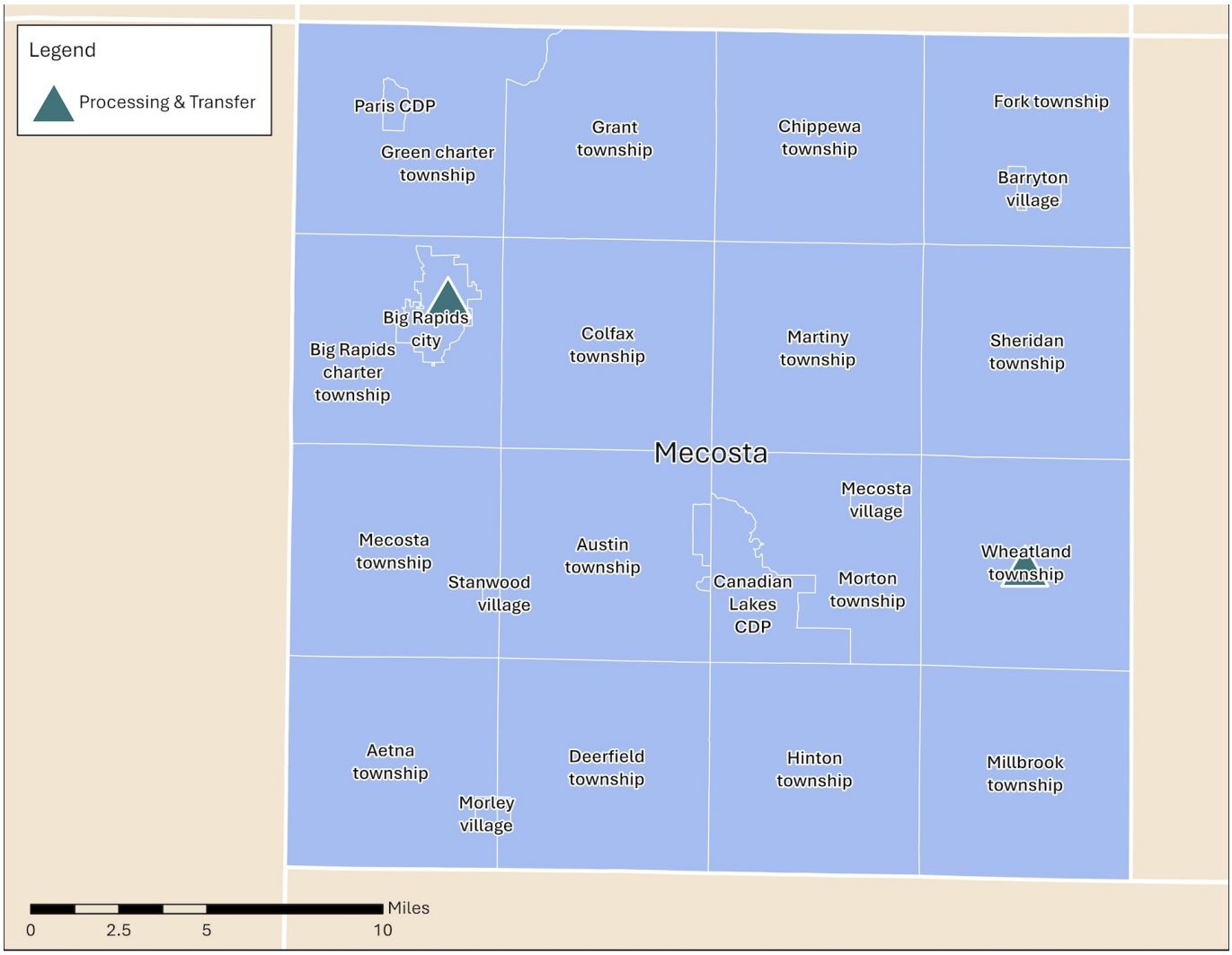
Responsible Party and Potential Partners

Isabella County itself holds primary responsibility for this goal as the MRF host and founding-partner county, leading the governance and ownership structuring and its own founding-partner commitment, while the Heartland MMPC leads the Regionalization Study, grant and fiscal-agent strategy, and the

intergovernmental agreement process on behalf of the region. Key partners include the other Heartland County CAAs and regional planning commissions, EGLE's Materials Management Division, Isabella County Economic Development, the Michigan Recycling Coalition, municipal finance and bond counsel, and the City of Mount Pleasant and Saginaw Chippewa Indian Tribe as host-facility partners in Isabella County specifically.

Appendix E – Mecosta County

MATERIALS MANAGEMENT FACILITIES IN MECOSTA COUNTY



GOAL 1: IMPROVE MUNICIPAL AND COMMERCIAL WASTE (MCW) RECYCLING RATES AND MEET BENCHMARK RECYCLING STANDARDS

Description

Mecosta County's recycling infrastructure centers on Mecosta Recycles, a 37-year-old source-separated drop-off program in Big Rapids operating on a suggested-donation basis, which also serves as a regional hub for materials such as Styrofoam that are typically not accepted in curbside programs. Mecosta Recycles is the county's one confirmed BRS-compliant drop-off site; the county needs four sites total, meaning three additional sites are needed to reach full compliance. Curbside recycling is currently available only in Big Rapids City through a Republic Services contract.

MUNICIPALITY WITH CURBSIDE REQUIREMENT	2020 POPULATION	≥2X/MONTH?
Big Rapids	7,727	Confirmed

The first objective is to establish a baseline inventory of curbside recycling access across the county, documenting which haulers currently serve which communities. Given that Big Rapids City and Big Rapids Township already collaborate on fire, water, and sewer services, and that the Township completely surrounds the city, the county will engage the two communities directly to propose and explore a joint recycling and trash RFP. The county will also share information about existing hauler service areas with nearby communities, offer technical assistance to local units that have contracted trash service but no recycling component, conduct outreach to municipalities without any contracted hauler, and make model contract language available to any local unit pursuing a new or updated hauler contract that includes curbside recycling.

DROP-OFF SITE	≥24 HRS/MONTH?
Mecosta Recycles	Confirmed

A second objective addresses the three additional drop-off sites Mecosta County needs to fully meet BRS requirements (Morton Township Recycling is close but does not quite meet requirements). The county will conduct annual verification that Mecosta Recycles continues to meet BRS hours requirements; complete a baseline drive-time analysis using a 15-minute threshold to confirm coverage gaps in the northeastern and southwestern parts of the county; and engage the Village of Barryton and Village of Morley on siting a new site in each area. Site planning will be done in consultation with Mecosta Recycles, including determining whether source-separated collection routed to Mecosta Recycles or single-stream collection routed to the Isabella County MRF is most appropriate at each location, and will proceed alongside equipment cost quotes, a funding assessment, and engagement with NextCycle Michigan and EGLE on grant-eligible projects.

A third objective documents and expands the battery recycling program Mecosta Recycles is developing with NextCycle Michigan funding: the county will document current collection methods, accepted battery types, and drop-off locations; identify opportunities to expand battery collection to additional sites as the program matures; develop public education materials on safe battery disposal in coordination with Mecosta Recycles and EGLE; and track and report volumes annually to the MMPC.

A fourth objective works directly with cities, villages, and townships (CVTs) that currently lack contracted curbside recycling service, building a published baseline of which communities are and are not served. The county will convene a learning session or focus group with unserved CVTs — prioritizing townships with more interest and engagement — to understand needs and the level of county support that would be most useful, and will offer technical assistance to interested CVTs, including model RFP language that pairs trash and recycling collection, requires hauler data reporting, and encourages neighboring communities to coordinate joint RFPs for economies of scale, with Big Rapids City and Township specifically encouraged to pursue this given their existing shared-service relationship.

A fifth objective targets multi-family housing: the county will conduct outreach to landlords and property managers to raise awareness of available recycling services and understand barriers to tenant access, and will develop model zoning language — for optional adoption by municipalities with zoning authority — requiring adequate trash and recycling space in new multi-family construction, coordinating with county

and municipal planning and zoning departments to share the language and provide technical assistance where there is interest.

A sixth objective addresses funding for the drop-off network and other recycling programs: the county will ensure the updated Heartland Region siting process creates a host agreement opportunity to help fund programs, offer technical assistance and planning support to any municipality exploring a local millage for recycling collection, track and publish a living inventory of existing funding mechanisms such as contract fees, drop-off user fees, and grant-funded programs like the Mecosta Recycles battery program, identify the funding gap between current resources and what is needed to establish the three additional BRS drop-off sites, and continue to engage NextCycle Michigan and EGLE on eligible grant projects.

Resources Needed

For the curbside baseline and Big Rapids City-Township joint RFP objective: staff time, or a designated point of contact, for hauler outreach, municipal engagement, and inventory maintenance; staff or consultant time to support contract negotiation assistance and resident outreach in target communities; EGLE technical assistance and grant funding as available; and updated or new municipal hauler contracts reflecting expanded service areas or recycling components.

For the three additional drop-off sites objective: staff time for annual site verification, drive-time analysis, municipal engagement, and site planning; GIS software access or consultant support for the drive-time analysis; consultant support for site selection and interlocal agreement drafting as needed; vendor quotes and procurement support for bins and signage; EGLE Recycling Infrastructure Grant funding, potentially requiring local match; and ongoing hauling and service contracts for the new sites.

For the battery recycling objective: staff time for program documentation, coordination with Mecosta Recycles, and public education; NextCycle Michigan grant funding, already in development; EGLE technical assistance as available; and outreach and education materials on safe battery disposal.

For the CVT curbside outreach objective: staff time for baseline inventory, learning-session coordination, and ongoing technical assistance and contract support; consultant support for community buy-in strategy and RFP development, potentially funded through county general funds, EGLE MMP Implementation funds, or grants; model RFP template development; and EGLE technical assistance as available.

For the multi-family zoning objective: staff time for landlord and property manager outreach and zoning language development, EGLE technical assistance as available, and legal review support for model ordinance language, potentially funded through county general funds or EGLE MMP Implementation funds.

For the funding and millage-support objective: staff time for funding mechanism tracking, inventory maintenance, municipal outreach, and grant coordination; EGLE technical assistance and grant funding as available; county general funds or Heartland Region planning support for consultant assistance if needed, with match funding possibly required; and technical assistance materials for municipalities exploring local millages.

Mecosta's near-term Goal 1 cost gap estimate is: ~$80,000 to establish two additional drop-off sites (prioritizing the Morley and Barryton areas) to meet Benchmark Recycling Standards — covering concrete pad, drop-off bin/dumpster, fencing, signage, lighting, and site development labor at the high end of the per-site cost table — plus $6,000 annually to develop a battery recycling program building on Mecosta Recycles' existing NextCycle-funded effort. Staff hours across all of Mecosta's near-term Goal 1 objectives are estimated at roughly 780 hours.

Education and Outreach Program

The county will maintain and publish an up-to-date public list of drop-off site locations, hours, and accepted materials on the county's website (or Heartland's website). Later-date curbside and coordinated hauler contract work will include model RFP language and technical assistance to help cities, villages, and townships understand the cost savings available through bundled trash-and-recycling contracts, developed in coordination with the Heartland MMPC.

Public education on the developing battery recycling program will coordinate with Mecosta Recycles and EGLE on safe disposal messaging and drop-off locations, with volumes tracked and reported annually to the MMPC. Outreach to landlords and property managers on the multi-family housing objective will be conducted transparently, acknowledging that recycling appetite and funding options vary significantly across the county.

Implementation Timeline

In Year 1, the county will complete its curbside baseline inventory, formally engage Big Rapids City and Township on a joint RFP, complete a 15-minute drive-time analysis, document the current status of the Mecosta Recycles battery program, convene a learning session with CVTs lacking curbside recycling access, and begin outreach to landlords and property managers on multi-family recycling access.

In Year 2, site assessments for the Morley and Barryton areas will be complete, the collection-type determination will be made with Mecosta Recycles, battery disposal education materials will be distributed countywide, model RFP language will be available to CVTs and local units, model zoning language for multi-family construction will be developed, and the county will publish its first living inventory of existing recycling funding mechanisms.

By Year 3, at least one grant application will be submitted for new site development, battery collection will expand to at least one additional location, the Big Rapids City-Township RFP process will have taken a documented next step, at least one additional CVT will have contracted curbside service, at least one municipality will have adopted or be actively considering model multi-family zoning language, and the county will have documented its funding gap for the three additional BRS drop-off sites alongside a technical assistance framework for municipalities exploring local millages.

By Year 5, Mecosta County will meet BRS drop-off requirements with all four required sites open at least 24 hours per month, and at least one additional community will have contracted curbside service.

Responsible Party and Potential Partners

Responsibility for this goal rests with the Mecosta County CAA, with the Heartland MMPC holding an advisory role on the regional siting-process and host agreement objective specifically. Key partners include Big Rapids City and Big Rapids Township, the Village of Morley and Village of Barryton, Morton Township, Mecosta Recycles, township boards and the Mecosta County Board of Commissioners, contracted haulers including Republic Services, EGLE, and NextCycle Michigan, along with county and municipal zoning and planning departments and area landlords and property managers on the multi-family housing objective.

GOAL 2: REDUCE FOOD WASTE AND ADVANCE ORGANICS MANAGEMENT

Description

The first objective supports residents composting at home through a guide developed with MSU Extension and the Mecosta County Conservation District and distributed through township offices, the county website, libraries, community organizations, and MSU Extension channels. The county will also coordinate with Lowe's in Big Rapids — which already offers free or low-cost composting and gardening workshops and is a natural co-host — and MSU Extension to host countywide composting workshops, and will pursue funding for a composting toolkit program of bin giveaways, starter kits, or informational kits, being transparent in outreach that toolkit availability may be limited or grant-dependent.

The second objective targets food waste prevention and surplus donation among schools, hospitals, restaurants, and grocery stores, emphasizing the legal protections available under the Bill Emerson Good Samaritan Food Donation Act. At least three Mecosta County restaurants — including Panera Bread — already donate surplus food to local pantries and shelters and will be recognized and invited as peer leaders to share their experience with other businesses. The county will coordinate with local food banks, the Big Rapids 24/7 homeless shelter, and the domestic violence shelter to understand their capacity to receive donations and connect them with potential donor businesses. The county will also run the EPA's Preventing Food Waste in Your Community Social Marketing Kit campaign on a biennial basis in coordination with the Heartland MMPC, and will host at least one educational event per year targeting the business sectors identified as significant generators in the Natural Resources Defense Counsil (NRDC) food waste calculator model.

The third objective addresses K-12 schools through the Mecosta-Osceola Intermediate School District, starting with a survey of current practices and prioritizing outreach to the most willing of the county's four public school districts. The county will promote USDA best practices such as offer-versus-serve policies and extended lunch periods, along with cafeteria share tables — building on Big Rapids Middle School's existing share table as a local model — and will coordinate with Michigan Green Schools on program adoption. The Mecosta-Osceola ISD Education Center, which serves students with disabilities up to age 26, faces mandatory dietary restrictions that limit food donation and repurposing, and prevention strategies there will be tailored accordingly; where significant surplus remains after prevention efforts, the county will explore a food rescue pilot in partnership with the Mecosta County Health Department, Feeding America, and school boards, potentially spanning the two parochial schools Big Rapids Public Schools also provides meals to.

Resources Needed

For home composting support: staff time for guide development, partner coordination, and workshop planning; MSU Extension and Conservation District coordination and content support; Lowe's Big Rapids coordination for workshop co-hosting; printing and distribution costs for the composting guide; and grant funding for bin giveaways or starter kits if pursued.

For food waste prevention and donation outreach: staff time for outreach planning, event coordination, and campaign adaptation; the EPA's Social Marketing Kit materials, which are publicly available and customizable; outreach materials on the Bill Emerson Act; coordination capacity with local food banks, the

Big Rapids 24/7 shelter, and the domestic violence shelter; and Heartland MMPC coordination capacity for regional campaign support.

For the school food waste objective: staff time for school outreach, survey coordination, and Mecosta-Osceola ISD engagement; survey development and distribution support; outreach materials on USDA best practices, share tables, and Michigan Department of Education guidance; Michigan Green Schools coordination capacity; and, if food rescue is pursued, engagement capacity with the Mecosta County Health Department and Feeding America.

Goal 2 region-wide cost gap estimate for personnel to manage regional K-12 school food waste reduction efforts is between $100,000-$160,000 annually for 1-2 staff. All eight counties could consider hiring 1 or more staff to handle education outreach to schools, among other things including: business outreach, grant writing, social media and marketing, etc.

Education and Outreach Program

Existing local food donors like Panera Bread will be invited to share their experience with other businesses as peer leaders, and Big Rapids Middle School's share table will be used as models for other schools to replicate, with the special dietary needs of the Mecosta-Osceola ISD Education Center factored into how prevention strategies are adapted there.

Home composting education will draw on a distinctive local partnership with Lowe's in Big Rapids, which already hosts free or low-cost composting and gardening workshops and is a natural co-host for county composting education alongside MSU Extension.

Implementation Timeline

In Year 1, the school survey will document current practices and existing models like the Big Rapids Middle School share table, and targeted outreach planning for food waste-generating businesses will begin with coordination established with local food banks and shelters.

In Year 2, the home composting guide will be in distribution through at least three channels, at least one educational event on food waste prevention will be held alongside the first run of the EPA Social Marketing Kit campaign, and initial meals-gap donor outreach will be underway with at least one grocery store, restaurant, or farm.

By Year 3, at least one composting workshop will have been hosted countywide, outreach will have reached businesses in at least two sectors identified through the NRDC food waste model, at least one school district will have adopted a USDA best practice or share table program, and at least one new food donation partnership will have been established connecting a local business with a food bank, pantry, or shelter.

From Year 4 onward, the county expects distribute the composting guide countywide, run the EPA campaign on a two-year cycle, add at least one new school food waste program per year, and add at least one new meals-gap donor partnership per year, with food rescue piloted in partnership with the Mecosta County Health Department and Feeding America if surplus food is identified.

Responsible Party and Potential Partners

Responsibility for this goal is shared between the Mecosta County CAA, which leads home composting programming, and school, business, and donor outreach, and the Heartland MMPC, which plays a planning

and advisory role on the food scrap pilot and coordinates the EPA Social Marketing Kit campaign. Key partners include MSU Extension, the Mecosta County Conservation District, and Lowe's Big Rapids on home composting; Panera Bread and other existing peer-leader food donors, local food banks, the Big Rapids 24/7 homeless shelter, and the domestic violence shelter on prevention, donation, and the meals-gap objective; and the Mecosta-Osceola Intermediate School District, Big Rapids Public Schools, Michigan Green Schools, the Mecosta County Health Department, and Feeding America on school-based work.

GOAL 3: ADVANCE RECYCLING EDUCATION AND OUTREACH

Description

County leadership has been explicit that education and building public trust in recycling systems is Mecosta County's single top priority under this plan: many residents do not understand where recyclables actually go or whether they are being recycled rather than landfilled, and county staff have emphasized that the "why" and value of recycling must be established before the county moves quickly into program implementation. Every objective in this goal is approached with that trust-building priority front and center, and the county will coordinate closely with Mecosta Recycles, The Recycling Partnership — an active partner and funder already conducting business recycling outreach in the county and Ferris State University.

The first objective is a new or updated Part 115-compliant recycling guide, building on the county's existing recycling website rather than starting from scratch. The guide will meet MCL 324.11578(1)(q)'s requirements to identify recycling locations and materials, explain preparation, describe best practices, and list a contact number. Printed copies will be available at township offices, libraries, and other public locations, alongside a strategic education and outreach plan identifying roles, responsibilities, and funding sources, reviewed and updated annually and coordinated with the Heartland MMP group where possible.

A second objective establishes free township clean-up days countywide, aimed at reducing blight and increasing access to proper disposal of bulky items and recyclable materials. The county will first identify funding sources — including EGLE grants, county general funds, and local business partnerships — then coordinate with township boards to plan and schedule events, building on any existing township-level clean-up efforts and prioritizing areas of the county with higher rates of blight, with participation and materials collected tracked and reported annually to the MMPC.

A third objective brings county-owned and county-operated buildings into compliance: an inventory of current recycling collection, followed by bin infrastructure and hauler arrangements where gaps exist — coordinating with Mecosta Recycles where source-separated collection may be more appropriate than curbside — internal guidelines and signage for employees, and, once recycling is stable, exploration of food waste collection or composting in county buildings.

A fourth objective builds on the strong existing school recycling foundation Mecosta Recycles has established, currently collecting paper, cardboard, and milk jugs from Big Rapids Public Schools, the Mecosta-Osceola Intermediate School District, Crossroads Charter, St. Peter's, and St. Mary's, including a successful milk bottle recycling pilot in elementary buildings. The county will conduct outreach through the Mecosta-Osceola ISD to schools not yet participating, promote the Michigan Green Schools program — noting the county currently has no certified Michigan Green Schools — explore Ferris State University as an educational partner and model given its existing campus recycling programs, and support pilot recycling programs in one to two willing schools not yet served by Mecosta Recycles.

A fifth objective engages commercial and institutional entities, coordinating closely with Mecosta Recycles and The Recycling Partnership, to align efforts and avoid duplication. The county will engage businesses directly — potentially through the Big Rapids Regional Chamber of Commerce and professional associations — to understand current practices and barriers, develop or curate tailored education resources, host a voluntary business recycling survey on the county website, and pursue grant funding, including from the Mecosta County Community Foundation and EGLE, to support technical assistance where gaps are identified.

A sixth objective uses existing county media channels and scheduled mailings to directly counter the widespread public concern that recyclables end up in the landfill, clearly communicating where materials go and how they are processed. The county will coordinate with EGLE's Recycling Raccoons campaign and partner with neighboring Heartland counties on uniform regional messaging about what materials are recyclable.

Resources Needed

For the recycling guide and website objective: staff time for website review and updates, guide production, and strategic plan drafting; printing and distribution costs for physical guides; and web hosting and maintenance costs, which could be shared across Heartland Region counties.

For the township clean-up day objective: staff time for funding identification, municipal coordination, event planning, and data tracking; grant funding for clean-up day logistics, disposal costs, and promotion; hauler and disposal contractor support for bulky item and waste collection at events; and promotional materials for countywide outreach.

For the county building's objective: staff time for facilities inventory and hauler coordination; bin infrastructure and signage for county buildings; and hauler contract amendments or new service agreements as needed, coordinating with Mecosta Recycles for source-separated collection where applicable.

For the school outreach objective: staff time for school outreach, coordination with Mecosta Recycles, and program support; classroom bins and educational materials for pilot schools not yet served by Mecosta Recycles, likely grant-dependent; and Mecosta-Osceola ISD, Michigan Green Schools, and Ferris State University coordination capacity.

For the commercial and institutional outreach objective: staff time for coordination with Mecosta Recycles and The Recycling Partnership, sector engagement, and resource development; grant funding for technical assistance, with EGLE recycling grants and the Mecosta County Community Foundation as potential sources; and web hosting for the voluntary business recycling survey.

For the countywide media objective: staff time for content development, campaign coordination, and regional partnership management; printing costs for messages included in tax bill or scheduled mailings; EGLE's publicly available Recycling Raccoons campaign materials; and Heartland MMPC coordination capacity for regional messaging alignment.

Mecosta's near-term Goal 3 cost gap estimate is anchored by the $10-per-household education and outreach baseline (The Recycling Partnership), which for Mecosta's 16,013 households totals ~$160,000. Mecosta also carries a distinct $15,000 to $80,000 hard cost to coordinate free clean-up days in every township, addressing blight and illegal dumping alongside recycling access, plus $5,000 to $7,000 for

commercial outreach materials. Combined staff hours across all six applicable Goal 3 objectives (including the clean-up day objective) are estimated at roughly 445 hours.

Education and Outreach Program

All messaging under this goal will directly and repeatedly address the top public concern identified in county discussions: whether recyclables are actually recycled or end up in the landfill. The updated website will clearly explain where materials go and how they are processed.

School outreach will document and build on Mecosta Recycles' existing multi-school partnerships and its successful milk bottle pilot, expanding outreach to schools not yet served, with Ferris State University engaged as a potential model and resource for both K-12 and general public education. Clean-up day promotion will run through county media, township communications, and community organizations, with particular attention to reaching areas of the county with higher rates of blight.

Because The Recycling Partnership and Mecosta Recycles are already active in commercial outreach, county messaging to businesses will focus on coordination and avoiding duplication rather than building new outreach infrastructure from scratch.

Implementation Timeline

The existing recycling website will be reviewed and updated by January 1, 2028, current school recycling coverage documented, coordination with Mecosta Recycles and The Recycling Partnership formally established, a facilities inventory of county buildings completed, and clean-up day funding sources identified with at least one application submitted or partnership secured.

In Year 2, the strategic education plan will be finalized, at least one additional school district will be actively pursuing a recycling program, recycling collection will be established at all county-owned buildings with internal guidelines and signage in place, and at least one township clean-up day will be organized with county coordination support.

By Year 3, at least one additional school district will have established an active recycling program, at least one grant application will have been submitted to support commercial technical assistance, and at least three townships will have hosted a county-coordinated clean-up day.

From Year 4 onward, the website and strategic plan will be reviewed annually with messaging continuing to directly address misconceptions, all willing county schools will have active recycling collection, county building recycling participation will be tracked and reported, and clean-up days will continue annually or biennially until all townships have hosted at least one event by Year 5.

Responsible Party and Potential Partners

The Mecosta County CAA leads most objectives under this goal. Key partners include Mecosta across nearly every objective, the Mecosta-Osceola Intermediate School District, Michigan Green Schools, and Ferris State University on the school objective, the Big Rapids Regional Chamber of Commerce and EGLE recycling specialists on commercial outreach, township boards and the Mecosta County Board on clean-up days, and neighboring Heartland counties, and EGLE's Recycling Raccoons campaign on regional messaging.

GOAL 4: TRACK AND REPORT RECYCLING PROGRAM PERFORMANCE

Description

The first objective is to identify what tonnage data EGLE is already collecting from haulers and programs in Mecosta County, to determine whether existing EGLE reporting platforms can serve as the foundation for a county-level recycling rate calculation. Unlike several Heartland counties that favor a voluntary, contract-based approach, Mecosta County intends to develop and adopt a countywide hauler licensing ordinance requiring all haulers — including Mecosta Recycles itself, given its significant role collecting recyclables from schools, businesses, and residents — to report annual tonnage data. As a complementary near-term mechanism while the ordinance is developed, the county will offer model contract language to local units, survey municipalities on hauler contract status and joint-RFP interest, and compile reported tonnage data annually from hauler license reports, Mecosta Recycles data, municipal program data, and EGLE databases to calculate and publish a county-level recycling rate.

A second objective engages the county's largest commercial and institutional generators: partnering with the Big Rapids Regional Chamber of Commerce to identify the ten largest employers, then inviting voluntary participation in annual recycling data sharing while the countywide hauler licensing ordinance developed under the first objective would extend mandatory commercial tonnage reporting alongside residential data.

A third objective establishes a recurring community survey to track resident recycling participation and awareness over time, coordinated with MSU Extension and the Heartland MMPC to align with regional data needs. The region-wide Heartland community survey conducted in May identified limited community awareness of recycling options as a top theme, and Mecosta County's future surveys will specifically track whether education and outreach efforts under Goal 3 are closing that awareness gap, repeating the survey on a three-to-five-year cycle.

Resources Needed

For the EGLE data and hauler licensing ordinance objective: legal review and drafting support for the ordinance, potentially funded through county general funds or EGLE MMP Implementation funds; staff time for EGLE platform research, model contract language development, municipal outreach, and data compilation; access to or alignment with EGLE's tonnage reporting platform to reduce duplicative hauler burden; and EGLE technical assistance as available.

For the business engagement objective: staff time for Big Rapids Regional Chamber of Commerce partnership coordination, business outreach, and data tracking; coordination with Mecosta Recycles to align outreach efforts; voluntary data-reporting infrastructure on the county website; and EGLE technical assistance as available.

For the community survey objective: funding for survey development, distribution, and analysis, potentially through EGLE MMP Implementation funds; MSU Extension support on survey design and methodology; and printing and web hosting costs if physical or online distribution is pursued.

Mecosta's near-term Goal 4 cost gap estimate totals $20,000-$40,000 in hard costs (every few years), for a recurring community survey to measure recycling participation and awareness; no hard cost is attached to the recycling-rate tracking or commercial data-engagement objectives themselves. Combined staff hours across all Goal 4 objectives are estimated at roughly 170 hours.

Education and Outreach Program

This goal is primarily a measurement function, but the recurring community survey doubles as an engagement tool, feeding results back into the messaging and outreach built under Goal 3. Voluntary business participation will be framed as a contribution to countywide sustainability goals while the licensing ordinance moves through County Board adoption, and survey results will be tracked specifically against the region-wide baseline finding of limited recycling awareness.

Implementation Timeline

In Year 1, the county will identify EGLE data collection requirements and reporting platforms, complete a municipal contract inventory including expiration dates and interest in joint RFPs, and begin drafting the hauler licensing ordinance.

In Year 2, the ordinance will be submitted to the Mecosta County Board for adoption, model contract language will be available as a complementary near-term tool, and partnership with the Big Rapids Regional Chamber of Commerce will be established to identify the county's largest generators.

By Year 3, the licensing ordinance will be adopted with all haulers registered and reporting tonnage data, at least five of the ten largest identified businesses will be voluntarily sharing data, and the first MMP-era community survey will be developed and fielded.

By Year 5, the county's first measured recycling rate will be published, with 100% of haulers holding an active license and reporting annually and at least ten businesses voluntarily reporting, with the rate updated biennially thereafter and the community survey repeated on a three-to-five-year cycle.

Responsible Party and Potential Partners

The Mecosta County CAA holds primary responsibility for this goal. Key partners include Mecosta Recycles, municipalities, and haulers on tonnage reporting and the licensing ordinance; the Big Rapids Regional Chamber of Commerce; and MSU Extension and the Heartland MMPC on community survey design and regional alignment.

GOAL 5: SUPPORT REGIONAL HUB-AND-SPOKE RECYCLING INFRASTRUCTURE

Description

The first objective is Mecosta County's commitment to a recycling processing solution for its non-source-separated recycling volume — with Mecosta Recycles preserved, unchanged, as the county's destination for source-separated material collected through its long-running drop-off program. For that non-source-separated volume, the county is dedicated to ensuring a responsible processing solution is available, and will continue to work with, and consider participating in, the Isabella County hub-and-spoke solution or a reasonable equivalent. Mecosta County has the opportunity to join as a core member of the Isabella County MRF for this volume — with an ownership interest, a governing seat on the facility organizing committee, and a share of facility revenue — provided it commits prior to financing close. If the county does not commit by that point, it may still participate as a preferred-customer for its non-source-separated material, without the ownership, governance, or revenue-share benefits reserved for core members. Alongside this commitment decision, the county is also exploring whether Mecosta Recycles could itself become a

regional hub for a specific material, such as Styrofoam, not commonly accepted elsewhere in the region — a complementary, not competing, role to Isabella's broader single-stream processing function.

The second objective is participation in a region-wide Regionalization Study of collection led by the Heartland MMPC, with findings to be presented to the Heartland MMPC and county CAAs and used to develop a regional infrastructure investment priority list.

A third objective is pursuing grant opportunities and capital improvement funding identified through the Regionalization Study, including designation of a fiscal agent county or regional entity to receive and administer grant funds on behalf of the Heartland Region.

A fourth, county-specific objective is confirming the current hauling-destination and contract end-dates for non-source-separated recyclables collected at Mecosta County drop-off sites — as distinct from the source-separated material Mecosta Recycles continues to handle — coordinating with currently-contracted haulers to establish potential hauling to the Isabella MRF where not already directed there, and pursuing a collective RFP with other spoke counties if needed once existing contracts lapse.

Resources Needed

Formalizing the preferred-customer relationship for Mecosta County's non-source-separated recycling volume requires no capital commitment or county board resolution; committing as a core member instead would require legal and municipal-finance advisory support to formalize ownership and governance commitments ahead of financing close. Exploring Mecosta Recycles' potential specialty-material hub role will require staff time for feasibility discussions with Mecosta Recycles and regional partners, with no defined capital cost until a specific material and volume commitment is scoped.

For the Regionalization Study objective: consultant procurement and study costs will depend on scope and regional complexity, alongside Heartland MMPC staff time for RFP development, consultant management, stakeholder engagement, and presentation of findings.

For the grant and fiscal agent objective: staff time for grant research and regional coordination, with match funds potentially required for some grants, plus education and outreach materials documenting community need to support the grant process.

For the intergovernmental agreement objective: this is primarily a regional legal and coordination cost, covered through intergovernmental agreements or MOUs between the Heartland counties and Isabella County for non-source-separated material, with no material direct cost anticipated for Mecosta County specifically.

For the hauling-destination objective: confirming and potentially updating hauling arrangements for non-source-separated recyclables to the Isabella MRF may draw on EGLE recycling infrastructure grants to address capital improvement needs such as containers, trailers, or site improvements at Mecosta County's drop-off locations.

Mecosta's near-term Goal 5 cost gap estimate carries no identified near term hard costs, though the Regionalization Study will likely cost in the tens of thousands, if not more (for the region). Combined staff hours across Goal 5 objectives are estimated at roughly 500-600 hours.

Education and Outreach Program

This goal is primarily an infrastructure and intergovernmental coordination effort led by the Heartland MMPC, with Mecosta County's role focused on preserving Mecosta Recycles' role for source-separated material, weighing the core-member versus preferred-customer decision for its non-source-separated volume, and exploring the Mecosta Recycles specialty-hub concept.

Implementation Timeline

By 2027, Mecosta County will confirm the scope of the Mecosta Recycles carve-out for source-separated material, estimate its non-source-separated tonnage, and begin evaluating whether to commit that volume as a core member of the Isabella County MRF ahead of financing close, or to continue in a preferred-customer relationship if it does not commit by that point.

By 2029 and 2030, the Heartland MMPC will identify grant programs and pursue funding for the Regionalization Study, with Mecosta County confirming hauling-destinations and contract end-dates for its non-source-separated recyclables.

By 2031, a fiscal agent will be designated to receive and administer regional grant funds.

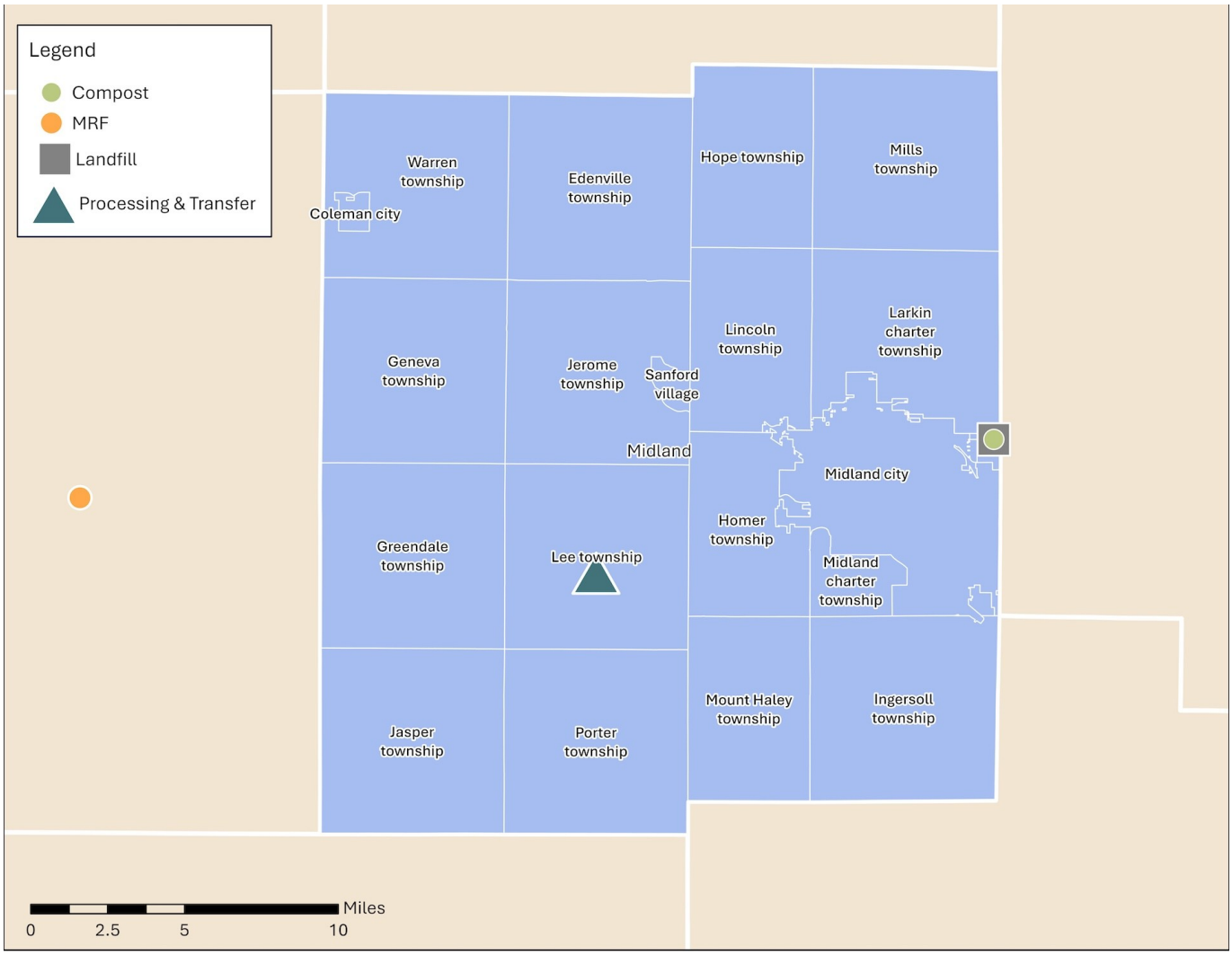
By 2032, the Regionalization Study will be complete and its findings presented to the Heartland MMPC and county CAAs, informing a regional infrastructure investment priority list.

Responsible Party and Potential Partners

This goal is led regionally by the Heartland MMPC for the Regionalization Study, grant strategy, and Isabella MRF intergovernmental agreement, with Mecosta County responsible for its own core-member or preferred-customer decision and for confirming hauling arrangements for its non-source-separated volume. Key partners include the other Heartland County CAAs, the Isabella County MRF, EGLE's Materials Management Division, and the Michigan Recycling Coalition, alongside Mecosta Recycles.

Appendix F – Midland County

MATERIALS MANAGEMENT FACILITIES IN MIDLAND COUNTY



GOAL 1: IMPROVE MUNICIPAL AND COMMERCIAL WASTE (MCW) RECYCLING RATES AND MEET BENCHMARK RECYCLING STANDARDS

Description

Midland County has two municipalities with populations over 5,000 that are required under Michigan's Benchmark Recycling Standards (BRS) to provide twice-monthly curbside recycling service: Midland City (population 42,388) and Larkin Township (population 5,331), both served by Priority Waste. Midland City currently receives only monthly curbside service — a confirmed compliance gap that requires the county's near-term attention. Allowing customers to secure a second cart may be a way of meeting BRS, though the county realizes that twice per month collection is superior access and it will investigate securing that. Larkin

Township is believed to provide twice monthly service and thus it is believed to follow BRS. The first objective for the county is to complete a baseline inventory of curbside recycling access countywide, formally notify Midland City of its confirmed BRS gap and offer technical assistance toward twice-monthly service, and separately reach out to Larkin Township to confirm its actual service frequency and, if a gap is confirmed there as well, offer the same technical assistance. The county will also share Priority Waste's service-area information with adjacent communities, support CVTs with contracted trash but no recycling component in exploring an opt-in recycling add-on, conduct outreach to CVTs without any contracted hauler, and make model contract language and technical assistance available to any CVT pursuing a new or amended hauler contract that includes curbside recycling.

MUNICIPALITY WITH CURBSIDE REQUIREMENT	2020 POPULATION	≥2X/MONTH?
Midland City	42,388	No – monthly
Larkin Township	5,331	Confirmed

The second objective addresses drop-off site coverage (per state requirements, the county is in need of 1 compliant site): a baseline assessment of existing drop-off site locations, hours, and materials accepted — Midland Recyclers has been identified as one site meeting the state's 24-hours-per-month threshold, though the broader network beyond it has not been fully verified — followed by a GIS or consultant-supported drive-time analysis to determine how many residents currently lack access within a 15-minute drive and how many of the estimated additional sites are needed to close that gap. The county will identify priority locations, including county-owned properties, obtain vendor equipment quotes, and complete a funding assessment covering EGLE infrastructure grants, user fees, and host agreement revenue, presented to the Midland County CAA. Because Midland County has not previously submitted a recycling infrastructure grant application, the county will treat grant-writing capacity building as a near-term priority alongside EGLE engagement, will explore cooperative funding arrangements with at least two municipalities, and will conduct annual site verification and an annual data request to track BRS compliance and flag any community that grows past 5,000 residents.

DROP-OFF SITE	≥24 HRS/MONTH?
Midland Recyclers	Confirmed

A third objective supports CVTs without contracted curbside recycling: verifying which CVTs currently have contracted service, convening a learning session or focus group with those that do not to understand barriers and the level of county support needed, offering technical assistance to build community buy-in, and providing model RFP language — covering trash, recycling, yard waste, and food waste collection and requiring hauler data reporting — to CVTs going out to bid. The county will track hauler contract expiration dates across municipalities and encourage adjacent CVTs to coordinate joint RFPs or join existing contracts where terms permit, to achieve economies of scale.

A fourth objective targets multi-family housing: the county will conduct outreach to landlords and property managers to raise awareness of available recycling services and understand barriers to tenant access, and will develop model zoning language — shared with municipal zoning and planning departments as an optional resource — requiring new multi-family construction to provide adequate space for both trash and recycling collection.

A fifth objective addresses funding for the drop-off network: building on the updated siting process to ensure host agreement provisions can generate program revenue, the county will conduct exploratory outreach to municipal leaders on interest in a countywide or local millage dedicated to recycling program support, track existing funding mechanisms as a living inventory, identify the funding gap between current resources and what is needed to meet BRS drop-off requirements, and continue engaging EGLE on eligible grant projects as part of building the county's grant-writing capacity.

Resources Needed

Engaging Midland City on its confirmed BRS gap, and Larkin Township on verifying its actual service frequency, will require dedicated staff time or a designated point of contact, since achieving compliance depends on the municipalities and Priority Waste rather than direct county action. Supporting CVTs pursuing new or expanded hauler contracts will need model RFP language and technical assistance funded through county general funds or EGLE MMP Implementation funds, along with EGLE technical assistance and grant funding as available.

For the drop-off site objective: staff time for the baseline inventory, drive-time analysis, funding assessment, municipal engagement, and annual BRS verification; GIS software access or consultant support for the drive-time analysis; consultant support for site selection, financial analysis, and interlocal agreement drafting as needed; vendor quotes and procurement support for equipment; EGLE Recycling Infrastructure Grant funding for bins, signage, and site buildout, with match funding possibly required; and outreach materials documenting community need for grant applications.

For the CVT contracting objective: staff time for CVT outreach, baseline inventory, contract expiration tracking, and learning session coordination in Year 1, followed by ongoing technical assistance and contract support; consultant support for community buy-in strategy and RFP development, funded through county general funds, EGLE MMP Implementation funds, or grants; and EGLE technical assistance as available.

For the multi-family zoning objective: staff time for landlord and property manager outreach and zoning language development, EGLE technical assistance as available, and legal review support for model ordinance language, potentially funded through county general funds or EGLE MMP Implementation funds.

For the funding and millage objective: staff time for funding mechanism tracking, inventory maintenance, municipal outreach, and grant coordination; EGLE technical assistance and grant funding as available; county general funds or Heartland Region planning support for consultant assistance if needed, with match funding possibly required; and educational materials explaining funding mechanism options to municipal officials and residents.

Midland's near-term Goal 1 cost gap estimate is: ~$40,000 to establish one additional drop-off site to meet Benchmark Recycling Standards — covering concrete pad, drop-off bin/dumpster, fencing, signage, lighting, and site development labor at the high end of the per-site cost table — plus an unknown amount to expand curbside access from monthly to every other week in Midland and Larkin (if applicable). Staff hours across all of Midland's near-term Goal 1 objectives are estimated at roughly 500 hours.

Education and Outreach Program

The county will maintain and publish an up-to-date public list of drop-off site locations, hours, and accepted materials on the county's website (or Heartland's website). Later-date curbside and coordinated hauler contract work will include model RFP language and technical assistance to help cities, villages, and

townships understand the cost savings available through bundled trash-and-recycling contracts, developed in coordination with the Heartland MMPC.

CVTs without any contracted hauler will receive outreach on recycling program options and pathways toward a hauler contract, and CVTs with contracted trash service but no recycling component will receive support exploring an opt-in recycling add-on. The county will publish a living inventory of curbside and drop-off access, updated annually, to track progress toward full BRS compliance and flag any community that grows past 5,000 residents.

Outreach to landlords and property managers will raise awareness of existing services and identify barriers to multi-family tenant access, with model zoning language shared with municipal zoning and planning departments as an optional resource; exploratory millage outreach to municipal leaders will similarly document funding interest and report findings to the Midland County Board.

Implementation Timeline

In Year 1, the county will complete a baseline curbside and drop-off inventory to confirm its BRS gap, formally notify Midland City of its confirmed BRS gap and offer technical assistance, reach out to Larkin Township to confirm its actual curbside frequency, convene a learning session with CVTs lacking any contracted hauler, and update the Heartland Region siting process through MMP adoption to include host agreement provisions.

In Year 2, the county will have shared Priority Waste's service-area information with relevant local units, determined how many additional drop-off sites are needed based on the completed drive-time analysis, engaged NextCycle Michigan and EGLE on grant-eligible projects while building the county's grant-writing capacity, developed model RFP and hauler-contract language, and shared model multi-family zoning language with at least three municipalities.

By Year 3, Midland City and Larkin Township will have taken documented steps toward twice-monthly compliance. The drop-off funding assessment will be complete, at least one grant application will have been submitted, exploratory millage outreach will be documented, and at least one municipality will have adopted or be actively considering model zoning language.

By Year 4, at least one additional community beyond Midland City and Larkin Township will have contracted curbside recycling service, and at least one formal funding mechanism or grant award will have been secured for drop-off site establishment. By Year 5, Midland County will meet BRS drop-off site requirements, with all required sites operating at least 24 hours per month and accessible to all county residents.

Responsible Party and Potential Partners

Responsibility for this goal rests primarily with the Midland County CAA, with the Heartland MMPC holding an advisory and regional-coordination role for the siting-process update. Key partners include Midland City, Larkin Township, local municipal leaders, the Midland County Board of Commissioners, Priority Waste and other contracted haulers, EGLE, NextCycle Michigan, Heartland Region planning partners, and MSU Extension, along with county and municipal zoning and planning departments and area landlords and property managers on the multi-family housing objective.

GOAL 2: REDUCE FOOD WASTE AND ADVANCE ORGANICS MANAGEMENT

Description

A first objective supports residents composting at home, through a guide developed with MSU Extension and the Midland County Conservation District and distributed through township offices, the county website, libraries, community organizations, and MSU Extension channels, paired with countywide composting workshops coordinated with MSU Extension, the Michigan Recycling Coalition, and community partners — the Michigan Recycling Coalition's Compost Captain workshops, available at free or low cost, are identified as a practical near-term option. The county will also pursue funding for a composting toolkit program — bin giveaways, starter kits, or informational kits — while being transparent in outreach that toolkit availability may be limited or grant-dependent.

A second objective targets food waste prevention and surplus donation among schools, hospitals, restaurants, and grocery stores, emphasizing the legal protections available under the Bill Emerson Good Samaritan Food Donation Act and connecting businesses and institutions with local food banks and shelters that have the capacity to receive donations. The county will run the EPA's Preventing Food Waste in Your Community Social Marketing Kit campaign on a biennial basis, adapted to the Midland County context and coordinated through the Heartland MMPC, pursuing EGLE funding to offset campaign costs, and will host at least one educational event per year targeting the business sectors identified as significant generators in the NRDC food waste calculator model.

A third objective addresses K-12 schools: surveying Midland County school districts on current food waste practices and cafeteria operations, promoting USDA best practices such as offer-versus-serve policies, extended lunch periods, and recess-before-lunch scheduling, and encouraging cafeteria share tables consistent with Michigan Department of Education guidance, coordinated with Michigan Green Schools. Where significant food surplus remains after prevention efforts, the county will explore a food rescue pilot in partnership with the Midland County Health Department, Feeding America, and school boards, contingent on the availability of rescuable surplus food.

Resources Needed

For home composting support: staff time for guide development, partner coordination, and workshop planning; MSU Extension and Conservation District coordination and content support; Michigan Recycling Coalition Compost Captain workshop coordination, available at free or low cost; printing and distribution costs for the composting guide; grant funding for bin giveaways or starter kits if pursued; and venue and materials costs for workshops, potentially offset through MSU Extension and Michigan Recycling Coalition partnerships.

For food waste prevention and donation outreach: staff time for outreach planning, event coordination, and campaign adaptation; the EPA's Social Marketing Kit materials, which are publicly available and customizable, with EGLE grant funding as a potential offset; outreach materials on the Bill Emerson Act; MSU Extension coordination capacity; Heartland MMPC coordination capacity for regional campaign support; and venue and event costs, which may be offset through partner co-hosting.

For the school food waste objective: staff time for school outreach, survey coordination, and district engagement; survey development and distribution support coordinated through Midland County school

districts; outreach materials on USDA best practices, share tables, and Michigan Department of Education guidance; Michigan Green Schools coordination capacity; and, if food rescue is pursued, engagement capacity with the Midland County Health Department and Feeding America.

Goal 2 region-wide cost gap estimate for personnel to manage regional K-12 school food waste reduction efforts is between $100,000-$160,000 annually for 1-2 staff. All eight counties could consider hiring 1 or more staff to handle education outreach to schools, among other things including: business outreach, grant writing, social media and marketing, etc.

Education and Outreach Program

The county will develop a home composting guide in coordination with MSU Extension and the Midland County Conservation District, distributed through township offices, the county website, libraries, community organizations, and MSU Extension channels, and will host composting workshops — including Michigan Recycling Coalition Compost Captain sessions — at accessible community venues countywide.

Food waste prevention outreach will target schools, hospitals, restaurants, and grocery stores using the EPA's Social Marketing Kit, with messaging that emphasizes the legal protections available under the Bill Emerson Good Samaritan Food Donation Act. On the school side, the county will work directly with Midland County school districts to promote USDA best practices and share tables, given the absence of a single coordinating RESD partner referenced in the county's data.

Implementation Timeline

In Year 1, the county will survey Midland County schools on current food waste practices, develop a targeted outreach plan for food waste-generating businesses and institutions, and quantify the county's local meals gap using Feeding America data to prioritize donor outreach.

In Year 2, the home composting guide will be in distribution through at least three channels; at least one educational event on food waste prevention will be held, along with the first run of the EPA Social Marketing Kit campaign; and initial donor outreach on the meals-gap objective will be underway with at least one grocery store, restaurant, or farm.

By Year 3, at least one composting workshop will have been hosted countywide, outreach will have reached businesses in at least two sectors identified through the NRDC food waste model, at least one school district will have adopted a USDA best practice or share table program, and at least one new food donation partnership will have been established connecting a local business with a food bank or pantry.

From Year 4 onward, the county will distribute the composting guide countywide, run the EPA campaign on a two-year cycle, add at least one new school food waste program or Michigan Green School certification per year, and add at least one new meals-gap donor partnership per year, with food rescue piloted in partnership with the Midland County Health Department and Feeding America if surplus food is identified.

Responsible Party and Potential Partners

Responsibility for this goal is shared between the Midland County CAA, which leads home composting programming, and school, business, and donor outreach, and the Heartland MMPC, which coordinates the EPA Social Marketing Kit campaign. Key partners include MSU Extension, the Midland County Conservation District, and the Michigan Recycling Coalition on home composting; the EPA, local food banks and shelters, and area schools, hospitals, restaurants, and grocery stores on prevention and donation, and Midland

County school districts, Michigan Green Schools, the Midland County Health Department, and Feeding America on school-based work.

GOAL 3: ADVANCE RECYCLING EDUCATION AND OUTREACH

Description

The first objective is a new or expanded, Part 115-compliant recycling guide published on a cell phone-friendly website — meeting MCL 324.11578(1)(q)'s requirements to identify recycling locations and materials, explain preparation, describe best practices, and list a contact number. Printed copies will be available at township offices, libraries, and other public locations, alongside a strategic education and outreach plan identifying roles, responsibilities, and funding sources, reviewed and updated annually and coordinated with the Heartland MMP group where possible.

A second objective brings county-owned and county-operated buildings into compliance: an inventory of current recycling collection, followed by bin infrastructure and hauler arrangements where gaps exist, internal guidelines and signage for employees, and — once recycling is stable — exploration of food waste collection or composting programs in county buildings, coordinated with this Plan's organics management goals.

A third objective works directly with Midland County school districts to encourage schools to incorporate recycling and composting into curriculum and to establish active collection programs, promoting the Michigan Green Schools program, reviewing school hauling contracts where accessible to identify opportunities to add recycling, and supporting pilot recycling programs in one to two willing schools.

A fourth objective engages commercial and institutional entities through direct outreach — coordinated through the Midland Business Alliance to maximize reach — and a voluntary business recycling survey hosted on the county website, with tailored education resources on available haulers, accepted materials, and how to set up or improve an internal recycling program, and grant funding pursued to support technical assistance where participation gaps are identified.

A fifth objective uses existing county media channels — including social media, print media, and countywide mailings such as tax bill distributions — to regularly promote the recycling guide website, drop-off locations, and recycling programs, and coordinates with EGLE's Recycling Raccoons campaign and neighboring Heartland counties on uniform regional messaging about what materials are recyclable.

Resources Needed

For the recycling guide and website: staff time for website development or expansion, guide production, and strategic plan drafting; printing and distribution costs for physical guides; web hosting and maintenance costs (which could be shared across Heartland Region counties); and EGLE technical assistance as available.

For the county building's objective: staff time for facilities inventory and hauler coordination; bin infrastructure and signage for county buildings; hauler contract amendments or new service agreements as needed; and EGLE technical assistance as available.

For the school outreach objective: staff time for school outreach, pilot support, and program coordination; classroom bins and educational materials for pilot schools, likely grant-dependent; and Michigan Green Schools program support.

For the commercial and institutional outreach objective: staff time for sector engagement, resource development, and partner coordination; web hosting for the voluntary business survey; grant funding for technical assistance where participation gaps are identified, with EGLE recycling grants as a potential source; and EGLE recycling specialist support.

For the countywide media objective: staff time for content development, campaign coordination, and regional partnership management; printing costs for messages included in tax bill or scheduled mailings; EGLE's publicly available Recycling Raccoons campaign materials; and Heartland MMPC coordination capacity for regional messaging alignment.

Midland's near-term Goal 3 cost gap estimate is anchored by the $10-per-household education and outreach baseline (The Recycling Partnership), which for Midland's 34,288 households totals ~$340,000. On top of that, $5,000 to $7,000 is estimated for commercial outreach materials; no cost gap has yet been estimated for the county-building recycling objective. Combined staff hours across all five Goal 3 objectives are estimated at roughly 365 hours.

Education and Outreach Program

This goal is itself the county's education and outreach program. The county will publish a new or expanded recycling guide meeting all Part 115 requirements — identifying recycling locations and materials, explaining preparation, and including a contact phone number — either as an updated county webpage or as part of a shared Heartland MMP regional website, and will make printed copies available at public locations countywide.

School outreach will promote the Michigan Green Schools program directly to administrators, and will support pilot recycling programs. Commercial outreach will center on a voluntary business recycling survey hosted on the county website, coordinated through the Midland Business Alliance.

Broader messaging will use existing county media channels and scheduled mailings to promote the recycling guide and available programs, and will also coordinate with EGLE's Recycling Raccoons campaign and neighboring Heartland counties on uniform regional messaging about what materials are recyclable.

Implementation Timeline

In Year 1, the recycling guide website will be live and mobile-friendly, with printed guides available at public locations and a draft strategic education and outreach plan in hand; a facilities inventory identifying which county buildings lack recycling will also be complete, alongside initial outreach to school districts, Chamber of Commerce, and Business and Professional Association members and the voluntary business survey live on the county website.

In Year 2, the strategic plan will be finalized, recycling collection will be established at all county-owned buildings with internal guidelines and signage in place, at least one school will be piloting a recycling program, and recycling education resources tailored to commercial and institutional audiences will be developed and distributed through at least two partner channels.

By Year 3, at least one school district will have an established recycling program and at least one Michigan Green School certification, and at least one grant application will have been submitted to support commercial technical assistance where gaps are identified.

From Year 4 onward, the website, printed guide, and strategic plan will be reviewed and updated annually, county building recycling participation will be tracked and reported, at least one additional school district

will adopt a program each year, and regional messaging coordination and countywide media outreach will be ongoing.

Responsible Party and Potential Partners

The Midland County CAA leads most objectives under this goal, with county administration and facilities staff responsible for the county-building work specifically. Key partners include the Heartland MMPC and EGLE across nearly every objective, Midland County school districts and the Michigan Green Schools program on the school objective, the Midland Business Alliance on commercial outreach, and neighboring Heartland counties and EGLE's Recycling Raccoons campaign on regional messaging.

GOAL 4: TRACK AND REPORT RECYCLING PROGRAM PERFORMANCE

Description

The first objective is to identify what tonnage data EGLE already collects from haulers and programs operating in Midland County, then develop model contract language that local units may incorporate into hauler contracts requiring annual tonnage data reporting, aligned with EGLE data requirements and using the same reporting platform where feasible. The county will survey municipalities on single-hauler contract status, expiration dates, and interest in joint RFPs, offering coordination support and using those opportunities to build data reporting requirements into new contracts. The county could also work directly with the city of Midland landfill to gather data, because much of the county's trash goes to this landfill. Reported tonnage data will be compiled annually from hauler reports, municipal program data, and EGLE databases to calculate and publish a county-level recycling rate.

A second objective engages the county's largest commercial and institutional generators: partnering with the Midland Business Alliance to identify the ten largest employers, then inviting voluntary participation in annual recycling data sharing through the survey infrastructure established under Goal 3, framed as a contribution to countywide sustainability goals rather than a compliance requirement. Model contract language developed under the first objective will also encourage local units to require commercial tonnage reporting alongside residential data, with mandatory commercial reporting through a countywide licensing ordinance identified as a longer-term pathway if that mechanism is developed.

A third objective establishes a recurring community survey covering recycling participation, awareness of programs and drop-off locations, understanding of accepted materials, and perceived barriers, coordinated with MSU Extension and the Heartland MMPC to align with regional data needs and avoid duplicative surveying. The survey will be distributed countywide through multiple channels, with results published publicly and used to refine outreach and program priorities, and repeated on a three-to-five-year cycle to track change over time.

Resources Needed

For the EGLE data and model contract language objective: staff time for EGLE platform research, model contract language development, municipal outreach, contract expiration tracking, and annual data compilation; access to or alignment with EGLE's tonnage reporting platform to reduce duplicative hauler burden; legal review support for model contract language; and grant capacity-building support, with EGLE MMP Implementation funds identified as a potential starting point.

For the top-business engagement objective: staff time for Midland Business Alliance partnership coordination, business outreach, and data tracking; a voluntary data-reporting tool on the county website; and EGLE technical assistance as available.

For the community survey objective: funding for survey development, distribution, and analysis, potentially through EGLE MMP Implementation funds; MSU Extension support on survey design and methodology; and printing and web hosting costs if physical or online distribution is pursued.

Midland's near-term Goal 4 cost gap estimate totals $20,000-$40,000 in hard costs (every few years), for a recurring community survey to measure recycling participation and awareness; no hard cost is attached to the recycling-rate tracking or commercial data-engagement objectives themselves. Combined staff hours across all Goal 4 objectives are estimated at roughly 170 hours.

Education and Outreach Program

This goal is primarily a measurement function, but the recurring community survey doubles as an engagement tool, feeding results back into the messaging and outreach built under Goal 3. Voluntary hauler and business participation will be framed as a contribution to countywide sustainability goals rather than a compliance requirement while model contract language is developed and adopted by local units.

Implementation Timeline

In Year 1, the county will identify EGLE data collection requirements and reporting platforms, complete a municipal contract inventory including expiration dates and interest in joint RFPs, and partner with the Midland Business Alliance to identify the county's largest commercial generators; the first community survey will also be developed.

In Year 2, model contract language will be available to local units, at least one municipality will be engaged on incorporating data reporting into an upcoming contract or RFP, and direct outreach to the largest identified businesses will be complete with a voluntary data-sharing mechanism live on the county website.

By Year 3, at least one local unit will have adopted model contract language, a county-level tonnage data compilation process will be established, at least five of the ten largest identified businesses will be voluntarily sharing data, and the first community survey will be published and presented to the MMPC.

By Year 4, the county's first measured recycling rate will be calculated and published, with data gaps documented; by Year 5, at least ten businesses will be voluntarily reporting and at least one local unit will have adopted model contract data-reporting language. The recycling rate will be updated on a biennial basis from Year 7 onward, with the countywide licensing ordinance option reassessed based on enforcement capacity, and the community survey repeated on a three-to-five-year cycle.

Responsible Party and Potential Partners

The Midland County CAA holds primary responsibility for this goal. Key partners include municipalities and haulers on model contract language and tonnage reporting, the Heartland MMPC on data compilation and regional alignment, the Midland Business Alliance on identifying and engaging top commercial generators, and MSU Extension on community survey design.

GOAL 5: SUPPORT REGIONAL HUB-AND-SPOKE RECYCLING INFRASTRUCTURE

Description

The first objective is Midland County's commitment to directing its recyclable materials — covering all of the county's recycling volume, both curbside and drop-off, not just drop-off tonnage — to the Isabella County MRF as a core member. Midland County has identified the Isabella County hub-and-spoke model as the best and most practical example of a sustainable, fair, equitable, and affordable recycling processing solution for the materials it manages under this Plan, and as a core member will hold an ownership interest in the facility, a governing seat and vote on the facility organizing committee, and a corresponding share of facility revenue.

The second objective is participation in a region-wide Regionalization Study of collection led by the Heartland MMPC, with findings to be presented to the Heartland MMPC and county CAAs and used to develop a regional infrastructure investment priority list.

A third objective is pursuing grant opportunities and capital improvement funding identified through the Regionalization Study, including designation of a fiscal agent county or regional entity to receive and administer grant funds on behalf of the Heartland Region.

A fourth, county-specific objective is confirming the current hauling-destination and contract end-dates for all recyclables collected at Midland County drop-off sites and through curbside service, coordinating with currently-contracted haulers — including Priority Waste — to establish hauling to the Isabella MRF, via transfer station, if necessary, and pursuing a collective RFP with other spoke counties if needed.

Resources Needed

Formalizing core-member status will require legal and municipal-finance advisory support tied to the facility's ownership and governance structure, led at the regional level by Isabella County, along with staff time for tonnage estimation and county board action to adopt the commitment resolution.

For the Regionalization Study objective: consultant procurement and study costs will depend on scope and regional complexity, alongside Heartland MMPC staff time for RFP development, consultant management, stakeholder engagement, and presentation of findings.

For the grant and fiscal agent objective: staff time for grant research and regional coordination, with match funds potentially required for some grants, plus education and outreach materials documenting community need to support the grant process.

For the intergovernmental agreement objective: this is primarily a regional legal and coordination cost, covered through intergovernmental agreements or MOUs between the Heartland counties and Isabella County, with no material cost anticipated for Midland County.

For the hauling-destination objective: confirming and potentially updating hauling arrangements to the Isabella MRF for both curbside and drop-off recyclables may draw on EGLE recycling infrastructure grants to address capital improvement needs such as containers, trailers, or site improvements at Midland County drop-off locations.

Midland's near-term Goal 5 cost gap estimate carries no identified near term hard costs, though the Regionalization Study will likely cost in the tens of thousands, if not more (for the region). Combined staff hours across Goal 5 objectives are estimated at roughly 500-600 hours.

Education and Outreach Program

This goal is primarily an infrastructure and intergovernmental coordination effort led by the Heartland MMPC, with Midland County's role focused on staying engaged in the regional process, confirming its core-member commitment ahead of financing close, and coordinating with the Isabella MRF and its current haulers, including Priority Waste, on both curbside and drop-off logistics.

Implementation Timeline

By 2027, Midland County will estimate its annual tonnage available to pledge and adopt a county board resolution committing as a core member of the Isabella County MRF, ahead of financing close, securing its ownership interest, governing seat, and revenue share before that milestone closes.

By 2028, the county will have confirmed current hauling-destinations and contract end-dates for both curbside and drop-off recyclables, coordinating with Priority Waste and other currently-contracted haulers to formalize hauling arrangements to the Isabella MRF via transfer station if necessary.

By 2029, the Heartland MMPC will identify all grant programs relevant to regional recycling infrastructure, prioritizing those that can fund the Regionalization Study; by 2030, at least one grant application will have been submitted for the study.

By 2031, a fiscal agent county or regional entity will be designated to receive and administer regional grant funds on behalf of the Heartland Region.

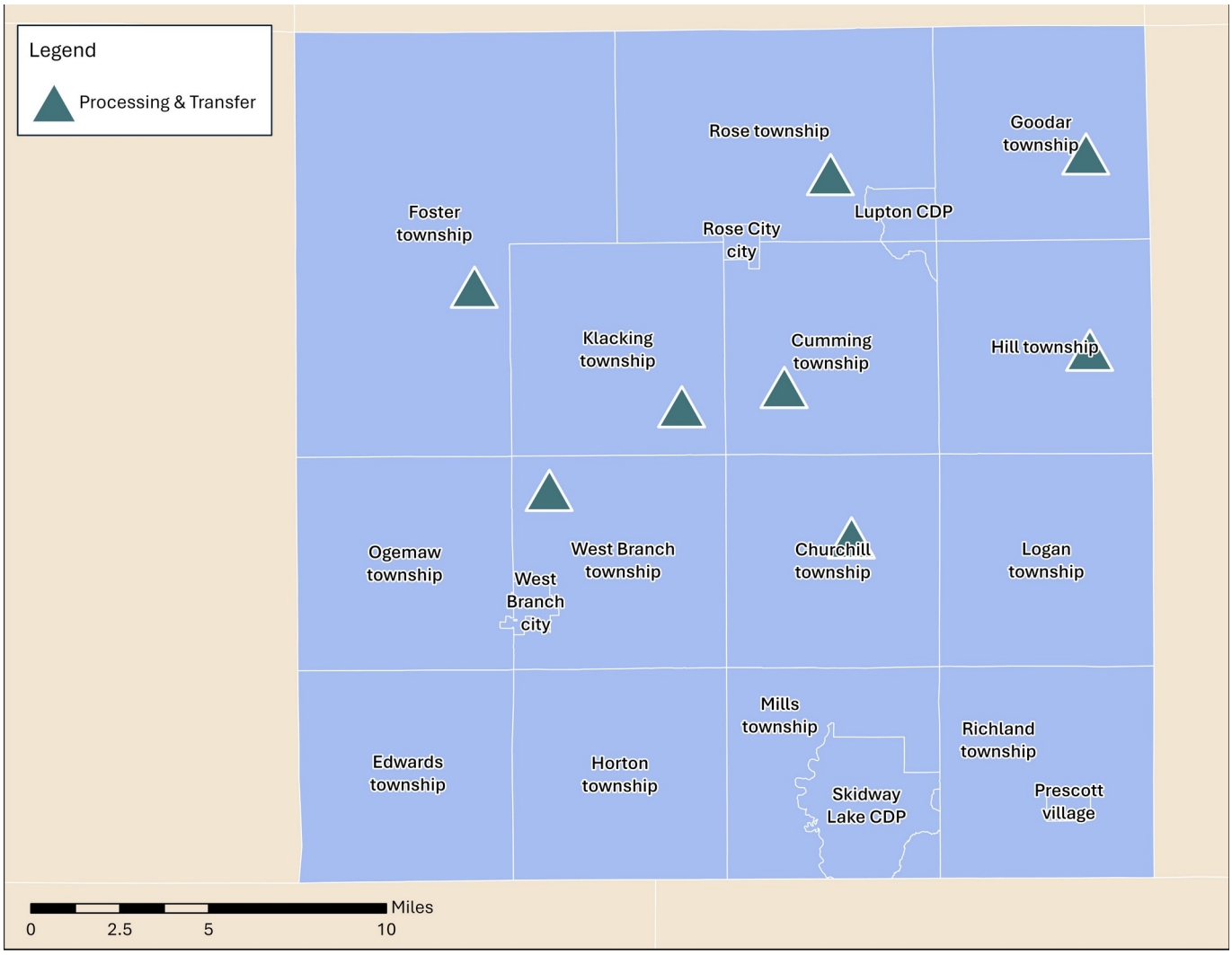
By 2032, the Regionalization Study will be complete and its findings presented to the Heartland MMPC and county CAAs, informing a regional infrastructure investment priority list.

Responsible Party and Potential Partners

This goal is led regionally by the Heartland MMPC for the Regionalization Study, grant strategy, and Isabella MRF intergovernmental agreement, with Midland County itself responsible for adopting its core-member commitment and confirming its own hauling arrangements. Key partners include the Isabella County MRF, the other Heartland County CAAs, EGLE's Materials Management Division, county Economic Development Commissions, and the Michigan Recycling Coalition.

Appendix G – Ogemaw County

MATERIALS MANAGEMENT FACILITIES IN OGEMAW COUNTY



GOAL 1: IMPROVE MUNICIPAL AND COMMERCIAL WASTE (MCW) RECYCLING RATES AND MEET THE BENCHMARK RECYCLING STANDARDS

Description

Ogemaw County currently meets the Basic Recycling Standard (BRS) for curbside: no municipality in the county exceeds 5,000 residents, so curbside recycling is not required, though the county's population requires two drop-off sites operating at least 24 hours per month, a threshold not currently met (currently only one compliant drop-off site is confirmed). Given that Ogemaw is earlier in its materials management development than most other Heartland counties, and that many residents still lack reliable trash collection of any kind, the first objective is to maintain and verify this existing BRS compliance rather than expand

service near-term: the county will conduct an annual review of drop-off sites to confirm continued 24-hour-per-month operation, and complete a baseline drive-time assessment to identify any areas of the county with limited or no reasonable access. The county will also maintain a public list of drop-off site locations, hours, and accepted materials on its recycling website, updated annually.

DROP-OFF SITE	≥24 HRS/MONTH?
West Branch Recycling Center	Confirmed

A second, explicitly later-date objective is to inventory communities with reliable, contracted trash collection to identify where voluntary opt-in curbside recycling might be feasible, and to engage the haulers already serving those communities about adding recycling as an opt-in service at a negotiated rate. This work is deliberately deferred given that many communities in Ogemaw County still lack even basic contracted trash service, and it will be activated and timebound once that underlying infrastructure matures.

A third objective addresses funding for the drop-off network: the county will track existing recycling program funding mechanisms — including user-fee-supported drop-off programs and any grant-funded programs — as a living inventory, engage NextCycle Michigan and EGLE to identify grant-eligible projects for infrastructure, education, and program expansion, and pursue grant funding to support ongoing drop-off site operations, equipment needs, and outreach. The county will also ensure that host agreement provisions established through the updated Heartland Region siting process create the opportunity to generate funds supporting recycling programs if a new materials management facility is sited in the county.

A fourth, later-date objective is to survey municipalities on their current trash and recycling contract status and interest in joint RFPs, and to offer county technical assistance and model RFP language to municipalities pursuing joint RFPs that include recycling, yard waste, or food waste collection.

Resources Needed

For the drop-off verification objective: staff time for annual site verification and the baseline drive-time assessment; GIS software access or consultant support for drive-time mapping; and EGLE technical assistance as available.

For the later-date curbside inventory objective: costs are to be determined at the time of activation, since this objective has no near-term targets and will be scoped once contracted trash service is more widespread across the county.

For the funding and host-agreement objective: staff time for funding mechanism tracking, inventory maintenance, and grant coordination with NextCycle Michigan and EGLE; EGLE technical assistance and grant funding as available; and match funding, which may be required depending on the grant program.

For the later-date joint RFP objective: costs are to be determined at the time of activation.

Ogemaw's near-term Goal 1 cost gap estimate includes ~$40,000 in hard costs to establish the additional drop-off site needed to maintain Benchmark Recycling Standard compliance — covering concrete pad, drop-off bin/dumpster, fencing, signage, lighting, and site development labor at the high end of the per-site cost table. Combined staff hours across Ogemaw's applicable near-term Goal 1 objectives are estimated at roughly 340 hours.

Education and Outreach Program

The county will maintain and publish an up-to-date public list of drop-off site locations, hours, and accepted materials on the county's website (or Heartland's website). Later-date curbside and coordinated hauler contract work will include model RFP language and technical assistance to help cities, villages, and townships understand the cost savings available through bundled trash-and-recycling contracts, developed in coordination with the Heartland MMPC.

Implementation Timeline

In Year 1, the county will establish its annual BRS verification process, and conduct a baseline drive-time assessment.

In Year 2, any coverage gaps will be documented and options for addressing them identified; a funding mechanism inventory will be established, with EGLE engaged on grant-eligible projects; and the Heartland MMPC will have an advisory process in place for host agreement negotiations.

By Year 3, at least one grant application will have been submitted to support drop-off site operations or education efforts, and any warranted site or hours adjustments will be pursued based on drive-time findings.

From Year 4 onward, annual verification will continue, the drop-off site list will be maintained and published, and the funding inventory will be updated annually with additional grant applications pursued as opportunities arise. Curbside recycling, and coordinated hauler contract objectives remain later-date items with no near-term targets, to be activated as trash collection infrastructure develops countywide.

Responsible Party and Potential Partners

Responsibility for this goal rests primarily with the Ogemaw County CAA, with the Ogemaw CAA responsible for the annual BRS verification process. Key partners include EGLE, NextCycle Michigan, and the Ogemaw County Board of Commissioners, local municipalities and township boards.

GOAL 2: REDUCE FOOD WASTE AND ADVANCE ORGANICS MANAGEMENT

Description

The first objective supports residents composting at home, through a guide developed with MSU Extension covering composting basics, materials, and getting started, distributed through township offices, the county website, libraries, community organizations, and MSU Extension channels, paired with composting workshops hosted at accessible venues countywide. The county will also pursue funding for a composting toolkit program — bin giveaways, starter kits, or informational kits — while being transparent in outreach that toolkit availability may be limited or grant-dependent.

A second objective targets food waste prevention and surplus donation among schools, hospitals, restaurants, and grocery stores, emphasizing the legal protections available under the Bill Emerson Good Samaritan Food Donation Act and connecting businesses and institutions with local food banks and shelters that have capacity to receive donations. The county will run the EPA's Preventing Food Waste in Your Community Social Marketing Kit campaign on a biennial basis, coordinated through the Heartland MMPC,

and host at least one educational event per year targeting the business sectors identified as significant generators in the NRDC food waste calculator model.

A third objective addresses K-12 schools: surveying current food waste practices across Ogemaw County school districts, promoting USDA best practices such as offer-versus-serve policies and cafeteria share tables in coordination with Michigan Green Schools, and — where significant food surplus remains after prevention efforts — exploring a food rescue pilot in partnership with the Ogemaw County Health Department, Feeding America, and school boards.

Resources Needed

For home composting support: staff time for guide development, partner coordination, and workshop planning; MSU Extension coordination and content support; printing and distribution costs for the composting guide; grant funding for bin giveaways or starter kits if pursued; and venue and materials costs for workshops, potentially offset through the MSU Extension partnership.

For food waste prevention and donation outreach: staff time for outreach planning, event coordination, and campaign adaptation; the EPA's Social Marketing Kit materials, which are publicly available and customizable; outreach materials on the Bill Emerson Act; Heartland MMPC coordination capacity for regional campaign support; and venue and event costs, which may be offset through partner co-hosting.

For the school food waste objective: staff time for school outreach, survey coordination, and district engagement; survey development and distribution support; outreach materials on USDA best practices, share tables, and Michigan Department of Education guidance; Michigan Green Schools coordination capacity; and engagement capacity with the Ogemaw County Health Department and Feeding America.

Goal 2 region-wide cost gap estimate for personnel to manage regional K-12 school food waste reduction efforts is between $100,000-$160,000 annually for 1-2 staff. All eight counties could consider hiring 1 or more staff to handle education outreach to schools, among other things including: business outreach, grant writing, social media and marketing, etc.

Education and Outreach Program

The county will develop a home composting guide in coordination with MSU Extension, distributed through township offices, the county website, libraries, and community organizations, and will host composting workshops at accessible venues countywide.

Food waste prevention outreach will target schools, hospitals, restaurants, and grocery stores using the EPA's Social Marketing Kit, with messaging that emphasizes the legal protections available to businesses donating surplus food under the Bill Emerson Good Samaritan Food Donation Act. On the school side, the county will promote USDA best practices such as offer-versus-serve policies and share tables in coordination with Michigan Green Schools.

Implementation Timeline

In Year 1, the county will survey schools on current food waste practices, develop a targeted outreach plan for food waste-generating businesses and institutions, and quantify the county's local meals gap using Feeding America data to prioritize donor outreach.

In Year 2, the home composting guide will be in distribution through at least three channels, at least one educational event on food waste prevention will be held along with the first run of the EPA Social Marketing

Kit campaign, and initial donor outreach on the meals-gap objective will be underway with at least one grocery store, restaurant, or farm.

By Year 3, at least one school district will have adopted a USDA best practice or share table program, and at least one new food donation partnership will have been established connecting a local business with a food bank or pantry.

From Year 4 onward, the county will distribute the composting guide countywide, run the EPA campaign on a two-year cycle, add school food waste programming as districts adopt practices, and add at least one new meals-gap donor partnership per year, with food rescue piloted in partnership with the Ogemaw County Health Department and Feeding America if surplus food is identified.

Responsible Party and Potential Partners

Responsibility for this goal is shared between the Ogemaw County CAA, which leads home composting programming, and school and donor outreach, and the Heartland MMPC, which coordinates the EPA Social Marketing Kit campaign. Key partners include the EPA, local food banks and shelters, area schools, hospitals, restaurants, and grocery stores, the Ogemaw County Health Department, and Feeding.

GOAL 3: ADVANCE RECYCLING EDUCATION AND OUTREACH

Description

The first objective is a new, Part 115-compliant recycling guide published on a cell phone-friendly county website — meeting MCL 324.11578(1)(q)'s requirements to identify recycling locations and materials, explain preparation, describe best practices, and list a contact number. Printed copies will be available at township offices, libraries, and other public locations, alongside a strategic education and outreach plan identifying roles, responsibilities, and funding sources, coordinated with the Heartland MMP group where possible to share resources and align messaging, and reviewed and updated annually.

A second objective brings county-owned and county-operated buildings into compliance: an inventory of current recycling collection, followed by bin infrastructure and hauler arrangements where gaps exist, internal guidelines and signage for employees.

A third objective works with local school districts to encourage schools to incorporate recycling and composting into curriculum and to establish active collection programs, promoting the Michigan Green Schools program to administrators and staff, reviewing school hauling contracts where accessible for opportunities to add recycling collection, and supporting pilot recycling programs in one to two willing schools.

A fourth objective uses existing county media channels and scheduled mailings, such as tax bill distributions, to promote the recycling guide, drop-off locations, and recycling programs, coordinates with EGLE's Recycling Raccoons campaign and similar statewide efforts, and partners with neighboring Heartland counties on uniform regional messaging about what materials are recyclable.

Resources Needed

For the recycling guide and website: staff time for website development, guide production, and strategic plan drafting; printing and distribution costs for physical guides; web hosting and maintenance costs; and EGLE technical assistance as available.

For the county building's objective: staff time for a facilities inventory and hauler coordination; bin infrastructure and signage for county buildings; hauler contract amendments or new service agreements as needed; and EGLE technical assistance as available.

For the school outreach objective: staff time for district outreach, pilot support, and program coordination; classroom bins and educational materials for pilot schools, likely grant-dependent; and Michigan Green Schools program support.

For the countywide media objective: staff time for content development, campaign coordination, and regional partnership management; printing costs for messages included in tax bill or scheduled mailings; EGLE's publicly available Recycling Raccoons campaign materials; and Heartland MMPC coordination capacity for regional messaging alignment.

Ogemaw's near-term Goal 3 cost gap estimate is anchored by the $10-per-household education and outreach baseline (The Recycling Partnership), which for Ogemaw's 9,207 households totals ~$90,000. On top of that, $5,000 to $7,000 is estimated for commercial outreach materials; no cost gap has yet been estimated for the county-building recycling objective. Combined staff hours across all five Goal 3 objectives are estimated at roughly 365 hours.

Education and Outreach Program

The county will publish a new recycling guide meeting all Part 115 requirements — identifying recycling locations and materials, explaining preparation, and including a contact phone number — on a cell phone-friendly county website, with printed copies available at public locations countywide.

School outreach will promote the Michigan Green Schools program to administrators and staff and support pilot recycling programs in one to two willing schools.

Broader messaging will use existing county media channels and scheduled mailings to promote the recycling guide and drop-off locations, and will also coordinate with EGLE's Recycling Raccoons campaign and neighboring Heartland counties on uniform regional messaging about what materials are recyclable.

Implementation Timeline

In Year 1, the recycling guide website will be live and mobile-friendly, printed guides will be available at public locations, a draft strategic education and outreach plan will be in hand, and a facilities inventory identifying which county buildings lack recycling will be complete, alongside initial outreach to school districts.

In Year 2, the strategic plan will be finalized, recycling collection will be established at all county-owned buildings with internal guidelines and signage in place, and at least one school will be piloting a recycling program.

By Year 3, at least one school district will have an established recycling program or Michigan Green School certification, and at least one grant application will have been submitted to support commercial technical assistance where gaps are identified.

From Year 4 onward, the website, printed guide, and strategic plan will be reviewed and updated annually, county building recycling participation will be tracked and reported, and ongoing regional messaging coordination will continue with neighboring Heartland counties.

Responsible Party and Potential Partners

The Ogemaw County CAA leads all objectives under this goal, with county administration and facilities staff responsible for the county-building objective specifically. Key partners include the Heartland MMPC, EGLE, local school districts and Michigan Green Schools, EGLE recycling specialists, haulers, and neighboring Heartland counties on regional messaging.

GOAL 4: TRACK AND REPORT RECYCLING PROGRAM PERFORMANCE

Description

Reflecting its earlier stage of materials management development, Ogemaw County is not pursuing county-level hauler licensing or a solid waste ordinance as a data collection mechanism at this time; commercial and institutional voluntary data sharing is instead addressed under the commercial and institutional outreach objective of Goal 3. The first objective is to build a measured recycling rate from available data: identifying what tonnage data EGLE already collects from haulers and programs operating in the county, compiling tonnage data from the county's three drop-off sites annually, and calculating and publishing a county-level recycling rate from all available sources — drop-off records, any voluntary hauler reporting, and EGLE databases — with the feasibility of a more comprehensive hauler data reporting mechanism revisited in future MMP updates as the county's programs mature. The Ogemaw CAA holds responsibility for this annual verification process, reflecting the committee's active role in this earlier-stage county.

A second objective establishes a recurring community survey covering recycling participation rates, awareness of available programs and drop-off locations, and perceived barriers to recycling, coordinated with MSU Extension and the Heartland MMPC to align survey questions with regional data needs, distributed countywide through multiple channels, and repeated on a three-to-five-year cycle to track change over time.

Resources Needed

For the recycling-rate objective: staff time for EGLE platform research, annual compilation of drop-off site tonnage data, and rate calculation; access to or alignment with EGLE's tonnage reporting platform; and EGLE technical assistance as available.

For the community survey objective: staff time for survey development, distribution coordination, and results analysis; funding for survey development, distribution, and analysis, potentially through EGLE MMP Implementation funds; MSU Extension support on survey design and methodology; and printing and web hosting costs if physical or online distribution is pursued.

Ogemaw's near-term Goal 4 cost gap estimate totals $20,000-$40,000 in hard costs (every few years), for a recurring community survey to measure recycling participation and awareness; no hard cost is attached to the recycling-rate tracking or commercial data-engagement objectives themselves. Combined staff hours across all Goal 4 objectives are estimated at roughly 170 hours.

Education and Outreach Program

This goal is primarily a measurement function, but the recurring community survey doubles as an engagement tool, establishing a baseline understanding of recycling participation, awareness, and barriers

specific to Ogemaw County, given its earlier stage of program development relative to its Heartland partners.

Implementation Timeline

In Year 1, the county will identify EGLE data collection requirements and reporting platforms and establish drop-off site tonnage tracking.

In Year 2, the first annual compilation of drop-off site tonnage data will be complete.

By Year 3, the county's first county-level recycling rate will be calculated using available drop-off and EGLE data, published with data limitations documented transparently, and the first community survey will be developed, distributed, and completed, establishing a baseline for the county.

From Year 4 onward, the recycling rate will be updated annually as additional data sources become available, and the feasibility of a hauler licensing or ordinance mechanism will be revisited as the county's programs mature; the community survey will be repeated on a three-to-five-year cycle to track change over time.

Responsible Party and Potential Partners

The Ogemaw County CAA holds primary responsibility for this goal, with the Ogemaw CAA responsible for the annual verification process specifically, reflecting the committee's active role given the county's earlier stage of program development. Key partners include haulers, EGLE, the Heartland MMPC, and MSU Extension on community survey design.

GOAL 5: SUPPORT REGIONAL HUB-AND-SPOKE RECYCLING INFRASTRUCTURE

Description

The first objective is Ogemaw County's commitment to a recycling processing solution that connects its materials to end markets: the county will maintain its current private sector arrangements as its established primary solution, while also serving as a preferred-customer of the Isabella County MRF with priority access to facility capacity and end-market connections. Preferred-customer status does not carry an ownership interest in the facility, a governing seat on the facility organizing committee, or a share of facility revenue, which are reserved for counties that commit as core members.

The second objective is participation in a region-wide Regionalization Study of collection led by the Heartland MMPC, with findings to be presented to the Heartland MMPC and county CAAs and used to develop a regional infrastructure investment priority list.

A third objective is pursuing grant opportunities and capital improvement funding identified through the Regionalization Study, including designation of a fiscal agent county or regional entity to receive and administer grant funds on behalf of the Heartland Region.

A fourth, county-specific objective is confirming the current hauling-destination and contract end-dates for all recyclables collected at Ogemaw County drop-off sites, coordinating with currently-contracted haulers to establish potential hauling to the Isabella MRF.

Resources Needed

Formalizing the preferred-customer relationship with the Isabella MRF requires no capital commitment or county board resolution; it is documented through a simple intergovernmental understanding rather than the ownership and governance agreements core member counties will need to execute.

For the Regionalization Study objective: consultant procurement and study costs will depend on scope and regional complexity, alongside Heartland MMPC staff time for RFP development, consultant management, stakeholder engagement, and presentation of findings — this is a regional cost, with Ogemaw County's role primarily to support the process and document local community need.

For the grant and fiscal agent objective: staff time for grant research and regional coordination, with match funds potentially required for some grants, plus education and outreach materials documenting community need to support the grant process.

For the hauling-destination objective: confirming and potentially updating hauling arrangements to the Isabella MRF may draw on EGLE recycling infrastructure grants to address capital improvement needs such as containers, trailers, or site improvements at Ogemaw County's drop-off locations.

Ogemaw's near-term Goal 5 cost gap estimate carries no identified near term hard costs, though the Regionalization Study will likely cost in the tens of thousands, if not more (for the region). Combined staff hours across Goal 5 objectives are estimated at roughly 500-600 hours.

Education and Outreach Program

This goal is primarily an infrastructure and intergovernmental coordination effort rather than a resident-facing campaign. The Heartland MMPC will lead communication with county boards and EGLE's Materials Management Division as the Regionalization Study and MRF governance structure are developed; Ogemaw County's role is to keep its preferred-customer relationship with the Isabella MRF current and visible, so that it functions as a real continuity option rather than a nominal one, while coordinating with its primary hauler or processor on day-to-day service.

Implementation Timeline

Ogemaw County will document its current primary processing arrangement and formalize its preferred-customer relationship with the Isabella MRF as a backstop.

By 2029, the Heartland MMPC expects to have identified all grant programs relevant to regional recycling infrastructure, prioritizing those that can fund the Regionalization Study; by 2030, at least one grant application will have been submitted for the study, and Ogemaw County will have confirmed current hauling-destinations and contract end-dates for its recyclables.

By 2031, a fiscal agent will be designated to receive and administer regional grant funds.

By 2032, the Regionalization Study will be complete and its findings presented to the Heartland MMPC and county CAAs, informing a regional infrastructure investment priority list.

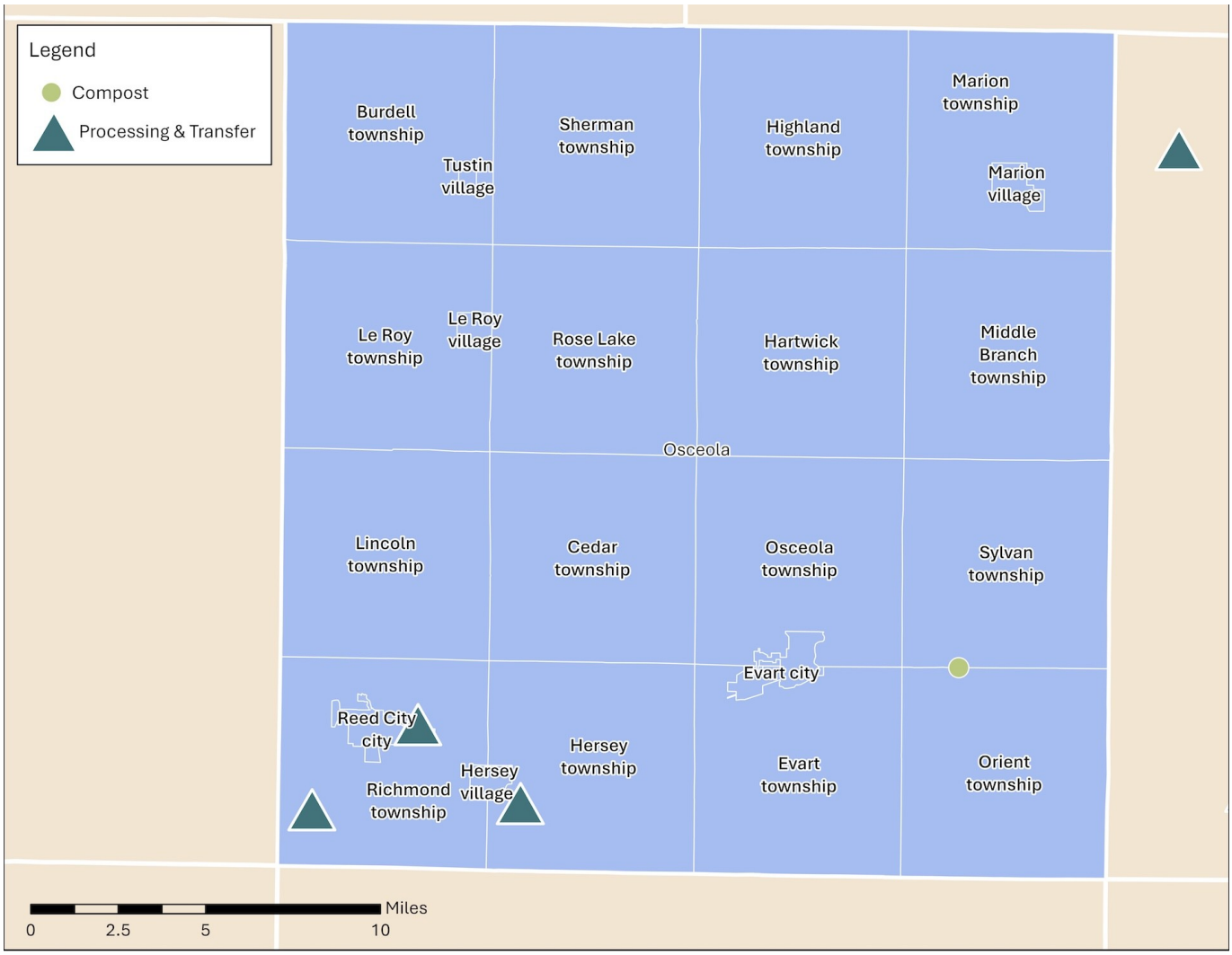
Responsible Party and Potential Partners

This goal is led regionally by the Heartland MMPC for the Regionalization Study, grant strategy, and Isabella MRF intergovernmental agreement, with Ogemaw County's DPW responsible for confirming its own hauling arrangements and documenting its preferred-customer relationship. Key partners include the other

Heartland County CAAs and regional planning commissions, the Isabella County MRF, EGLE's Materials Management Division, county Economic Development Commissions, and the Michigan Recycling Coalition.

Appendix H – Osceola County

MATERIALS MANAGEMENT FACILITIES IN OSCEOLA COUNTY



GOAL 1: IMPROVE MUNICIPAL AND COMMERCIAL WASTE (MCW) RECYCLING RATES AND MEET BENCHMARK RECYCLING STANDARDS

Description

The first objective is to complete a baseline inventory of communities with and without contracted curbside recycling access, building on the existing knowledge that Evart City and Highland Township have contracted service, and to verify whether other communities have access to subscription-based curbside recycling. Currently, the city of Evart contracts with Republic to offer curbside recycling twice a month. In addition, there is a monthly event in Evart at the fairgrounds to collect additional recyclables. The county will share information about the haulers currently serving Evart City and Highland Township with adjacent

communities exploring service, provide technical assistance and model contract language to communities such as Reed City that have contracted trash service but no recycling component, and conduct outreach to municipalities without any contracted hauler to build awareness of their options. The county's role throughout is to provide information, planning support, and connections to resources rather than to negotiate directly on municipalities' behalf.

DROP-OFF SITE	≥24 HRS/MONTH?
Recycle of Osceola County Inc. (Reed City)	Confirmed

The second objective addresses Osceola County's drop-off network directly (the state requires the county to have two compliant sites): one county site, Recycle of Osceola County Inc. in Reed City, appears to meet BRS standards. The county's other confirmed drop-off site, the LeRoy Village Garage, needs its hours expanded to meet the state's 24-hours-per-month minimum and needs to be opened to all county residents. In addition, a baseline drive-time analysis may show that at least one additional drop-off site is needed to bring all residents within a 25-minute drive — suggesting the county's confirmed drop-off requirement may fall one or two short of BRS requirements. The county will engage LeRoy Village on an interlocal agreement to expand site hours and access, identify a location for the additional site (prioritizing county-owned property to reduce acquisition costs), and obtain equipment cost quotes for bins, signage, and related infrastructure. A funding assessment will document revenue sources, funding gaps, and eligible mechanisms — including EGLE infrastructure grants, user fees, and host agreement revenue — presented to the MMPC, and county administration, alongside engagement with NextCycle Michigan and EGLE on grant-eligible projects and outreach to at least two municipalities on cooperative funding arrangements. The county will also conduct annual outreach to site coordinators and an annual data request to municipalities to maintain an up-to-date picture of BRS compliance, flagging any community that grows past 5,000 residents.

A third objective is to build a baseline inventory of CVT curbside recycling contract status, convene a learning session or focus group with CVTs that lack contracted service to understand their needs and barriers, and offer technical assistance — including model RFP language covering trash, recycling, yard waste, and food waste collection with hauler data-reporting requirements — to CVTs ready to go out to bid. Adjacent CVTs, including those already under contract, will be encouraged to coordinate joint RFPs or join existing contracts where terms permit, in order to achieve economies of scale and keep costs manageable for residents.

A fourth objective targets multi-family housing, scaled to the limited multi-family stock in Osceola County: the county will conduct proportionate outreach to landlords and property managers to raise awareness of recycling services and understand access barriers, and will develop model zoning language — shared with municipal zoning and planning departments as an advisory resource — requiring new multi-family construction to provide adequate trash and recycling space.

A fifth objective focuses on funding for the drop-off network and broader recycling programs: the county will ensure host agreement provisions created through the updated siting process can generate funds to support recycling programs, conduct exploratory outreach to municipal leaders on a countywide or local millage dedicated to recycling, and track existing recycling program funding mechanisms — including contract fees, drop-off user fees, and grant-funded programs such as tire collection — as a living,

published inventory. The county will use this work to identify and document the funding gap between current resources and what is needed to establish and operate the drop-off sites required to meet BRS.

Resources Needed

For the curbside baseline and CVT assistance objective: county recycling coordinator staff time or a designated point of contact for hauler outreach, municipal engagement, and inventory maintenance; staff or consultant time to support contract negotiation assistance and resident surveying in target communities such as Reed City; and EGLE technical assistance and grant funding as available.

For the drop-off site objective: staff time for the baseline inventory, drive-time analysis, site assessment, funding assessment, and annual BRS verification; GIS software access or consultant support for the drive-time analysis; consultant support for site selection, financial analysis, and interlocal agreement drafting as needed; vendor quotes and procurement support for equipment; EGLE Recycling Infrastructure Grant funding for bins, signage, and site buildout, with match funding possibly required; and hauling and service contracts for ongoing site operations.

For the CVT objective: staff time for CVT outreach, baseline inventory, and learning-session coordination; staff time for ongoing technical assistance and contract support; consultant support for community buy-in strategy and RFP development, potentially funded through county general funds, EGLE MMP Implementation funds, or grants; and EGLE technical assistance as available.

For the multi-family zoning objective: staff time for landlord and property manager outreach and zoning language development; EGLE technical assistance as available; and legal review support for model ordinance language, potentially funded through county general funds or EGLE MMP Implementation funds.

For the funding-mechanisms objective: staff time for funding mechanism tracking, inventory maintenance, and municipal outreach; staff time for millage feasibility outreach and documentation; EGLE technical assistance and grant funding as available; and county general funds or Heartland Region planning support for consultant assistance if needed.

Osceola's near-term Goal 1 cost gap estimate reflects no hard costs. Combined staff hours across these objectives are estimated at roughly 450 hours.

Education and Outreach Program

The county will maintain and publish an up-to-date public list of drop-off site locations, hours, and accepted materials on the county's website (or Heartland's website). Later-date curbside and coordinated hauler contract work will include model RFP language and technical assistance to help cities, villages, and townships understand the cost savings available through bundled trash-and-recycling contracts, developed in coordination with the Heartland MMPC.

Model zoning language will be shared with municipal zoning and planning departments as an optional resource, given the county's limited multi-family housing stock, and the county will maintain a published, annually updated inventory of existing recycling program funding mechanisms to support transparent conversations with municipal leaders about millage and other funding options.

Implementation Timeline

In Year 1, the county will complete its curbside and CVT contract-status baseline inventories, initiate LeRoy Village engagement on site expansion, begin the drive-time analysis for additional site needs, and convene the CVT learning session for communities lacking contracted service.

In Year 2, the LeRoy Village engagement will be complete with a determination on expanded hours, Reed City will have received county guidance on resident surveying for adding recycling to its trash contract, model RFP and contract language will be available to CVTs and municipalities, and model zoning language will be shared with at least three municipalities.

By Year 3, a funding assessment will be presented to the MMPC, and county administration, at least one grant application submitted, at least one additional community will have taken a documented step toward curbside or drop-off access, at least one CVT will have contracted curbside service, and exploratory millage outreach and the funding-gap analysis will be complete.

By Year 5, Osceola County will meet BRS drop-off requirements with all required sites open at least 24 hours per month and accessible to all county residents, with at least one municipality having adopted or actively considering the model multi-family zoning language.

Responsible Party and Potential Partners

Responsibility for this goal rests with the Osceola County CAA, which leads curbside, drop-off, CVT, funding, and multi-family zoning outreach, while the Heartland MMPC holds an advisory and regional-coordination role on the siting-process update and any host agreement negotiations. Key partners include LeRoy Village, contracted haulers, the Osceola County Board of Commissioners, EGLE, NextCycle Michigan, the Middle Michigan Development Corporation (MMDC), MSU Extension, and township boards, along with county and municipal zoning and planning departments and area landlords and property managers on the multi-family housing objective.

GOAL 2: REDUCE FOOD WASTE AND ADVANCE ORGANICS MANAGEMENT

Description

The first objective centers on Morgan's Dairy Doo Composting in Sears, an existing facility that reported accepting 109 tons of food waste in 2025 alongside yard waste and manure, making it the county's most natural pilot host for a residential food scrap program. The county will meet with Morgan's early in the planning process to confirm whether the facility currently provides hauling service, allows public drop-off, or would be willing to pilot either, then work with Morgan's — or another willing composting site — to assess operational readiness, develop education materials with MSU Extension for both site operators and residents, launch the pilot, track tonnage collected, and use the results to inform expansion to additional sites and farm-based composting operations.

A second objective supports residents composting at home, through a guide developed with MSU Extension and the Osceola County Conservation District and distributed through township offices, the county website, libraries, community organizations, and MSU Extension channels, paired with countywide composting workshops. The county will explore whether Morgan's own outreach can complement county education about what happens to food scraps composted industrially, and will pursue funding for a

composting toolkit program — bin giveaways, starter kits, or informational kits — while being transparent in outreach that toolkit availability may be limited or grant-dependent.

A third objective targets food waste prevention and surplus donation among schools, hospitals, restaurants, and grocery stores, emphasizing the legal protections available under the Bill Emerson Good Samaritan Food Donation Act and connecting businesses with local food banks and shelters. The county will run the EPA's Preventing Food Waste in Your Community Social Marketing Kit campaign on a biennial basis, coordinated through the Heartland MMPC, and host at least one educational event per year targeting the business sectors identified as significant generators in the NRDC food waste calculator model.

A fourth objective addresses K-12 schools through the Mecosta-Osceola Intermediate School District: surveying current food waste practices and specifically documenting whether any schools already work with Morgan's Dairy Doo Composting for food scrap collection, promoting USDA best practices such as offer-versus-serve policies and cafeteria share tables, and sharing best practices countywide as they are documented. Where significant food surplus remains after prevention efforts, the county will explore a food rescue pilot in partnership with the Osceola County Health Department, Feeding America, and school boards.

Resources Needed

For the Morgan's Dairy Doo pilot: staff time for early and ongoing coordination, pilot coordination, and data tracking; bin infrastructure once a pilot structure is confirmed, with the EGLE Organics Infrastructure Grant as a potential source; outreach and education materials developed with MSU Extension; and consultant or MSU Extension support for operator training as needed.

For home composting support: staff time for guide development, partner coordination, and workshop planning; MSU Extension and Osceola County Conservation District coordination and content support, potentially complemented by Morgan's own content on industrial composting; printing and distribution costs for the composting guide; grant funding for bin giveaways or starter kits if pursued; and venue and materials costs for workshops, potentially offset through the MSU Extension partnership.

For food waste prevention and donation outreach: staff time for outreach planning, event coordination, and campaign adaptation; the EPA's Social Marketing Kit materials, which are publicly available and customizable; outreach materials on the Bill Emerson Act; Heartland MMPC coordination capacity for regional campaign support; and venue and event costs, which may be offset through partner co-hosting.

For the school food waste objective: staff time for school outreach, survey coordination, Morgan's engagement, and Mecosta-Osceola ISD coordination; survey development and distribution support; outreach materials on USDA best practices, share tables, and Michigan Department of Education guidance; Michigan Green Schools coordination capacity; and, if food rescue is pursued, engagement capacity with the Osceola County Health Department and Feeding America.

Goal 2 region-wide cost gap estimate for personnel to manage regional K-12 school food waste reduction efforts is between $100,000-$160,000 annually for 1-2 staff. All eight counties could consider hiring 1 or more staff to handle education outreach to schools, among other things including: business outreach, grant writing, social media and marketing, etc.

Education and Outreach Program

Education efforts under this goal target two audiences: Morgan's Dairy Doo Composting as an operational partner needing clarity on program terms, and residents, who need practical information on food scrap drop-off and home composting. The county will develop a home composting guide in coordination with MSU Extension and the Osceola County Conservation District, distributed through township offices, the county website, libraries, community organizations, and MSU Extension channels, and will host composting workshops at accessible community venues countywide.

Food waste prevention outreach will target schools, hospitals, restaurants, and grocery stores using the EPA's Social Marketing Kit, with messaging that emphasizes the legal protections available to businesses donating surplus food under the Bill Emerson Good Samaritan Food Donation Act. On the school side, the county will work through the Mecosta-Osceola Intermediate School District to promote USDA best practices and share tables, specifically documenting any existing school relationships with Morgan's as a foundation to build from.

Implementation Timeline

In Year 1, the meeting with Morgan's Dairy Doo will be complete, with current operations, capacity, and interest in expanded food scrap acceptance documented, alongside a school survey through the Mecosta-Osceola ISD and quantification of the county's local meals gap using Feeding America data to prioritize donor outreach.

In Year 2, a pilot program will launch — likely at Morgan's given its existing capacity — with resident and operator education materials distributed; the home composting guide will be in distribution through at least three channels; at least one educational event on food waste prevention will be held, along with the first run of the EPA Social Marketing Kit campaign; and initial donor outreach on the meals-gap objective will be underway with at least one grocery store, restaurant, or farm.

By Year 3, the pilot will have a full season of tonnage data to evaluate, best practices documented from schools already engaged with Morgan's or other composting programs will be shared countywide, at least one composting workshop will have been hosted countywide, outreach will have reached businesses in at least two sectors identified through the NRDC food waste model, and at least one new food donation partnership will have been established connecting a local business with a food bank or pantry.

From Year 4 onward, the county will engage additional composting operators and farm-based composting operations about joining an expanded food scrap network, distribute the composting guide countywide, run the EPA campaign on a two-year cycle, add at least one additional school district adopting a prevention best practice or share table program per year, and add at least one new meals-gap donor partnership per year, with food rescue piloted in partnership with the Osceola County Health Department and Feeding America if surplus food is identified.

Responsible Party and Potential Partners

Responsibility for this goal is shared between the Osceola County CAA, which leads pilot coordination, home composting programming, and school, business, and donor outreach, and the Heartland MMPC, which plays a planning and advisory role on the food scrap pilot and coordinates the EPA Social Marketing Kit campaign. Key partners include Morgan's Dairy Doo Composting on the pilot and school-composting objectives; MSU Extension and the Osceola County Conservation District on home composting; local food banks, shelters, and pantries, and area schools, hospitals, restaurants, and grocery stores on prevention

and donation; and the Mecosta-Osceola Intermediate School District, Michigan Green Schools, the Osceola County Health Department, and Feeding America on school-based work and food rescue.

GOAL 3: ADVANCE RECYCLING EDUCATION AND OUTREACH

Description

The first objective is a new, Part 115-compliant recycling guide published on a cell phone-friendly website — meeting MCL 324.11578(1)(q)'s requirements to identify recycling locations and materials, explain preparation, describe best practices, and list a contact number. Printed copies will be available at township offices, libraries, and other public locations, alongside a strategic education and outreach plan identifying roles, responsibilities, and funding sources, coordinated as much as possible with the Heartland MMP group to share resources and align messaging, and reviewed and updated annually.

A second objective brings county-owned and county-operated buildings into compliance: an inventory of current recycling collection, followed by bin infrastructure and hauler arrangements where gaps exist, internal guidelines and signage for employees, and — once recycling is stable — exploration of food waste collection in county buildings.

A third objective works through the Mecosta-Osceola Intermediate School District to encourage schools to incorporate recycling and composting into curriculum and to establish active collection programs, promoting the Michigan Green Schools program, reviewing school hauling contracts for recycling opportunities, and supporting pilot recycling programs in one to two willing schools.

A fourth objective engages commercial and institutional entities through direct outreach coordinated through the Osceola Chamber and Middle Michigan Development Corporation (MMDC), partnering with existing outreach efforts rather than duplicating infrastructure, developing tailored education resources, and hosting a voluntary business recycling survey on the county website tracked annually.

A fifth objective uses existing county media channels and scheduled mailings — including tax bills or other countywide distributions — to promote the recycling guide, drop-off locations, and programs, coordinates with EGLE's Recycling Raccoons campaign, and partners with neighboring Heartland counties on uniform regional messaging about what materials are recyclable.

Resources Needed

For the recycling guide and website: staff time for website development, guide production, and strategic plan drafting; printing and distribution costs for physical guides; and web hosting and maintenance costs, plus EGLE technical assistance as available.

For the county building's objective: staff time for a facilities inventory and hauler coordination; bin infrastructure and signage for county buildings; hauler contract amendments or new service agreements as needed; and EGLE technical assistance as available.

For the school outreach objective: coordination capacity through the Mecosta-Osceola Intermediate School District; classroom bins and educational materials for pilot schools, likely grant-dependent; and Michigan Green Schools program support.

For the commercial and institutional outreach objective: staff time for sector engagement, resource development, and partner coordination through the Chamber of Commerce, Business and Professional

Association, and MMDC; web hosting for the voluntary business survey; grant funding for technical assistance where participation gaps are identified, with EGLE recycling grants as a potential source; and EGLE recycling specialist support.

For the countywide media objective: staff time for content development, campaign coordination, and regional partnership management; printing costs for messages included in tax bill or scheduled mailings; EGLE's publicly available Recycling Raccoons campaign materials; and Heartland MMPC coordination capacity for regional messaging alignment.

Osceola's near-term Goal 3 cost gap estimate is anchored by the $10-per-household education and outreach baseline (The Recycling Partnership), which for Osceola's 9,152 households totals ~$90,000. On top of that, $5,000 to $7,000 is estimated for commercial outreach materials; no cost gap has yet been estimated for the county-building recycling objective. Combined staff hours across all five Goal 3 objectives are estimated at roughly 365 hours.

Education and Outreach Program

This goal is itself the county's education and outreach program. The county will publish a new recycling guide meeting all Part 115 requirements — identifying recycling locations and materials, explaining preparation, and including a contact phone number — coordinated as much as possible with the Heartland MMP group, and will make printed copies available at public locations countywide.

School outreach through the Mecosta-Osceola Intermediate School District will promote the Michigan Green Schools program and support pilot recycling programs in one to two schools. Commercial outreach will center on a voluntary business recycling survey hosted on the county website, coordinated through local chambers, the Business and Professional Association, and MMDC.

Broader messaging will use existing county media channels and scheduled mailings to promote the recycling guide and programs, and will also coordinate with EGLE's Recycling Raccoons campaign and neighboring Heartland counties on uniform regional messaging about what materials are recyclable.

Implementation Timeline

In Year 1, the recycling guide website will be live and mobile-friendly, with printed guides available at public locations and a draft strategic education and outreach plan in hand; a facilities inventory identifying which county buildings lack recycling will also be complete, alongside initial outreach to school districts and commercial sectors and at least two recycling education messages distributed countywide.

In Year 2, the strategic plan will be finalized, recycling collection will be established at all county-owned buildings with internal guidelines and signage in place, at least one school will be piloting a recycling program, education resources tailored to commercial and institutional audiences will be distributed through at least two partner channels, and uniform regional recyclable-materials messaging will be adopted with at least one neighboring county.

By Year 3, at least one school district will have an established recycling program or Michigan Green School certification, and at least one grant application will have been submitted to support commercial technical assistance where gaps are identified.

From Year 4 onward, the website, printed guide, and strategic plan will be reviewed and updated annually, county building recycling participation will be tracked and reported, and ongoing regional messaging coordination and countywide media outreach will continue at least twice annually.

Responsible Party and Potential Partners

The Osceola County CAA leads most objectives under this goal, with county administration and facilities staff responsible for the county-building work specifically. Key partners include the Heartland MMPC across nearly every objective, the Mecosta-Osceola Intermediate School District and Michigan Green Schools on the school objective, the Osceola Chamber and Middle Michigan Development Corporation (MMDC) on commercial outreach, and neighboring Heartland counties and EGLE's Recycling Raccoons campaign on regional messaging.

GOAL 4: TRACK AND REPORT RECYCLING PROGRAM PERFORMANCE

Description

The first objective is to identify what tonnage data EGLE already collects and determine whether existing EGLE reporting platforms can serve as the foundation for a county-level recycling rate calculation, reducing duplicative reporting burden on haulers. The county will develop model hauler licensing language and model contract language that local units may optionally adopt to require tonnage data reporting, will survey municipalities on single-hauler contract status, expiration dates, and interest in joint RFPs, and will not pursue a countywide hauler licensing ordinance itself, serving instead as an advisor and technical support resource to any municipality or group of municipalities that chooses to pursue that approach.

A second objective engages the county's largest commercial and institutional generators: partnering with the MMDC to identify the ten largest employers, then inviting voluntary participation in annual recycling data sharing, framed as a contribution to countywide sustainability goals rather than a compliance requirement.

A third objective establishes a recurring community survey to track resident recycling participation, awareness, and barriers over time, coordinated with MSU Extension and the Heartland MMPC and repeated on a three-to-five-year cycle.

Resources Needed

For the EGLE data and model licensing/contract language objective: staff time for EGLE platform research, model language development, municipal outreach, and data compilation, ideally aligning with EGLE's reporting platform to avoid a duplicative burden on haulers; funding for technical assistance to municipalities pursuing licensing or data reporting mechanisms, potentially through EGLE MMP Implementation funds; and EGLE technical assistance as available.

For the top-business engagement objective: staff time for MMDC partnership coordination, business outreach, and data tracking; a voluntary data-reporting tool on the county website; and EGLE technical assistance as available.

For the community survey objective: funding for survey development, distribution, and analysis, potentially through EGLE MMP Implementation funds; MSU Extension support on survey design and methodology; and printing and web hosting costs if physical or online distribution is pursued.

Osceola's near-term Goal 4 cost gap estimate totals $20,000-$40,000 in hard costs (every few years), for a recurring community survey to measure recycling participation and awareness; no hard cost is attached to the recycling-rate tracking or commercial data-engagement objectives themselves. Combined staff hours across all Goal 4 objectives are estimated at roughly 170 hours.

Education and Outreach Program

This goal is primarily a measurement function, but the recurring community survey doubles as an engagement tool. Voluntary hauler and business participation will be framed as a contribution to countywide sustainability goals rather than a compliance requirement, with the county positioned as an advisor rather than a regulator on hauler licensing and data reporting mechanisms.

Implementation Timeline

In Year 1, the county will identify what tonnage data EGLE already collects, complete a municipal contract inventory (including expiration dates and interest in joint RFPs), and partner with MMDC to identify the county's largest commercial generators; the first community survey will also be developed.

In Year 2, model hauler licensing language and model contract language will both be available to local units, with at least one municipality engaged on adopting model language or incorporating data reporting into an upcoming contract, and direct outreach to the largest identified businesses will be underway with a voluntary data-sharing mechanism live on the county website.

By Year 3, at least one local unit will have adopted model licensing or contract language, a county-level tonnage data compilation process will be established, survey findings will be published and presented to the MMPC, and at least five of the ten largest identified businesses will be voluntarily sharing data.

By Year 4, the county's first measured recycling rate will be calculated and published, with data gaps documented; by Year 5, at least ten businesses will be voluntarily reporting, with the recycling rate updated on a biennial basis from Year 7 onward, and the community survey repeated on a three-to-five-year cycle to track change over time.

Responsible Party and Potential Partners

The Osceola County CAA holds primary responsibility for this goal. Key partners include municipalities and haulers on voluntary licensing and contract data reporting, the Heartland MMPC on contract inventory and data compilation, the Middle Michigan Development Corporation (MMDC) on identifying and engaging top commercial generators, and MSU Extension on community survey design.

GOAL 5: SUPPORT REGIONAL HUB-AND-SPOKE RECYCLING INFRASTRUCTURE

Description

The first objective is Osceola County's commitment to a sustainable, fair, equitable, and affordable recycling processing solution for the materials it manages under this Plan: as a core member of the Isabella County MRF, the county commits to directing all of its recyclable materials — covering the county's full recycling volume, not just drop-off tonnage — to the facility, and in turn will hold an ownership interest in the facility, a governing seat and vote on the facility organizing committee, and a corresponding share of facility revenue.

The second objective is participation in a region-wide Regionalization Study of collection led by the Heartland MMPC, with findings to be presented to the Heartland MMPC and county CAAs and used to develop a regional infrastructure investment priority list.

A third objective is pursuing grant opportunities and capital improvement funding identified through the Regionalization Study, including designation of a fiscal agent county or regional entity to receive and administer grant funds on behalf of the Heartland Region.

A fourth, county-specific objective is confirming the current hauling-destination and contract end-dates for all recyclables collected at Osceola County drop-off sites, coordinating with currently-contracted haulers to establish hauling to the Isabella MRF — via transfer station if necessary — where not already directed there, and pursuing a collective RFP with other spoke counties if needed once existing contracts lapse.

Resources Needed

Formalizing core-member status will require legal and municipal-finance advisory support tied to the facility's ownership and governance structure, led at the regional level by Isabella County, along with staff time for the county's own tonnage estimation and county board action to adopt its commitment resolution.

For the Regionalization Study objective: consultant procurement and study costs will depend on scope and regional complexity, alongside Heartland MMPC staff time for RFP development, consultant management, stakeholder engagement, and presentation of findings — this is a regional cost, with Osceola County's role primarily to support the process and document local community need.

For the grant and fiscal agent objective: staff time for grant research and regional coordination, with match funds potentially required for some grants, plus education and outreach materials documenting community need to support the grant process.

For the intergovernmental agreement objective: this is primarily a regional legal and coordination cost, covered through intergovernmental agreements or MOUs between the Heartland counties and Isabella County, with no direct cost anticipated for Osceola County.

For the hauling-destination objective: confirming and potentially updating hauling arrangements to the Isabella MRF may draw on EGLE recycling infrastructure grants to address capital improvement needs such as containers, trailers, or site improvements at Osceola County's drop-off locations.

Osceola's near-term Goal 5 cost gap estimate carries no identified near term hard costs, though the Regionalization Study will likely cost in the tens of thousands, if not more (for the region). Combined staff hours across Goal 5 objectives are estimated at roughly 500-600 hours.

Education and Outreach Program

This goal is primarily an infrastructure and intergovernmental coordination effort rather than a resident-facing campaign. The Heartland MMPC will lead communication with county boards and EGLE's Materials Management Division as the Regionalization Study and MRF governance structure are developed; Osceola County's role is to stay engaged in the regional process, confirm its core-member commitment ahead of financing close, and coordinate with the Isabella MRF and its current haulers on drop-off logistics.

Implementation Timeline

By 2027, Osceola County will estimate its annual tonnage available to pledge and adopt a county board resolution committing as a core member of the Isabella County MRF, ahead of financing close, securing its ownership interest, governing seat, and revenue share before that milestone closes.

By 2028, the county will have formalized an intergovernmental agreement with the Isabella County MRF and confirmed current hauling-destinations and contract end-dates for its recyclables.

By 2029 and 2030, the Heartland MMPC will identify grant programs and pursue funding for the Regionalization Study.

By 2031, a fiscal agent will be designated to receive and administer regional grant funds.

By 2032, the Regionalization Study will be complete and its findings presented to the Heartland MMPC and county CAAs, informing a regional infrastructure investment priority list.

Responsible Party and Potential Partners

This goal is led regionally by the Heartland MMPC for the Regionalization Study, grant strategy, and Isabella MRF intergovernmental agreement, with Osceola County itself responsible for its own core-member commitment and confirming its hauling arrangements. Key partners include the Isabella County MRF, the other Heartland County CAAs, EGLE's Materials Management Division, county Economic Development Commissions, and the Michigan Recycling Coalition.

Appendix I – Facility Inventory List

This appendix provides the facility-level detail supporting the Materials Management Infrastructure inventory required under Part 115, MCL 324.11504 et seq. — specifically the inventory of existing disposal areas (MCL 324.11503(6)), material utilization facilities (MCL 324.11504(31)), and waste diversion centers for which notification has been given to EGLE under MCL 324.11521b, summarized in Municipal Transfer Stations of Section One.

Facilities are included based on their role in managing material generated within the Heartland region (Clare, Gladwin, Gratiot, Isabella, Mecosta, Midland, Ogemaw, and Osceola counties), whether or not the facility itself is physically located within the eight-county planning area. A facility located outside the region — such as an MRF or processing facility in a neighboring county — is included where it receives a material volume from one or more Heartland counties, since that facility contributes materially to how the region's managed material is handled.

Facilities identified as operating within, or receiving material from, the region were contacted directly by email in July 2026, requesting confirmation of the facility information on file and a response by Friday, July 31, 2026. A facility owner's or operator's reply serves as written acknowledgment that the facility is included in this Plan and that it has the capacity to manage the types of material described. Replies are pasted below in the following table. Where a facility owner or operator could not be reached, or where confirmation is still outstanding as of the date of this Plan, that facility's entry is flagged accordingly and reflects best available information rather than owner-confirmed data.

For each facility, the inventory includes:

- **Facility Name** and **WDS ID** — the facility's identification number in EGLE's Waste Data System, where applicable (a facility that is not required to report to WDS, such as certain waste diversion centers, may not have one).
- **Physical Address** and **Latitude/Longitude**.
- **Facility Type** (e.g., materials recovery facility, transfer station, landfill, compost site, waste diversion center).
- **Facility Capacity** — maximum permitted or design capacity, current annual throughput, and available remaining capacity, each in tons per year, along with the facility's throughput attributable to Heartland counties specifically, where known.
- **Estimated Facility Acreage**.
- **Types of Materials Managed**.
- **Process for Handling Materials** — a brief description of how material is received, processed, stored, and marketed or disposed of at the facility, including whether the facility accepts material by contract only or also accepts public drop-off.

Inclusion of a facility in this inventory is a disclosure requirement under Part 115 and does not itself constitute a determination that the facility is consistent with this Plan under the Siting Process described in Section Three.

FACILITY NAME	WDS ID	ADDRESS	LATITUDE, LONGITUDE	TYPE	CAPACITY	ESTIMATED FACILITY ACREAGE	PROCESS FOR HANDLING MATERIALS	OWNER	COUNTY	REPLIED CONFIRMING INCLUSION IN PLAN
Arbor Hills Landfill		10690 W Six Mile Road, Northville		Landfill				GFL	Washtenaw	
Arnold Center Inc WeCycle Gladwin								Arnold Center, Inc. (nonprofit)	Gladwin	
Brent Run		8247 Vienna Road, Montrose		Landfill				Republic	Genesee	
Central Sanitary Landfill		21545 Cannonsville Road, Pierson		Landfill				Republic	Montcalm	
Churchill Township Transfer Station								Churchill Township	Ogemaw	
Citizens Disposal Inc				Landfill				Republic	Genesee	
City of Alma								City of Alma	Gratiot	
City of Big Rapids Compost Facility								City of Big Rapids	Mecosta	
City of Harrison				Dropoff Recycling Facility				City of Harrison	Clare	
City of Midland Sanitary Landfill	470453	4311 E Ashman Rd, Midland, MI	43.65186, -84.17138	Landfill, Compost Facility	Annual throughput: roughly 150,000 tons Permitted capacity:	340 acres (including landfill areas and ancillary areas)	Materials are received through a scale and evaluated by a gatehouse	City of Midland	Midland	Yes

FACILITY NAME	WDS ID	ADDRESS	LATITUDE, LONGITUDE	TYPE	CAPACITY	ESTIMATED FACILITY ACREAGE	PROCESS FOR HANDLING MATERIALS	OWNER	COUNTY	REPLIED CONFIRMING INCLUSION IN PLAN
					~10,154,000 tons in the active area Remaining capacity: ~ 6,000,000 tons		attendant. Only acceptable waste streams are allowed. Residents use a dumpster area for their convenience and safety. Scrap metal and Freon appliances are placed into separate areas for processing and recycling. Green waste is recycled in the composting operation for eventual use at our facility. Waste is disposed in the landfill double-composite-liner cell.			
City of Mt. Pleasant Water Resource Recovery Facility		1301 N Franklin St, Mt Pleasant, MI 48858	43.614734771372675, -84.77507631341817	Anaerobic Digester		12 acres	Receiving station for trash carts with food waste	City of Mt. Pleasant	Isabella	Yes

FACILITY NAME	WDS ID	ADDRESS	LATITUDE, LONGITUDE	TYPE	CAPACITY	ESTIMATED FACILITY ACREAGE	PROCESS FOR HANDLING MATERIALS	OWNER	COUNTY	REPLIED CONFIRMING INCLUSION IN PLAN
City of Saint Louis								City of Saint Louis	Gratiot	
Cumming Township Transfer Station	466380	901 East Sage Lake Road, Rose City, MI	44.36341, -84.09253	Processing & Transfer Facility	The facility capacity is one (1) 40-yd compactor, and one (1) 40-yd open top container. There is also a trailer for scrap metal.	40	GFL Environmental picks up the compactor and open top container to haul to their processor. The scrap metal is hauled to a local scrap metal center.	Cumming Township	Ogemaw	Yes
Emterra Lansing MRF	456070	1159 S Pennsylvania Ave, Lansing, MI	42.72044, -84.53681	Materials Recovery Facility	Maximum capacity ~ 35,000 tons/year Current throughput ~ 24,000 tons/year (approximately 389 tons of which came from Gratiot County in FY2025) Available capacity ~ 11,000 tons/year	5.85 acres	Materials are dumped from collection vehicles onto the tipping floor inside the building. Materials are sorted by processing equipment and baled for offsite shipment. Bales are stored inside until there is enough for a full truckload, but not longer than 1 year. Material	Emterra	Ingham	Yes

FACILITY NAME	WDS ID	ADDRESS	LATITUDE, LONGITUDE	TYPE	CAPACITY	ESTIMATED FACILITY ACREAGE	PROCESS FOR HANDLING MATERIALS	OWNER	COUNTY	REPLIED CONFIRMING INCLUSION IN PLAN
							acceptance is by contract only. Public drop-off is not available at the facility.			
Foster Township Transfer Station								Foster Township	Ogemaw	
Garfield Township Transfer Station								Garfield Township	Clare	
GFL Environmental Flint								GFL	Genesee	
GFL Environmental Traverse City								GFL	Grand Traverse	
GFL Environmental MRF Pontiac		888 Baldwin Avenue, Pontiac		Processing & Transfer Facility; Materials Recovery Facility				GFL	Pontiac	
Goodar Township Transfer Station								Goodar Township	Ogemaw	
Granger Compost Services			42.77280, -84.52414	Compost	29,000 CYDS/year (estimated annual	259	Delivered yard waste temporarily stored,	Granger	Clinton	Yes

FACILITY NAME	WDS ID	ADDRESS	LATITUDE, LONGITUDE	TYPE	CAPACITY	ESTIMATED FACILITY ACREAGE	PROCESS FOR HANDLING MATERIALS	OWNER	COUNTY	REPLIED CONFIRMING INCLUSION IN PLAN
					processing volume)		ground, and send to be finished at off site, third-party location			
Granger Disposal Center of Alma			43.39472, -84.63164	Processing and Transfer Station	N/A	32	Loads tipped on floor, loaded into trailers, compacted, and transferred to offsite location	Granger	Gratiot	Yes
Granger Disposal Center of Jackson			42.28301, -84.41665	Processing and Transfer Station	N/A	30	Loads tipped on floor, loaded into trailers, compacted, and transferred to offsite location	Granger	Jackson	Yes
Granger Grand River	397449	8550 W GRAND RIVER HWY, GRAND LEDGE, MI 48837	42.79036, -84.69512	Type II Landfill	Total Authorized Capacity: 13,497,900 CYDS	181	Loads tipped at working face, compacted, and covered per Part 115	Granger	Clinton	Yes
Granger Recycling Center			42.77117, -84.52383	Materials Recovery Facility	1,400 tons/month (current processing capacity)	5	Recyclables tipped on floor, compacted, baled, and sent to end markets	Granger	Clinton	Yes
Granger Wood	47052	16980	42.76968,	Type II	Total	522	Loads tipped	Granger	Clinton	Yes

FACILITY NAME	WDS ID	ADDRESS	LATITUDE, LONGITUDE	TYPE	CAPACITY	ESTIMATED FACILITY ACREAGE	PROCESS FOR HANDLING MATERIALS	OWNER	COUNTY	REPLIED CONFIRMING INCLUSION IN PLAN
Street	3	WOOD RD, LANSING, MI 48906	-84.52319	Landfill	Authorized Capacity: 33,528,395 CYDS		at working face, compacted, and covered per Part 115			
Hersey Township Transfer Station	492163	1983 170th Ave, Hersey, MI	43.8437, -85.42.4241	Transfer Facility	N/A	5	Material is placed in dumpsters and transferred to landfills	Hersey Township	Osceola	Yes
Hill Township Transfer Station								Hill Township	Ogemaw	
Isabella County Materials Recovery Facility	474653	4208 East River Rd, Mount Pleasant, MI	43.62387, -84.76393	Material Recovery Facility	Maximum capacity: 5,300 tons/year Current throughput: 4,300 tons/year Available capacity: 1,000 tons/year	10.6	Material is brought to the facility from collection vehicles and dumped onto the tipping floor. Material is loaded onto conveyors, sorted by processors, baled and stored until there is enough for a full truckload for shipment. Material is accepted by various methods, including	Isabella County	Isabella	Yes

FACILITY NAME	WDS ID	ADDRESS	LATITUDE, LONGITUDE	TYPE	CAPACITY	ESTIMATED FACILITY ACREAGE	PROCESS FOR HANDLING MATERIALS	OWNER	COUNTY	REPLIED CONFIRMING INCLUSION IN PLAN
							public drop-off provided at the facility.			
Kent County Recycling and Education Center		977 Wealthy St SW, Grand Rapids		Materials Recovery Facility				Kent County	Kent	
Lee Township Transfer Station								Lee Township	Midland	
Lincoln Township Compost Field								Lincoln Township	Clare	
Mecosta Recycles		424 North 4th Avenue, Big Rapids, MI	43.7042489999999, -85.474922	Transfer & Processing	Annual throughput: approximately 400 tons of recyclable materials	1 acre	Household and commercial recyclables collection point. Materials baled and sold.	Mecosta Recycles (nonprofit)	Mecosta	Yes
Montmorency-Oscoda-Alpena SWMA	450267	6751 LANDFILL ROAD, P.O. BOX 13, ATLANTA, MI	44.94243, -84.12951	Type II Landfill	1,430,315 cubic yards remaining capacity	86	We only receive and bury waste.	Public authority (multi-county)	Montmorency	Yes (Ogemaw-only)
Morgan Composting Inc								Morgan Composting, Inc.	Osceola	
Morton Township Recycle Center				Processing & Transfer Facility				Morton Township	Mecosta	
Northern Oaks	40921	513 North	43.995, -84.7979	Landfill	75 years	75 acres	Recycling –	WM	Clare	Yes

FACILITY NAME	WDS ID	ADDRESS	LATITUDE, LONGITUDE	TYPE	CAPACITY	ESTIMATED FACILITY ACREAGE	PROCESS FOR HANDLING MATERIALS	OWNER	COUNTY	REPLIED CONFIRMING INCLUSION IN PLAN
Recycling and Disposal Facility	0	County Farm Road, Harrison, MI					Isabella MRF Tire Recycling - Gorecycle			
Osceola Landfill/Transfer Station	424474	1681 230th, Reed City, MI	43.83998, -85.54332	Processing & Transfer Facility	N/A	80	Material is placed in dumpsters and transferred to landfills	Osceola Development LLC	Osceola	Yes
Ottawa County Farms Landfill		15550 68th Ave, Coopersville		Landfill				Republic	Ottawa	
Pitsch Sanitary Landfill		7905 Johnson Road, Belding		Landfill				Pitsch Companies	Ionia	
Redding Township Transfer Station								Redding Township	Clare	
Richmond Township Transfer Station	492162	4194 200th Ave, Reed City, MI	43.8758, -85.48338	Processing & Transfer Facility	N/A	6	Material is placed in dumpsters and transferred to landfills	Richmond Township	Osceola	Yes
Rose Township Transfer Station								Rose Township	Ogemaw	
RRRASOC Southfield	416320	20000 Eight Mile Rd, Southfield, MI	42.445459, -83.23905889515927	Material Recovery Facility	Annual throughput estimate: 56,308	6.2	Curbside trucks and transfer trailers deliver material.	Public authority (Oakland County)	Oakland	Yes

FACILITY NAME	WDS ID	ADDRESS	LATITUDE, LONGITUDE	TYPE	CAPACITY	ESTIMATED FACILITY ACREAGE	PROCESS FOR HANDLING MATERIALS	OWNER	COUNTY	REPLIED CONFIRMING INCLUSION IN PLAN
							Sorted by a combination of mechanical and manual means. Materials marketed by Republic Services, the contracted operator.			
South Kent Landfill		300 100th Street SW, Byron Center		Landfill				Kent County	Kent	No – Declined Inclusion
Summerfield Township Transfer Station	466660	9975 Finley Lake Ave, Harrison, MI	43.99283, -84.89008	Processing & Transfer Facility	8 - 08 YD Waste 1-20 YD waste roll-off 1-30 YD waste roll-off	Approximately .50 acres	Dumpsters are emptied weekly and roll offs are emptied upon request.	Summerfield Township	Clare	Yes
Surrey Township Transfer Station								Surrey Township	Clare	Yes
West Branch Township Transfer Station	474084	Section 5, West Branch Township, West Branch, MI	44.49664, -84.22796	Processing & Transfer Facility	9 - 8 YARD DUMPSTERS 1 - 8 YARD FOR CARBOARD 1 - 20 YARD ROLL-OFF	0.87 acres	Handling process is that the dumpsters are picked up as needed when they become full by our contracted garbage company, which is	West Branch Township	Ogemaw	Yes

FACILITY NAME	WDS ID	ADDRESS	LATITUDE, LONGITUDE	TYPE	CAPACITY	ESTIMATED FACILITY ACREAGE	PROCESS FOR HANDLING MATERIALS	OWNER	COUNTY	REPLIED CONFIRMING INCLUSION IN PLAN
							Republic Trash Services.			
Wexford County Landfill								GFL Environmental	Wexford	
Whitefeather Landfill								Republic	Bay	
Winterfield Township Transfer Station	465995	Haskell Lake Road, Marion, MI	44.11716, -85.05035	Processing & Transfer Facility	28 yards/week	1 acre	By contract with GFL, they come once a week to empty dumpsters.	Winterfield Township	Clare	Yes
WM Peoples Landfill, Inc.								WM	Saginaw	
WM Saginaw MRF								WM	Saginaw	
WM Tawas Transfer Station								WM	Iosco	
WM Venice Park Recycling and Disposal Facility				Landfill				WM	Shiawassee	
WM Waters Landfill								WM	Crawford	

Appendix J – Local Ordinances & Regulations

CLARE COUNTY

Farwell (Village) *(Village)*

Ordinance / Policy Name & Citation	Village of Farwell Zoning Ordinance (current version ~June 2022, with amendments 2018-3, 2019-05, 2021-01)
Key Provisions	Production, Processing, Assembling, Packaging or Treatment of Certain Articles and Products are allowed in M-1 or M-2 district; must be in completely enclosed buildings on minimum lot size of one acre with at least 44 feet of frontage; not taller than 3.5 stories or 45'.
Source	https://villageoffarwellmi.gov/wp-content/uploads/2025/10/Farwell-MI-ZO-031819.pdf

Hatton Township *(Township)*

Ordinance / Policy Name & Citation	Hatton Township Zoning Ordinance, Section 6.7 "Landfill, Contractor's Yard, or Junkyard" (new ordinance adopted 2025, effective Jan. 1, 2026, superseding 1993 version)
Key Provisions	Landfill, Contractor's Yard, or Junkyard: Special-land-use standard requiring full perimeter fencing/screening, confinement of activity within fenced areas, siting to allow screening from adjacent properties/streets, and township-designated truck routes.
Source	hattontownship.com/wp-content/uploads/docs/hatton_township_zoning_ordinances2026.pdf

Hayes Township *(Township)*

Ordinance / Policy Name & Citation	Hayes Township Zoning Ordinance (2019, amended through April 18, 2024), Article XI (Industrial District), Section 1102, Uses Permitted by Special Use Permit, item 7
Key Provisions	"Reduction, conversion and disposal of waste material" is permitted in the Industrial District only by Special Use Permit (Section 1704 process)

Source	hayestwpclaremi.gov/wp-content/uploads/2024/05/Revised-2019-Hayes-Township-Zoning-Ordinance-amended-April-18-2024.pdf

Summerfield Township *(Township)*

Ordinance / Policy Name & Citation	Summerfield Township Zoning Ordinance (2010)
Key Provisions	Special Use Permit required for Resource Recovery Facilities, defined as a fully enclosed building where waste is sorted and classified by type and material, such as ferrous metal, nonferrous metal, aluminum, paper, newsprint, boxed board, plastic and glass colors. The purpose of such a building is to reuse the recovered materials, with specific requirements listed.
Source	https://summerfieldtwp.org/reference/municipal-code-ordinances/zoning-ordinance-2010.aspx

Winterfield Township *(Township)*

Ordinance / Policy Name & Citation	"Transfer Station Rules and Regulations" (document title confirmed, separate from zoning ordinance)
Key Provisions	Reduction, conversion and disposal of waste material permitted by Special Exception as a Manufacturing Use in zoning district M-1.
Source	https://webgen1files.revize.com/winterfieldtnspmi/Document_Center/Winterfield%20Twp%20Zoning%20Ordinance%20Adopted%20September%202023.pdf

GLADWIN COUNTY

Gladwin County *(County)*

Ordinance / Policy Name & Citation	Gladwin County Zoning Ordinance (eff. 2/1/2008, rev. through 2019/2022)
Key Provisions	Countywide default zoning applying in the 10 un-zoned townships; defines "Sanitary Landfill" as any state-licensed landfill operation; restricts sensitive-lands development (e.g., excludes former landfill lands, highly erodible soils from certain natural-features protections); defines the processing of used, discarded, or salvaged materials as part of manufacturing operations as NOT consistent with junk/salvage yard; defines recycling facility as the process by which waste products are reduced to raw materials and transformed into new and often different products; defines resource recovery facility as a fully enclosed building where waste is sorted and classified by type and material, such as ferrous metal, nonferrous metal, aluminum, paper, newsprint, boxed board, plastic and glass colors. The purpose of such a building is to reuse the recovered materials. Fence requirements are listed for around landfill, incinerator, resource recovery facility.
Source	gladwincounty-mi.gov/wp-content/uploads/2021/03/Zoning-Ordinance-rev-June302019c.pdf

Billings Township *(Township)*

Ordinance / Policy Name & Citation	Billings Township Zoning Ordinance Section 5.706 "Sanitary Landfills"
Key Provisions	Defines landfill as a tract of land that is used to collect and dispose of “solid waste” as defined and regulated under the Natural Resources and Environmental Protection Act (P.A. 451 of 1994, as amended).
Source	http://billingstownship.org/wp-content/uploads/2020/02/Art._18_-_Definitions.pdf

Clement Township *(Township)*

Ordinance / Policy Name & Citation	Clement Township Zoning Ordinance (adopted 6/2022, amended 4/2023)
Key Provisions	A sanitary landfill shall be the only approved method of outdoor disposal of refuse and shall be developed in accordance with State Statutes and administrative rules. Recycling facilities, Resource Recovery Facilities, Transfer Stations, Waste Collection Facilities allowed in C-1 with Special Use Permit.
Source	https://clementtwp.org/go.php?id=879&table=page_uploads

Gladwin (City) *(City)*

Ordinance / Policy Name & Citation	City of Gladwin Zoning Ordinance (2022)
Key Provisions	Recycling Centers allowed in zoning district MT as a permitted use; specific design standards listed. Recycling Operations defined as a facility where recyclable materials, such as newspapers, magazines, books, and other paper products, glass, metal cans, and other products are recycled, reprocessed, and treated in order to return such products to a condition where they may be reused.
Source	https://cms9files.revize.com/gladwinmi/Documents%20Center/Department/Planning%20&%20Zoning/ZONING%20ORDINANCE%202022.pdf

Sage Township *(Township)*

Ordinance / Policy Name & Citation	Sage Township Zoning Ordinance
Key Provisions	Waste Treatment and Disposal is considered a high intensity use and carries standards that apply to all zoning districts where they are identified as Special Uses in the District Regulations for each zone.
Source	https://www.sagetownship.org/_files/ugd/e31f7f_3f748ccdbbe2449eab70e382e921ce1c.pdf

Secord Township *(Township)*

Ordinance / Policy Name & Citation	Secord Township Zoning Ordinance, Article V "Special Uses and Structures"
Key Provisions	Sanitary Landfills may only be permitted if planned to be located in the township in accordance with the County's plan, per Part 115 and must have access from an impervious hard surface all-weather year-round road, have specified setbacks, and not create glare from any process.
Source	secordtownship.org/PDF/SecordTownshipZoneOrd.pdf

Tobacco Township *(Township)*

Ordinance / Policy Name & Citation	Tobacco Township Zoning Ordinance (own township ordinance, 15 chapters incl. Ch. 14 "Special Use")
Key Provisions	Sanitary Landfills and Incinerators permitted by Special Use Permit. Standards apply to High Intensity Uses and Waste Treatment or Disposal, including Type II or Type III Landfill, Incinerator. Fence requirements apply to Resource Recovery Facilities (undefined).
Source	https://tobaccotownship.org/wp-content/uploads/2025/03/Chap-10-Industrial-as-amended-in-2015.htm

GRATIOT COUNTY

Gratiot County *(County)*

Ordinance / Policy Name & Citation	Gratiot County Zoning Ordinance (adopted 10/19/1999, eff. 11/19/1999; amended 2000, 2001, 2003, 2009, 2015) - Ch. 16, Special Land Uses, item T (Junk Yards & Salvage Yards, p.121) and item HH (Sanitary Landfills, p.140)
Key Provisions	Junk yards/salvage yards and sanitary landfills each require Special Land Use approval countywide (in townships/areas under county zoning) (Section 12.3); Junk yards and salvage yards have specific SLU standards, per Section 16.7(T); sanitary landfills have specific SLU standards per 16.7(HH). "Recycling Center" is a defined term but is not separately listed as an enumerated special-land-use category.
Source	gratiotmi.com/DocumentCenter/View/3188/Gratiot-County-Zoning-Ordinance-PDF

Alma (City) *(City)*

Ordinance / Policy Name & Citation	Alma Code of Ordinances, Ch. 60 (Zoning), Art. IV (Special Uses)
Key Provisions	Existing hazards or potential hazards and nuisances, such as construction sites, junkyards, landfills, sanitary landfills, demolition sites, unused basements, abandoned wells or cisterns, and sand, gravel, and stone pits or piles are to be enclosed by suitable fencing or barriers, in accordance with section 60-184, so as not to endanger public health, safety and welfare.
Source	library.municode.com/mi/alma/codes/code_of_ordinances

ISABELLA COUNTY

Isabella County *(County)*

Ordinance / Policy Name & Citation	Isabella County Zoning Ordinance (eff. 2/15/1989, amended through 2020)
Key Provisions	Applies only in the 10 townships without their own zoning (listed below). Defines "Solid Waste Disposal Area" (transfer facility, incinerator, sanitary landfill, processing plant, or solid waste handling/disposal facility per Act 641) and "Salvage Yards" as distinct land-use terms (Art. 2, Sections 2.19-2.20). Specifies the allowable location of dumpsters in a residential district (Section 3.11); Screening provisions (Section 3.24); Waste accumulation (Section 3.30). Solid waste disposal areas not allowed in AG-1 or AG-3, special land use permit required for AG-2, I-1; Recycling drop-off sites permitted for C-I. Recycling drop-off sites have setbacks of 100' from any residence, supervision required during operation or receptacle provided to ensure complete containment of materials; prevent litter, pestilence, unsightliness (SLU JJ). Solid waste disposal areas shall be located in AG-2 and I-1 Districts.
Source	https://www.isabellacounty.org/wp-content/uploads/2024/08/Zoning-Ordinance-Current.pdf

Coe Township *(Township)*

Ordinance / Policy Name & Citation	Coe Township Zoning Ordinance
Key Provisions	Industrial District allows for the reduction, conversion, and disposal of waste material use-by-right (Article XI); Table A lists regulations by zoning district. Section 1413 requires combustion or other processes to limit airborne particulates.
Source	https://energyzoning.org/sites/default/files/PDF/2607316880_Coe%20Township_Isabella_20220722.pdf

Deerfield Township *(Township)*

Ordinance / Policy Name & Citation	Deerfield Township Zoning Ordinance (adopted 4/18/2001)
Key Provisions	Section 3.26 prohibits waste accumulation; Recycling Drop-off Sites require a SLU permit (Section 9.03 and 14) and are allowed in RS and C Districts; setbacks of 100' from any residence; supervised during hours of operation or adequate receptacles to ensure complete containment; control litter.
Source	https://www.deerfieldtownship.net/Docs/Township-Board/ordinance.pdf

Village of Lake Isabella *(Village)*

Ordinance / Policy Name & Citation	Village Material Collection License / franchise ordinance (Village Code, Charter & Ordinances)
Key Provisions	Recycling Drop-off sites are allowed via Special Land Use permit in zoning districts RLM and Ag
Source	lakeisabellami.org/your_government/charter___ordinances

City of Mount Pleasant *(City)*

Ordinance / Policy Name & Citation	Mt. Pleasant City Code Section 50.11(C)(5)
Key Provisions	Mandatory source separation: all residential generators must separate recyclables and place them curbside; violations penalized under Section 50.99. Preparation standards specified (rinsed, caps removed, containers flattened). Licensed collectors must deliver all source-separated recyclables collected within the city to the MRF or a city-designated recycling facility - no delivery to any other disposal site permitted; solid waste, recyclables, and yard waste must be transported in separate vehicle compartments.
Source	codelibrary.amlegal.com/codes/mtpleasant/latest/mtpleasant_mi_code/0-0-0-1942

MECOSTA COUNTY

Mecosta County (government) *(County)*

Ordinance / Policy Name & Citation	Mecosta County Zoning Ordinance (Rev. 11-1-24, prior Rev. 3-21-24)
Key Provisions	Applies in all townships that lack their own zoning. "Junk yards" are a Special Land Use in C-2 (Commercial); "junk yards, recycling, and metal recovery facilities" are a Special Land Use in I-1 (Industrial). Compost Heap requires 4'6" high wall or privacy fence. Landfill defined as any disposal area, tract of land, building, unit or appurtenance or combination thereof that is used to collect, store, handle, dispose of, bury, cover over, or otherwise accept or retain refuse as herein defined.
Source	https://cms9files.revize.com/mecostacountymi/BZ/Zoning%20Ordinance%20&%20Maps/Current%20Zoning%20Ordinance%20rev.%2011-1-24%20COMPLETED.pdf?t=202502050916190

Barryton (Village) *(Village)*

Ordinance / Policy Name & Citation	Village of Barryton Zoning Ordinance #01-1988
Key Provisions	Sanitary landfills are a Special (Conditional) Use in the Industrial (IND) District only; must be Village-owned/operated, no burning of solid waste in a sanitary landfill, min. 330-ft setback, protective barrier/gated access, all-weather roadway. Sanitary landfill defined as a method of disposing of refuse on land in accordance with the applicable laws of the State of Michigan.
Source	villageofbarryton.com/?page_id=2007

Big Rapids Township *(Township)*

Ordinance / Policy Name & Citation	Big Rapids (Charter) Township Land Use Ordinance (Title XV), own Building & Zoning Dept.
Key Provisions	Recycling Centers permitted in Big Rapids Township Airport Industrial Park only.
Source	https://codelibrary.amlegal.com/codes/bigrapidschartertwpmi/latest/

	bigrapidschartertwp_mi/0-0-0-3947

Green (Charter) Township *(Township)*

Ordinance / Policy Name & Citation	Green Charter Township Interim Zoning Ordinance (adopted spring 2024, on-file copy marked "DRAFT 04.23.2024")
Key Provisions	Recycling facilities are permitted by a special land use permit. Landfill defined as any disposal area, tract of land, building, unit or appurtenance or combination thereof that is used to collect, store, handle, dispose of, bury, cover over, or otherwise accept or retain refuse as herein defined.
Source	https://www.greentownship.org/_files/ugd/958d79_6343c1575340497184acf1c632f6fb44.pdf

Morton Township *(Township)*

Ordinance / Policy Name & Citation	Morton Township Zoning Ordinance (updated 7/10/2018)
Key Provisions	Sanitary landfill is defined as the use of rubbish, commercial waste, garbage, with the exception of toxic waste for the purpose of filling land, either naturally low, or low as the result of excavating.
Source	mortontownship.org/wp-content/uploads/2019/02/MT-ZO-JULY-10-2018.pdf

MIDLAND COUNTY

Edenville Township *(Township)*

Ordinance / Policy Name & Citation	Edenville Township Zoning Ordinance No. 182 (adopted 8/8/2017)
Key Provisions	Establishes zoning districts and special-use permitting; transfer stations and incinerators allowed with special use permit.
Source	https://www.edenvilletwp.org/go.php?id=671&table=page_uploads

Greendale Township *(Township)*

Ordinance / Policy Name & Citation	Greendale Township Zoning Ordinance #2004-10-12
Key Provisions	Sanitary landfills allowed with a special use permit. The site shall contain not less than 40 acres; design & construction shall be as regulated by EGLE.
Source	https://greendaletwpmidcomi.org/wp-content/uploads/2018/09/township-zoning-ordinance-2004-1012.pdf

Homer Township *(Township)*

Ordinance / Policy Name & Citation	Homer Township Zoning Ordinance (effective 1/1/2018)
Key Provisions	Ordinance 1600 regulates the disposal of waste materials. The Township Board shall determine whether a permit shall be granted or denied and determination of a performance bond.
Source	homertownship.org/wp-content/uploads/2019/01/Current_Zoning_Ordinance_2018.pdf and https://homertownship.org/wp-content/uploads/2019/01/Disposal_Waste_Materials_1600.pdf

Jasper Township *(Township)*

Ordinance / Policy Name & Citation	Township-administered zoning
Key Provisions	Solid Waste Collection & Disposal Facilities require a Special Permit Use and can be located in an Industrial District
Source	https://jaspertownship.com/wp-content/uploads/2024/10/ZONING-ORDINANCE-AND-WIND-ENERGY-WORD-2023-FINAL.pdf

Jerome Township *(Township)*

Ordinance / Policy Name & Citation	Jerome Township Zoning Ordinance (most recent posted revision Nov. 2025)
Key Provisions	The Planning Commission shall establish that the standards in the ordinance are satisfied, including that public facilities and services such as highways, fire and police protection, drainage facilities, refuse disposal and schools are adequate for the proposed use or are capable of being adequately provided by the agencies responsible therefore, among other obligations.
Source	jerometownship.org/wp-content/uploads/2025/11/JT-zoning-ordinance_25a_11122025.pdf

Lee Township *(Township)*

Ordinance / Policy Name & Citation	Township-administered zoning
Key Provisions	Section 7.5 specifies standards for High Intensity Uses, including waste treatment and disposal
Source	https://leetownshipmidlandmi.gov/wp-content/uploads/2023/05/Lee-Township-Zoning-Ordinance-Effective-5-25-2025.pdf

Lincoln Township *(Township)*

Ordinance / Policy Name & Citation	Lincoln Township Zoning Ordinance
Key Provisions	Resource Recovery Facility is defined as a fully enclosed building where waste is sorted and classified by type and material, such as ferrous metal, nonferrous metal, aluminum, paper, newsprint, boxed board, plastic and glass colors. The purpose being to reuse the recovered materials. Section 7.16 governs requirements for "Sewage Treatment and Disposal, Commercial Cleaning Plants, Salvage Yard and Resource Recovery Facilities, Storage of Waste Disposal Vehicles", including requirements of landfill, incinerator, or resource recovery facility.
Source	https://cdn.sanity.io/files/juqqm0uj/production/6b619e17354be21881c4ff9d7eca8fc489a4e1dc.pdf

Midland Charter Township *(Township)*

Ordinance / Policy Name & Citation	Midland Charter Township Zoning Ordinance (Code Ch. 300, Sections 300-1-300-85; adopted 3/14/2007, amended 3/8/2023)
Key Provisions	Ch. 246 "Solid Waste" (Sections 246-1-246-7), confirms dedicated solid-waste and salvage-yard regulation.
Source	https://ecode360.com/32536521

Mount Haley Township *(Township)*

Ordinance / Policy Name & Citation	Mt. Haley Township Zoning Ordinance 01-11 (pending amendment Ord. 01-25)
Key Provisions	Junk/Salvage Yard is defined as a licensed open area where waste, used or second-hand materials are bought and sold, exchanged, stored, baled, packed, disassembled, or handled, including but not limited to scrap iron and other metals, paper, rags, rubber tires, and bottles. A Junk/Salvage Yard includes automobile wrecking yards, and two or more inoperative, unlicensed vehicles located on a single lot. Operations with the characteristics of salvage yards, which are called recycling centers, junk yards, scrap yards, etc., shall be considered as salvage yards.
Source	https://drive.google.com/file/d/1cFqce9XCr0XlvNZbo5EJT_ksJVMM0Lsm/view

Village of Sanford *(Village)*

Ordinance / Policy Name & Citation	Village-administered zoning (Planning Commission established under Michigan Planning Enabling Act, Ordinance No. 41, 3/14/2022)
Key Provisions	Recycling centers allowed as a special land use, specifically, a six (6) foot fence or wall shall be constructed along the rear and sides of the lot, capable of keeping trash, paper, and other debris from blowing off the premises. The principal and accessory buildings and structures shall not be located within two hundred (200) feet of any residential use or district property line.
Source	https://webgen1files1.revize.com/villageofsanfordmi/Zoning%20Ordinance%201%20Reshared%20May%202026.pdf?t=202605110843490

Warren Township *(Township)*

Ordinance / Policy Name & Citation	Warren Township Zoning Ordinance (2021)
Key Provisions	Reduction, conversion and disposal of waste goods and materials except for toxic waste and radioactive waste subject to the approval and requirements of the Township Planning Commission and the Midland County Health Department
Source	https://www.warrentownshipmi.com/_files/ugd/a247bd_344cc69296044f61880c46580d5d6f5b.pdf

OGEMAW COUNTY

Ogemaw County *(County)*

Ordinance / Policy Name & Citation	Ogemaw County Zoning Ordinance (orig. July 1997; amended through May 2025), Section 2.1 Jurisdiction
Key Provisions	County ordinance's jurisdiction covers all land outside incorporated cities/villages including Edwards Township and excluding West Branch Township "Junk Yard/Scrap Yard" and "Recycling Center" are defined, distinct land-use terms. Recycling Center is defined as a building in which used material is separated and processed prior to shipment for use in the manufacturing of new products. A recycling center is distinct from a junkyard or a salvage yard. Waste disposal facilities, including incinerators and sanitary landfills, require a Special Land Use Permit.
Source	ocmi.us/wp-content/uploads/Zoning-Ordinance.pdf

OSCEOLA COUNTY

Burdell Township *(Township)*

Ordinance / Policy Name & Citation	Burdell Township Zoning Ordinance, Section 4.6(B)(15) (2025)
Key Provisions	"Junk yards and recycling yard" permitted only by Special Use Permit in the C-1 Commercial/Light Industrial District; ordinance separately defines "Junkyard or recycling yard," expressly excluding residential recyclable drop-off stations
Source	https://cms4files.revize.com/osceolami/Township_Burdell/2025%20Burdell%20Twp%20-%20Zoning%20Ordinance%20(for%20printing).pdf?t=202508220908570

Highland Township *(Township)*

Ordinance / Policy Name & Citation	Zoning Ordinance of Highland Township, Osceola County, Michigan (2010, as amended through 5-22-2025), Sections 3.12, 3.33-3.34, 3.52
Key Provisions	Agricultural District (3.12): Special Use Permit required for "Sanitary landfill," "Waste treatment or disposal plants," "Auto salvage yards." Commercial District (3.33): Special Use Permit for "Junk and Salvage Yards" (defined 3.34). Industrial District (3.52): permitted use includes "Reduction, conversion, & disposal of waste materials, but not as dumps."
Source	https://cms4files.revize.com/osceolami/Township_Highland/2025%20Zoning%20Ordinance%20of%20Highland%20Township.pdf?t=202505281100560

LeRoy Township *(Township)*

Ordinance / Policy Name & Citation	LeRoy Township Zoning Ordinance (2005) and 2021 Amendment, Sections 10.304(h), 10.501, 10.704, Section 16 (definitions)
Key Provisions	Recycling centers designed and intended to serve the convenience needs of the people residing in a Multiple Use Development are allowed as an accessory and associated use.

Source	leroytwposceola.org/zoning-ordinances/

Reed City *(City)*

Ordinance / Policy Name & Citation	Reed City Code of Ordinances, Part Twelve (Planning & Zoning)
Key Provisions	Industrial District only: Special Land Use Permit required for "Municipally operated sanitary landfills." Sanitary landfill standards (1274.09(p)): 50-ft setback from Residential District, no burning of waste.
Source	codelibrary.amlegal.com/codes/reedcity/latest/reedcity_mi/0-0-0-4377

Richmond Township *(Township)*

Ordinance / Policy Name & Citation	Richmond Township Zoning Ordinance (internally dated May 2013), Table 6 (Industrial District), Ch. 4 Section 4.1(a)(2), definitions
Key Provisions	Definitions include "Sanitary Landfill," and "Solid Waste Transfer Station". Industrial District Special Land Uses: "Junkyards, scrap, salvage yards and landfills"; "Reduction, conversion and disposal of waste goods and materials" - all require a Special Land Use Permit. Industrial District setbacks: front 50 ft/side 30 ft/rear 50 ft.
Source	https://cms4files.revize.com/osceolami/Township_Richmond/Richmond_Township_Zoning_Ordinance%2020240702.pdf?t=202407021229400

Appendix K – Benchmark Recycling Standards

MCL 324.11502(6): *Benchmark Recycling Standards* is a minimum access requirement that requires the following:

(a) By January 1, 2026, at least 90% of single-family dwellings in urban areas as identified by the most recent federal decennial census and, by January 1, 2028, at least 90% of single-family dwellings in municipalities with more than 5,000 residents have access to curbside recycling that meets all of the following criteria:

- (i) One or more recyclable materials, as determined by the county's material management plan, that are typically collected through curbside recycling programs, are collected at least twice per month.
- (ii) If recyclable materials are not collected separately, the mixed load is delivered to a solid waste processing and transfer facility and the recyclable materials are separated from material to be sent to a solid waste disposal area.
- (iii) Recyclable materials collected are delivered to a materials recovery facility that complies with part 115 or are managed appropriately at an out-of-state recycling facility.
- (iv) The curbside recycling is provided by the municipality or the resident has access to curbside recycling by the resident's chosen hauler.

(b) By January 1, 2032, the following additional criteria:

- (i) In counties with a population of less than 100,000, there is at least one drop-off location for each 10,000 residents without access to curbside recycling at their dwelling, and the drop-off location is available at least 24 hours per month.
- (ii) In counties with a population of 100,000 or more, there is at least one drop-off location for each 50,000 residents without access to curbside recycling at their dwelling, and the drop-off location is available at least 24 hours per month.