

CASS COUNTY

PROFILE | FEBRUARY 2023



MICHIGAN DEPARTMENT OF
ENVIRONMENT, GREAT LAKES, AND ENERGY

OVERVIEW

Michigan Department of Environment, Great Lakes, and Energy (EGLE) has shifted their focus from disposal as the primary effort towards a circular economy where all waste materials find their highest and best use. Michigan took its first steps towards materials management a few years ago by securing funding to support an economy that reuses and recycles resources. An important component of that funding is for Solid Waste Management Planning – also referred to as Materials Management Planning. Materials management plans form the foundation of the changes the state is preparing to make.

To support this new era of materials management and future planning activities, EGLE initiated a massive data collection project to document and inventory the current state of materials management systems in all municipalities within Michigan's 83 counties. The primary objective of the Michigan Materials Management Infrastructure and Program project, also known as Mega Data, is to provide the baseline of data necessary for counties to develop future materials management plans and provide a roadmap for materials management moving forward. The data collected through the project would also be applied to the Benchmark Recycling Standard analysis developed by EGLE to help understand access to recycling services in the state, where gaps exist, and where EGLE may focus their support to improve access and infrastructure in the state.

EGLE contracted with Resource Recycling Systems (RRS) to support this large undertaking to gather, compile and analyze information from across the state.

PURPOSE OF THE COUNTY PROFILE

The County Profile was developed for two purposes. First, the profiles provided the opportunity to summarize all the information collected for all 83 counties and their municipalities to date as a project milestone. Second, despite the extensive research and information collection, RRS acknowledges that the information presented here may be incomplete. The County Profiles offered the opportunity for each county to review, edit and add to their county's profile information before finalizing as a deliverable for the Mega Data project. Later in the process, EGLE added the review of the County Profile as a requirement of the Materials Management County Engagement Grants (MMCE).

COUNTY PROFILE DEVELOPMENT

The County Profiles contain information that reflects research and outreach to understand programs and services available at the county and municipal levels. The information summarized here corresponds to information required in the state's Solid Waste Management Plan format and will assist counties and designated planning agencies with plan development. This profile focuses on residential programs and services. The information for the Profiles was collected from the following sources:

- Approved Solid Waste Management Plans
- EGLE's Waste Data System (WDS)
- EGLE's Recycle Search tool
- EGLE's Recycling Specialist staff
- Interviews with County program coordinators and designated planning agents
- County Run Measurement Program Survey via ReTRAC
- Municipal Measurement Program Survey via ReTRAC
- Information obtained through Freedom of Information Act requests
- Direct outreach through phone calls, emails, and letters to all target audiences and related groups or organizations with access to target audiences

- Web research
- Participation by Counties in the MMCE Grant Program

DISCLAIMER

This information presented here was gathered and compiled over several years by RRS on behalf of EGLE for the Mega Data project. The profile was originally developed as a tool to summarize information collected and engage counties in review of the information for finalization. The profile is not intended for use as a reference guide for residents or purposes other than to provide counties with information to support future materials management planning. Information, programs, and services can change frequently and therefore information presented here may be out of date. If information has been omitted or requires update, please contact RRS at alynott@recycle.com.

ACCESS AND COLLECTION

COUNTY PROGRAM OVERVIEW

Cass County provides an annual household hazardous waste collection event for residents. These collection events may also include tires and electronic waste.

MUNICIPAL PROGRAM AND SERVICES OVERVIEW

Programs and services offered or provided by municipalities for their residents are summarized by material type and then in two tables. One table features curbside services, and the other table features drop-off services. Programs and services are offered by a different entity other than the municipality and are noted in the tables.

TRASH

About 11% of Cass County's population has access to curbside trash service through contracted haulers. Pokagon Township's population has access to permanent drop-off trash services at their municipally run transfer station.

RECYCLING

The same communities with access to curbside trash service have access to curbside recycling service through contracted haulers. Materials collected through the curbside recycling programs include paper, cardboard, mixed plastics, metals, and some glass. There are no permanent recycling drop-off locations in the county; however, residents may opt to haul recycling to the Fabius Township recycling drop-off in neighboring St. Joseph County for \$1 per visit.

YARD WASTE

Common yard waste materials, including brush and leaves, are collected curbside in several communities. About 16% of the county's population has access to this service through municipal haulers, while 3% have access through contracted haulers. There are currently no yard waste drop-off locations in the county.

HOUSEHOLD HAZARDOUS WASTE

Cass County hosts a temporary drop-off for household hazardous waste (HHW) annually. Materials accepted include anti-freeze, mercury, batteries, oil-based paint, lawn chemicals, household cleaners, fluorescent bulbs, fuel tanks, and aerosol cans.

OTHER

No information obtained about Other programs.

LIST OF ACTIVE HAULERS

- Borden Waste Away
- Michiana Recycling and Disposal Services
- Municipal

CURBSIDE SERVICES BY COMMUNITY

MUNICIPALITY NAME	TRASH COLLECTOR	RECYCLING COLLECTOR	YARD WASTE COLLECTOR	OTHER CURBSIDE SERVICES
Calvin township				
Cassopolis village	Michiana Recycling and Disposal Services	Michiana Recycling and Disposal Services	Michiana Recycling and Disposal Services	
Dowagiac city			Dowagiac City	
Edwardsburg village	Borden Waste Away	Borden Waste Away	Edwardsburg Village	
Howard township				
Jefferson township				
Marcellus village	Michiana Recycling and Disposal Services	Michiana Recycling and Disposal Services	Village of Marcellus DPW	
Mason township				
Milton township				
Newberg township				
Niles city (part)				
Pokagon township				
Porter township				
LaGrange township				
Marcellus township	Michiana Recycling and Disposal Services	Michiana Recycling and Disposal Services		
Ontwa township				
Penn township				
Silver Creek township				
Vandalia village				

Volinia township				
Wayne township				

DROP-OFF SERVICES BY COMMUNITY

MUNICIPALITY NAME	TRASH DROP-OFF SERVICES (PERMANENT)	RECYCLING DROP-OFF SERVICES (PERMANENT)	YARD WASTE OR OTHER ORGANICS DROP-OFF (PERMANENT)	OTHER PERMANENT DROP-OFF SERVICES	TEMPORARY DROP-OFF SERVICES
All municipalities					Cass County Household Hazardous Waste Collection

FACILITIES

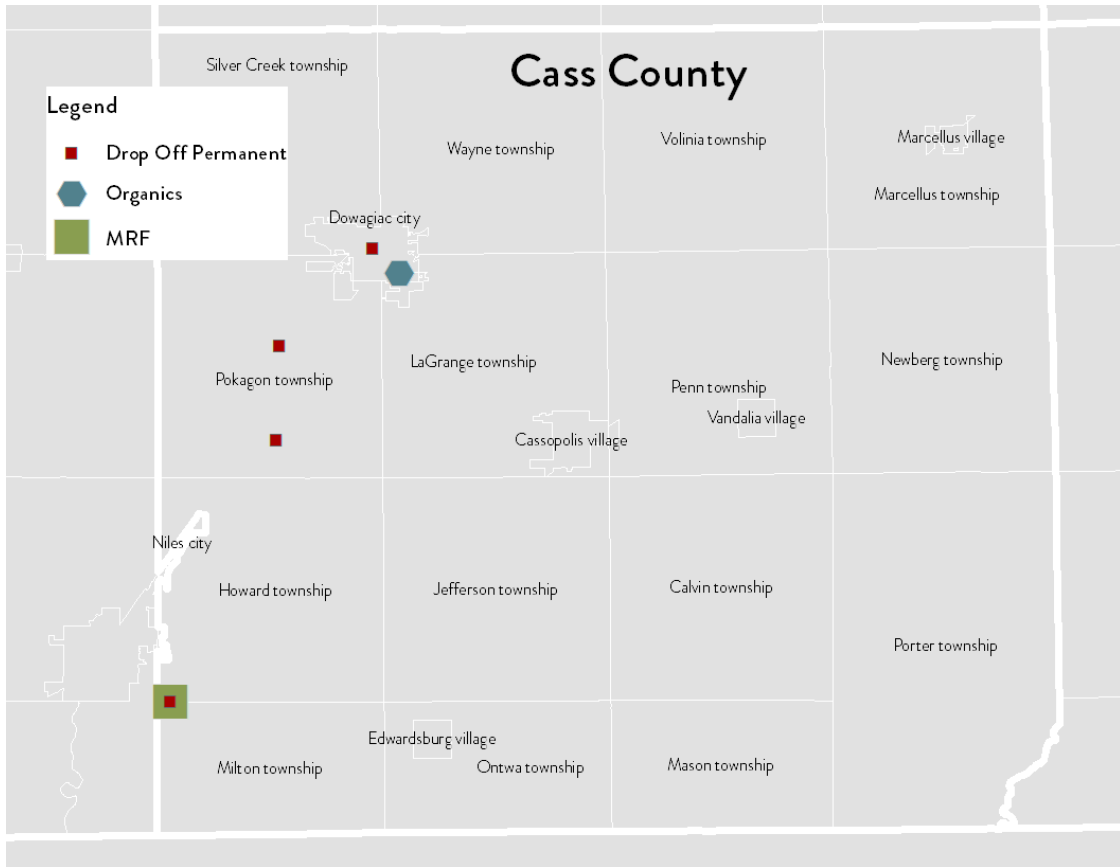
MATERIALS MANAGEMENT FACILITIES IN COUNTY

FACILITY SUMMARY TABLE

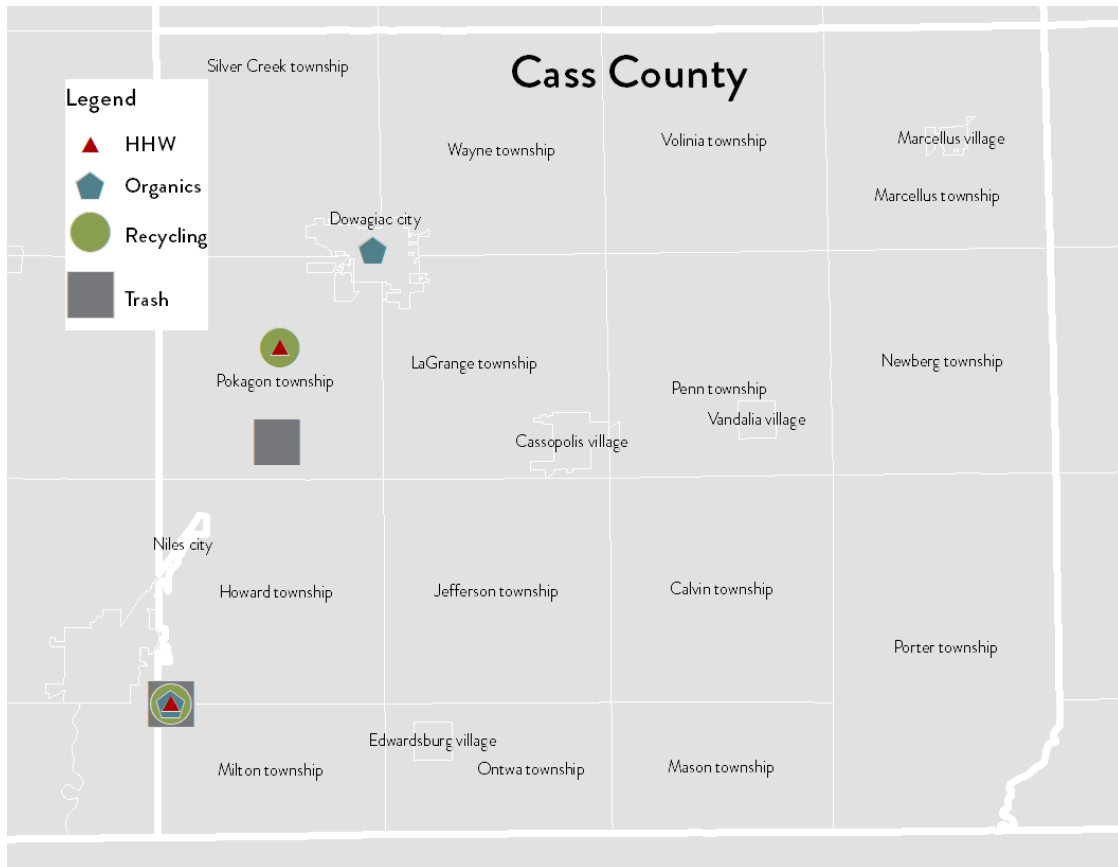
FACILITY TYPE	FACILITY NAME	FACILITY ADDRESS	CITY	PERMANENT OR TEMPORARY
Compost (Yard Waste)	City of Dowagiac Compost Site	513 Riverside Dr.	Dowagiac	
Drop-off (O)	City of Dowagiac Compost Site		Dowagiac	Permanent Drop-off
Drop-off (WDC, T, NT)	Padnos - Dowagiac Sustainable Recycling Center	30750 Edwards Street	Dowagiac	Permanent Drop-off
Drop-off (T, O, C&D, WDC, B, NT)	Michiana Recycling and Disposal Company	33541 Reum Road	Niles	Permanent Drop-off
Drop-off (B)	Pokagon Township Transfer Station	30783 Pokagon Hwy	Dowagiac	Permanent Drop-off
MRF	Michiana Recycling and Disposal	33541 Reum Road	Niles	
End Market	Hydro Aluminum - Cassopolis		Cassopolis	

Drop-off Facility Types: B = Transfer Station Type B; C&D = Construction & Demolition; NT = Source-Separated Recycling Drop-off Non-Traditional; T = Source-Separated Recycling Traditional; O = Organics; WDC = Waste Diversion Center

FACILITY SUMMARY MAP



FACILITY BY MATERIAL TYPE



POLICY

MUNICIPAL ORDINANCES

Municipality	Policy type	Requirement
Cassopolis village	Ordinance	Collection and disposal of waste, exclusions, exclusive hauler contract, prohibited materials, container specifications, prohibition of scavenging, establishment of rates and billing
Edwardsburg village	Ordinance	Collection and disposal of waste, licensure of haulers, waste restrictions, establishment and payment of rates
Marcellus village	Ordinance	Collection and disposal of waste, establishment and payment of rates, fees, and charges, container specifications, collection practices, contractual requirements and award process, appeals, refuse incineration control, misdemeanor penalty, Can for Waste; Recycling Container Location;

MUNICIPAL FUNDING MECHANISMS

Municipality	Waste Collection	Recycling Collection	Organics Collection	Bulky Item Collection
Marcellus village	Municipal Utility/Service Fees	Municipal Utility/Service Fees		

COUNTY ORDINANCES

No county ordinances obtained.

COUNTY FUNDING MECHANISMS

No county funding mechanisms obtained.

DATA

REPORTED DATA

No reported data.

RESIDENTIAL WASTE PROJECTIONS

Municipality	Population	Total Waste Generation (Tons) ¹	Total Recyclable Diversion (Tons)	Total Organics Diversion (Tons)	Total Requiring Disposal (Tons)
Calvin township	1,822	826	59	69	697
Cassopolis village	1,684	709	0	64	644
Dowagiac city	5,695	2,581	185	217	2,179
Edwardsburg village	1,115	557	88	43	427
Howard township	6,083	2,559	0	232	2,328
Jefferson township	2,539	1,068	0	97	972
LaGrange township	1,712	776	56	65	655
Marcellus township	1,127	535	61	43	431
Marcellus village	1,140	542	62	43	436
Mason township	2,958	1,245	0	113	1,132
Milton township	3,912	1,646	0	149	1,497
Newberg township	1,737	867	136	66	665
Ontwa township	5,423	2,282	0	207	2,075
Penn township	1,699	715	0	65	650
Pokagon township	1,952	821	0	74	747
Porter township	3,815	1,605	0	145	1,460
Silver Creek township	3,156	1,430	102	120	1,208
Vandalia village	387	163	0	15	148
Volinia township	1,061	446	0	40	406
Wayne township	2,596	1,092	0	99	993
Calvin township	1,822	826	59	69	697
Cassopolis village	1,684	709	0	64	644
Dowagiac city	5,695	2,581	185	217	2,179
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¹ Due to rounding, total waste generation tonnages may not equal the sum of the total diversion and disposal tonnages.

Ontwa township	5,423	2,282	0	207	2,075
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Pokagon township	1,952	821	0	74	747
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Silver Creek township	3,156	1,430	102	120	1,208
Vandalia village	387	163	0	15	148
Volinia township	1,061	446	0	40	406
Wayne township	2,596	1,092	0	99	993
TOTAL	103,226	44,930	1,498	3,932	39,500

COMMERCIAL WASTE PROJECTIONS

County	Approximate Number of Employees	Total Waste Generation (Tons)	Total Diversion (Tons)	Total Requiring Disposal (Tons)
Cass	6,571	9,559	1,118	8,441

TOTAL WASTE GENERATED PROJECTIONS

County	Total Waste Generation (Tons) ¹	Total Diversion (Tons)	Total Requiring Disposal (Tons)
Cass	32,025	3,835	28,190