

State of Recycling in Arkansas—2011

December 2011

Arkansas Department of Environmental Quality



As used in this report, “2011” means the period from July 1, 2010, to June 30, 2011.

Inside this issue:

Recycling Grants Program Update	2
Recycling Grants Statistics	2
Materials Recycled	3
Apples to Oranges Numbers	4
Computer and Electronic Recycling Grants	4

Economic Impact of Recycling

The economy seems to be on everyone’s mind these days. Did you ever stop to think about the economic impact of recycling?

The Institute of Scrap Recycling Industries (ISRI), the national trade association representing scrap recycling facilities, has. ISRI commissioned a study to quantify the impact recycling has on the United States’ economy. The report, produced by John Durham and Associates, also includes state-specific information.



Recycling industries contribute to the state’s economy in many ways.

According to the report, Arkansas supports 1,270 jobs directly related to the scrap recycling industry. An additional

2,030 jobs in Arkansas are related to recycling through suppliers and industry expenditures. In addition, the industry

generates \$19.7 million in tax revenues for state and local governments.

Another report, from the Southeast Recycling Development Council (SERDC), also looked at the economic impacts of recycling in Arkansas. According to SERDC, if the state recycled just 10% more municipal solid waste each year,

620 new jobs would be created. This would result in an additional \$1.3 million in annual state tax revenue.

Right Direction/Wrong Direction

In 2010, Arkansans recycled a total of 1,479,088 tons. The total was 1,601,015 in 2011, a 8% increase.

The recycling rate in 2010 was 32.1%; in 2011 it is 31.4%. How can the recycling rate

decrease when the tons recycled increased? The answer lies in the landfill.

While the tons of material recycled increased, the tons of material landfilled increased faster (12%). An increase is

the right direction for recycling, but the wrong direction for landfilling.

To increase the recycling rate, all Arkansans need to put more in the recycling bin and less in the trash can.



Recycling Grants Program Update

It's been an exciting year for the Arkansas Recycling Grants Program. The ADEQ Recycling/Market Development Branch staff has worked to clarify program requirements and to increase ease of access to the program information.

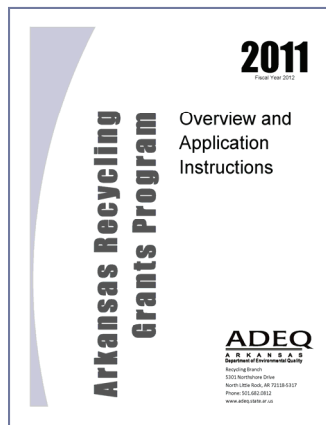
Major projects during the year included:

- Setting specific dates for various program deadlines
- Developing new forms and guidance for the program
- Giving the public access to forms and guidance through the ADEQ web site (www.adeg.state.ar.us/solwaste/branch_recycling/grants.htm)
- Providing training about the grants program, including its history and requirements
- Working on a new database for the grants program, including entering information and designing reports that compile this information in a variety of ways
- Giving the public access to information from this database through the ADEQ web site (www.adeg.state.ar.us/solwaste/branch_recycling/grants.asp.)

While all of these projects enhance the program, we are especially proud of the new database. It currently contains information about all grants since 2004.

Having this information in a database allows us to easily track the accomplishments of the Recycling Grants Program. It also provides reports that branch staff and regional solid waste management districts can use to audit equipment and expenditures, as well as keep track of items required by statute or regulation.

It's been a busy year, but the results are worth it. We're looking forward to continuing the progress in 2012.



All new forms and guidance documents follow a similar format.

The \$3.6 million disbursed from 2010 grant funds supports recycling projects with total costs estimated at nearly \$10 million.

Recycling Grants Statistics

More than \$4.1 million was allocated to the 18 regional solid waste management districts for the 2010 grant round. (Grant round year runs a year behind the state fiscal year.) Of this, \$3.6 million has been distributed through 127 grants to districts, cities, counties and recycling facili-

ties statewide. This investment will support projects with total costs projected at nearly \$10 million. Grant recipients provide the balance of funds for these projects, \$6.4 million in this case.

During the past five grant rounds (2006—2010), nearly \$18.4 million has been dis-

tributed through 686 grants. Projected total cost of the supported projects is nearly \$53.3 million.

Grant recipients reported recycling 866,674.5 tons of materials in 2011. The sale of these materials provided nearly \$8.4 million to support community recycling programs.



Materials Recycled 2011

Material	Weight in Tons
Batteries	8,713
Electronic Waste	7,265
Glass	18,406
Household Hazardous Waste	969
Metals	1,079,011
Aluminum Cans/Non-ferrous—Aluminum, Brass, Copper	138,967
Ferrous—Steel and Iron	849,193
White Goods (Ferrous)	86,193
Other	4,658
Oil (motor, cooking)	27,541
Paper	211,989
Cardboard	126,086
Magazines/Mixed Paper	12,354
Newsprint	20,990
Sorted Office Paper	43,020
Sorted White Ledger	1,385
Other	8,154
Plastic	68,317
HDPE (High Density Polyethylene)	4,308
LDPE (Low Density Polyethylene)	916
PET (Polyethylene Terephthalate)	6,488
Poly Pipe	39,994
Other	16,611
Textiles & Leather	707
Tires & Rubber	12,569
Wood Waste	60,104
Yard Wastes	105,424
Total	1,601,015

Tons Landfilled = 3,504,957

Tons Recycled = 1,601,015

Total Waste Stream (Tons) = Tons Landfilled + Tons Recycled = 5,105,972

Tons Recycled/Total Waste Stream x 100 = **Recycling Rate = 31.4%**

Arkansas also reclaimed 47,270 tons of Tire Derived Fuel, 59,944 tons of asphalt and 355,468 tons of road material (not included in above totals).



**Arkansas Department of
Environmental Quality**

5301 Northshore Dr.
North Little Rock, AR 72118-5317

Director

Teresa Marks

Deputy Director

Karen Bassett

Solid Waste Mgmt Division Chief

Roger Lawrence

Recycling/Market Development

Branch Manager

Robert Hunter

www.adeq.state.ar.us

Computer and Electronic Equipment Recycling



Brian Pugh helps unload a TV at an e-waste recycling event in northwest Arkansas.

The use and disposal of electronic items has increased exponentially during the last decade, and used electronic equipment is now the most rapidly growing segment of the municipal solid waste stream. To help build the infrastructure needed to handle used electronics, Arkansas legislators have enacted two key pieces of legislation for funding.

Both the E-Waste Grants Program and the Arkansas Computer and Electronic Equipment Recycling Program (formerly E-WEN) are administered by the

Recycling Branch of ADEQ's Solid Waste Management Division. The first, the E-Waste Grants Program, is open to both public and private programs while the second, the Arkansas Computer and Electronic Equipment Recycling Program, is open only to public programs.

E-Waste grants were first awarded in 2006 to find ways to properly manage computers and other used electronics statewide. In 2010, almost \$113,000 was awarded to eight recipients.

Economic conditions in recent years prompted legislators to enact a second grants program to assist public programs with transportation costs associated with recycling used electronics. This "eminent need" funding was authorized on a temporary basis, while a long-term solution is planned.

Now in its third year, the Arkansas Computer and Electronic Equipment Recycling Program awarded almost \$625,000 in 2010. This fiscal year, \$2.5 million is available for awards, and project categories have expanded.