

# STATE OF RECYCLING IN ARKANSAS - 2000

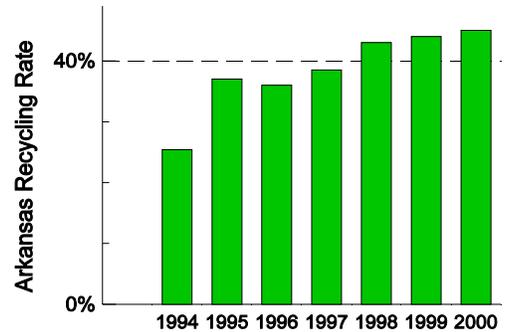
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Arkansas Department of Environmental Quality

July 2001

# State of Recycling In Arkansas - 2000

Arkansas remains ahead of the 2000 state recycling goal of 40 percent by increasing the amount of materials diverted from Arkansas landfills to 44.3 percent. Increased interest from citizens, elected officials, businesses and industries continues to fuel the drive to find ways for Arkansas to be less dependent upon solid waste landfills. Contributing to the state's success are maturing community recycling programs, additional business and industrial participation, public awareness campaigns and diversion savings by choosing alternative waste disposal over traditional land filling.



## CHALLENGES

With relatively low landfill tipping fees and weak resale markets for collected recyclable materials, it is difficult to maintain a positive attitude toward recycling. Frustrated with markets, many of our traditional public and private recycling entities have turned to new marketing tools and reexamined their collection and processing methods. Many are evaluating their solid waste streams, looking for non-traditional materials that can be recycled. This past year saw a stronger interest in recycling programs that included electronics, composting and household chemical collection programs. Arkansas is moving ahead!

## NEW GOALS

The Arkansas Legislature had the foresight to view solid waste disposal as an issue, and in 1991 proposed the goal that Arkansas recycle the equivalent of 40 percent of its 1991 waste stream by the year 2000. Act 749 of 1991 made it the policy of the state "to encourage and promote recycling in order to conserve natural resources, conserve energy and preserve landfill space."



Arkansans accepted the challenge, exceeding the 2000 recycling goal in 1998, and continued to improve with a 1999 recycling rate of 43 percent. During the 83<sup>rd</sup> General Assembly, the Legislature extended the previous efforts with new goals for waste reduction. Act 90 challenges Arkansans to work together for waste reduction by recycling 40 percent of our municipal solid waste by 2005 and 45 percent by 2010. All measurements will be based upon the actual amount of solid waste collected in the surveyed year.

## **COOPERATIVE EFFORT**

Cooperation among many different entities has been the cornerstone of Arkansas' recycling success, and the Arkansas Department of Environmental Quality continues to explore new partnership opportunities. Federal, state and local government agencies; elected officials; regional solid waste management districts; public and private schools and universities; businesses and industries; non-profit organizations; professional associations; recycling advocacy groups; and concerned citizens all pitch in to make recycling work in Arkansas. This spirit of cooperation has amplified individual efforts, allowing Arkansas to reach past recycling goals without government mandates, and is critical to meeting our new recycling goals.

## **ADEQ ACTIVITIES**

The ADEQ Solid Waste Management Division's Recycling Section offers a variety of programs designed to foster responsible solid waste management in all sectors of the state. Technical assistance is provided for developing, improving and promoting solid waste management programs focused on source reduction, reuse and recycling. Educational programs, running the gamut from classroom presentations to publications, help everyone from preschoolers to senior citizens understand the need to manage our solid waste and the management options available. The Solid Waste Management and Recycling Grants provide funding to help communities develop local recycling programs. All these activities combine to provide a recycling infrastructure capable of responsibly handling Arkansas' solid waste and a citizenry dedicated to doing so.

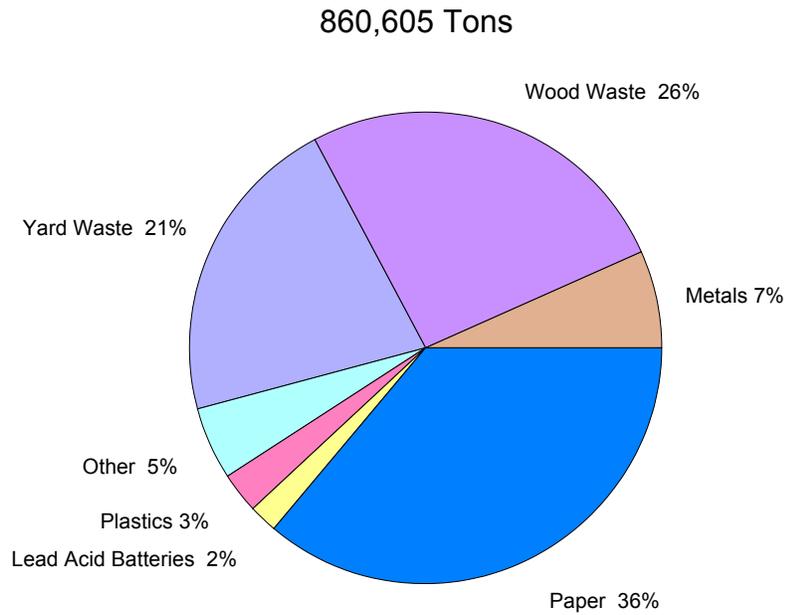
## **RECYCLING GRANTS TO COMMUNITIES**

Six hundred and fifty-one recycling grants have been awarded to communities over the past seven years. With investments of almost \$2.6 million annually for a total of more than \$17.3 million, citizens, businesses, schools and industries in all 75 counties have the opportunity to reduce waste by making the choice to recycle at more than 200 public recycling centers. During these seven years, recycling has diverted nearly 5.2 million tons of waste from Arkansas landfills - nearly 4100 pounds for every Arkansan. In 2000 Arkansas recycled 860,605 tons, saving nearly \$26 million in landfill disposal costs and averaging 688 pounds per person recycled.

In 2000, the direct economic benefits from the recycling grants program continued to increase. Of the \$16.8 million granted, more than \$14 million has been expended with a direct economic benefit of nearly \$20 million to the citizens of Arkansas. For each dollar expended by the program, citizens have realized a direct return of \$1.66 and nearly 80 pounds of waste recycled.

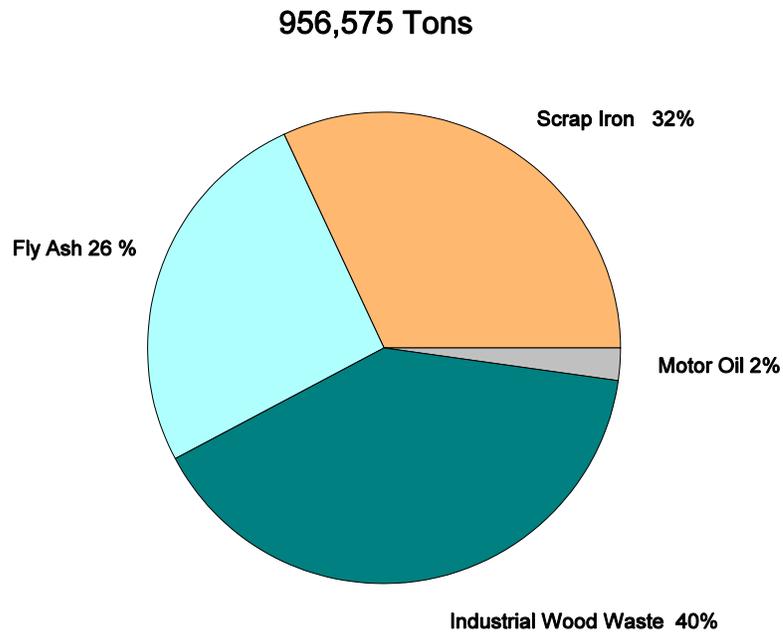
# TRADITIONAL RECYCLED WASTES

(COUNTED IN CALCULATING ARKANSAS RECYCLING RATE)



# NON-TRADITIONAL RECYCLED WASTES

(NOT COUNTED IN CALCULATING ARKANSAS RECYCLING RATE)



# Arkansas Recycled Materials - 2000

MATERIAL	* WEIGHT (tons)
<b>Lead Acid Batteries</b>	<b>15,578</b>
<b>Metals</b>	<b>65,735</b>
White Goods (discarded appliances, etc.)	55,707
Aluminum cans	7,439
Oil Filters	675
Steel Cans	1,914
<b>Pallets and Other Wood Waste</b>	<b>225,079</b>
<b>Paper</b>	<b>308,861</b>
Cardboard	205,909
Mixed Paper	43,475
White Ledger	8,247
News Print	22,436
Colored Ledger	1,953
Computer print out	742
Magazines/phone books	457
Other Paper (hard white shavings, plastic coated, etc.)	25,642
<b>Plastics</b>	<b>21,958</b>
Carpet Padding	12,750
Agricultural Containers	189
HDPE (High Density Polyethylene)	1,764
Poly pipe	2,520
LDPE (Low Density Polyethylene)	2,503
PET (Polyethylene)	1,014
Other Plastic	1,218
<b>Yard Waste</b>	<b>180,289</b>
<b>Other</b>	<b>43,105</b>
Unclassified (teflon, fluorescent lamps, etc.)	12,631
Tires	15,108
Glass	2,494
Antifreeze	89
Rubber	2,289
Cooking oil	9,953
Textiles and Leather	541
<hr/> <b>TOTAL</b>	<hr/> <b>860,605</b>

860,605 tons recycled in 2000  
 1,941,363 tons (1991 Municipal solid waste stream) = 44.3 percent recycling rate

Additionally, the following materials were recycled, but were not included as part of the recycling rate calculation, since these materials have not traditionally been landfilled.:

Ferrous Metals (Scrap Iron)	278,318
Fly/bottom ash	247,331
Non-ferrous metals	27,737
Used Motor Oil	21,189
Industrial Wood Wastes (Sawdust, Wood Scrap, etc.)	382,000

\*All reported quantities were determined by direct survey of municipal, commercial and industrial recyclers.