



STATE OF RECYCLING IN ARKANSAS—2010

Arkansas Department of Environmental Quality

December 2010

Down, But Not Out

The economic downturn since late 2008 has impacted and continues to impact the amount of material recycled in the state. The state's recycling rate dropped from 45% last year (the 2010 goal) to 32% this year, while the amount recycled dropped from more than 3 million tons to less than 1.5 million tons.

In a bad economy, people tend to consume less and keep items longer.

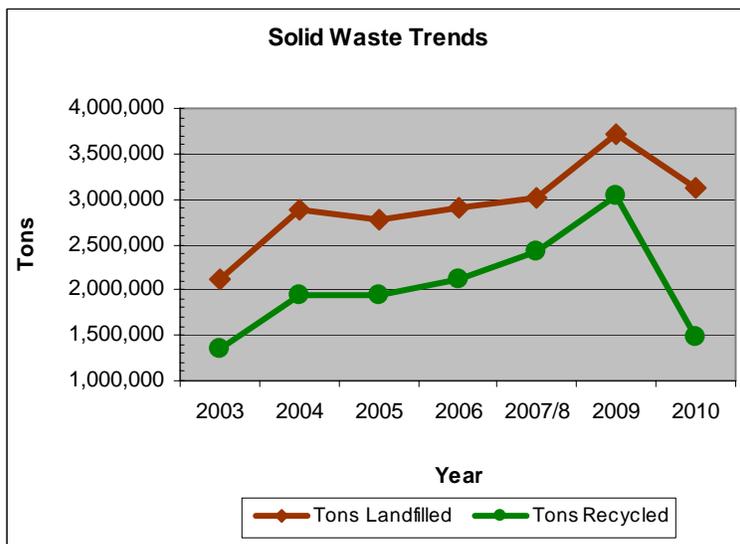
With reduced purchasing, waste to be recycled or thrown away also declines. The decrease in tons landfilled in the state (3.1 million vs. 3.7 million in 2009) after years of steady increases, indicates that this is at least part of the reason for recycling's slide.

However, the Solid Waste Trends graph shows that the drop in tons recycled is much steeper than the drop in tons landfilled. In fact, the decrease in tons recycled from 2009 to 2010 is more than 2.5 times the decrease in tons landfilled.

Because prices paid for materials dropped so low, some facilities chose to ability to collect, process and market materials. If this is the case, an improving economy may help them rebuild and improve their programs. Unfortunately, this takes time, so we might not see results for several years.

Although recycling numbers are down, the public continues to support a strong commitment to recycling in the state. This year's tonnage is more than double what we recycled 15 years ago. We've slipped

back to slightly more (about 10%) than what we recycled in 2003, but we can rebound. As long as we have individuals, elected officials, businesses, institutions, communities, solid waste districts and state government committed to and working for it, the future of recycling in Arkansas remains bright.



budgetary constraints have forced some facilities to reduce their costs of doing business. These cuts may have impacted their

hold materials until prices rebounded. While we don't know how many facilities took this route, we know that some did. The 2011 numbers will help us get a feeling for how much of a role this played.

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As used in this report, "2010" means the period from July 1, 2009, to June 30, 2010.

By the Numbers

- Amount Recycled = nearly 1.5 million tons
- Nearly 12% comes from community programs
- Approximately 88% comes from businesses
- Total Waste Stream = more than 4.6 million tons
- Recycling Rate = 32.09%



Branch Activities

The Arkansas Department of Environmental Quality is charged with administering solid waste management programs in the state. The Recycling/Market Development Branch focuses on recycling and other waste reduction activities, providing technical assistance and educational programs throughout the state. The Branch also administers the Recycling Grants and Recycling Equipment Tax Credit programs.

On the Recycling side, major projects for the year included responsibility for the Solid Waste Management and Recycling Grants program and working with the Department of Finance and Administration to revise the recycling program for state agencies. On-

going major projects included working with stakeholders to plan for the future management of waste electronics and working to develop a statewide solid waste management curriculum. In addition, Recycling staff members gave more than 200 educational presentations reaching at least 3,500 Arkansans, including a radio appearance on KUAR's *Yesterday, Today and Tomorrow*. Presentations included conducting nine full- or half-day environmental education workshops for teachers and two recycling center training events.

On the Market Development side, major work focused on the Recycling Equipment Tax Credit Program and the Arkansas Marketing Board for

Recyclables. The Recycling Equipment Tax Credit Program provides a state income tax credit to Arkansas businesses that invest in recycling. The Market Development Section processed 44 tax credits for more than \$173 million worth of recycling equipment during this reporting period. The section also planned and conducted four meetings in various areas of the state for the State Marketing Board for Recyclables. Other activities included participation in business expos, conferences, training sessions, Webinars and a Buyer's Summit, as well as meetings with businesses and tours of facilities to assess and assist with recycling efforts.

Grants Programs

The Solid Waste Management and Recycling Grants program provides funding (from a fee collected on solid waste generated in the state) for a variety of recycling, composting and other waste reduction programs and projects throughout the state. More than \$3.8 million was distributed through 139 grants in the 2009 grant round (from FY 2010 funds).

The Arkansas Legislature created the Recycling Grants as a funding mechanism to help establish recycling and composting programs and educate the citizens about solid waste management. Due in large part to the Recycling Grants program, recycling opportunities exist in all 75 of the state's counties. However, a review of the program and the results it has produced shows that there is room for improvement.

During the year, the Recycling/Market Development Branch staff has worked to understand the current status of the recycling grants program and to develop plans to increase the benefits received through it. This effort to reinvigorate the program will continue in 2011 and beyond.

Change does not occur overnight, especially when you set your sights high. Through the cooperative efforts of the agency, regional solid waste management districts and elected officials, Arkansas can see marked increases in both convenient recycling opportunities and diversion of waste from landfills.

The Solid Waste Management Division also administers two additional grant programs to assist with recycling efforts in the state:

- The Computer and Electronic Recycling Fund (a portion of the revenue from sales of surplus state-owned electronic equipment) provides grants for development and promotion of environmentally responsible methods of managing electronic waste. In 2010, ADEQ approved 16 grants totaling \$101,952 for e-waste recycling projects.
- An emergency grant program (funded by a fee on solid waste disposed of in Arkansas municipal landfills collected when the Landfill Post-Closure Trust fund reaches its \$25 million cap) to cover transportation costs for recycling of electronic wastes. The E-Waste Eminent Need (E-WEN) Recycling Grants Program

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Materials Recycled 2010

Material	Weight in Tons
Batteries	7,588
Electronic Waste	8,245
Glass	22,241
Household Hazardous Waste	605
Metals	1,026,421
Aluminum Cans/Non-ferrous—Aluminum, Brass, Copper	36,034
Ferrous—Steel and Iron	925,327
White Goods (Ferrous)	62,953
Other	2,107
Oil (motor, cooking)	33,304
Paper	153,617
Cardboard 91,23	4
Magazines/Mixed Paper	16,979
Newsprint 20,16	0
Sorted Office Paper	13,780
Sorted White Ledger	1,648
Other	9,816
Plastic	32,864
HDPE (High Density Polyethylene)	3,743
LDPE (Low Density Polyethylene)	1,813
PET (Polyethylene Terephthalate)	1,311
Poly Pipe	15,267
Other	10,730
Textiles & Leather	28,252
Tires & Rubber	2,976
Wood Waste	86,518
Yard Wastes	76,457
Total	1,479,088

Tons Landfilled = 3,130,548

Tons Recycled = 1,479,088

Total Waste Stream (Tons) = Tons Landfilled + Tons Recycled = 4,609,636

Tons Recycled/Total Waste Stream x 100 =

Recycling Rate = 32.09%

Arkansas also reclaimed 29,445 tons of Tire Derived Fuel, 45,000 tons of asphalt and 29,702 tons of road material (not included in above totals).

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Comparing the Numbers*

	Arkansas (2010)	United States (2008)
Solid Waste Generation (pounds/person/day)	8.7	4.5
Amount Recycled (pounds/person/day)	2.8	1.5
Recycling Rate (percentage of waste stream recycled)	32.1	33.2

*Please remember that comparing Arkansas's numbers to the national figures is like comparing apples to oranges. To find out why, see page 6 of the 2006 report – www.adeq.state.ar.us/solwaste/branch_recycling/pdfs/report_state_of_recycling_2006.pdf.
Note: EPA reports every two years. 2010 figures are not available yet.

Measuring Recycling

Every year since the mid-1990s, the Arkansas Department of Environmental Quality has reported on the tons of different materials recovered for recycling by facilities in the state. (See page 3 for this year's report.) Where do these numbers come from?

The raw data is collected from public, nonprofit and for-profit facilities throughout the state via an annual survey. The survey asks facilities about the materials they recycled during the previous 12 months. Data collected includes materials recycled, plus amount recycled and markets for each material.

Each facility is responsible for tracking and reporting its own data. ADEQ spot checks the reports, flags potential issues and confirms information with the facilities, making corrections as needed. Then all this information is entered into a database.

When the amounts reported as recycled are entered, the markets information is used to code it so that

some quantities are used in calculations and some are not. This is needed to avoid double counting materials that move through two or more facilities in the state. For example, if facility A markets aluminum to facility B and both facilities report aluminum to ADEQ, only facility B's aluminum is used in the report calculation. However, the data for aluminum recycling at both facilities is in the database.

The database provides a total amount recycled in the state for each material in the database. (We can also pull a variety of other reports from this data.) In reporting, we may combine two or more materials from the survey list. For instance, the survey lists "Batteries-Lead Acid from Vehicles" and "Batteries-Other," but the report combines this into "Batteries."

The recycling rate is calculated using this information and information from reports filed by landfills/waste haulers in the state. See page 3 for the formula used.

Grants Programs

(Continued from page 2)

is a temporary program to sustain e-waste recycling in the state as the state continues to work on a long-term solution for the management of electronic waste. More than \$520,000 was allocated to 17 regional solid waste management districts in 2010 through this program.

