

State of Recycling in Arkansas—2014

Reaching the Ideal

Arkansas reached a recycling milestone in 2014—the amount of material sent to landfills decreased while the amount of material recycled increased. In most years since the current recycling rate formula was implemented in 2001, the amount of waste being landfilled and the amount being recycled both went up or both went down. This year's more than 13 percent increase in material recycled and nearly 5 percent decrease in material landfilled pushed the recycling rate from 35 percent in 2013 to 39 percent in 2014.

An increase in tons recycled doesn't necessarily result in an increase in the recycling rate. This is because there are two components used to calculate the rate – the tons of material recycled and the tons of material landfilled. To increase the recycling rate, the percentage increase in tons recycled has to be greater than the percentage increase in tons landfilled.

Ideally, the tons recycled will increase and the tons landfilled will decrease.

As in other years, there were ups and downs in tons recycled when individual materials are considered. Of the big four material categories – paper, plastic, metal and glass – only plastic saw a decrease in tonnage this year. This is due to a 24 percent decrease in the amount of poly pipe reported. (Farmers did not need to irrigate because there was more than the normal amount of precipitation.)

The other categories of plastic all saw an increase in tons collected. When all categories and subcategories (see chart on page 3) are included, 15 saw increased tonnages while 11 saw decreased tonnages.

Of all the materials in the list, glass realized the greatest percentage increase from 2013 to 2014 (from 3,513 tons in 2013 to 9,532 tons in 2014, a 166 percent increase). Much of this can be attributed to a new market for glass that is working with facilities in the northern part of the state and a large recycling company collecting in central Arkansas. A number of facilities started taking glass because of these new opportunities. In addition, 75 percent of the facilities that reported glass in both 2013 and 2014 reported increased tonnages in 2014.

Thank you to everyone who recycled glass or other materials in the last year. Thank you also to those who found ways to throw away less. It's due to all of you that both components of the recycling rate are heading in the right direction. Keep up the good work.

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Recycling Grants Programs Update

The Arkansas Department of Environmental Quality administers three grants programs related to recycling: the Recycling Grants Program, the Arkansas Computer and Electronic Waste Recycling Grants Program and the E-Waste Recycling Grants Program. Since 2013, ADEQ has distributed funds for recycling to the 18 regional solid waste management districts (RSWMDs) based on a statutory formula. This distribution program replaced the Recycling Grants Program.

The **Recycling Grants Program**, initiated in 1991 and awarded through the RSWMDs since 1994, distributed funds to government entities (i.e., cities, counties, solid waste authorities, RSWMDs) and partnerships for projects and programs dealing with recycling, composting and waste reduction. Many recycling facilities in the state were developed and improved using recycling grant funds for buildings, equipment, signage, educational materials and other costs. Recycling grant funds also help many facilities continue to operate when the price they receive for the materials they sell drops dramatically. The program was discontinued in 2013, but past recipients are still spending the funds they received before then. Information about grants awarded is available through the Recycling Grants Database at www.adeq.state.ar.us/poa/branch_recycling/grants.aspx.

The **Recycling Distribution Program** disbursed a total of \$3,571,293 to the 18 regional solid waste management districts for 2014.

The **Arkansas Computer and Electronic Waste Recycling Grants Program**, begun in 2012 and awarded through the RSWMDs, distributes funds to government entities and partnerships for projects and programs aimed at keeping electronic waste out of landfills. These funds have been used to establish and run collection programs throughout the state. A total of \$2.4 million was awarded to 81 projects during the 2014 grant round. More information about the program is available at www.adeq.state.ar.us/poa/branch_recycling/e-waste-grants/computer_e-waste_recycling_grants_program.htm. These grants are also listed in the Recycling Grants Database mentioned in the Recycling Grants Program paragraph.

The **E-Waste Grants Program**, begun in 2006, also focuses on keeping electronic waste out of landfills, but that's where the similarities end. A competitive grants program open to private as well as public entities, the E-Waste Grants Program receives funds from the sale of state-owned computers that are no longer needed. Projects must fall into one of three categories, and recipients must spend funds within one year. Nine different programs received a total of \$250,000 during the last grant round for projects ranging from public awareness programs to collection events. More information is available at www.adeq.state.ar.us/poa/branch_recycling/e-waste-grants/e-waste_grants_program.htm.

Grant Statistics

Recycling Grants 1991-2012

Disbursed:	\$65,961,772
Recipients:	270
Projects:	2,303

Arkansas Computer and Electronic Waste Recycling Grants 2012-2014

Disbursed:	\$7,277,570
Recipients:	43
Projects:	276

E-Waste Grants 2006-2013

Disbursed:	\$1,621,093
Recipients:	54
Projects:	98

Recycling Distribution Program 2013-2014

Disbursed:	\$7,094,341
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Note: Grant years run from July 1 of the year listed to June 30 of the next year.

Materials Recycled 2014

Note: Businesses reported on calendar year 2013; municipal/nonprofit programs, on fiscal year 2014 (7/1/13-6/30/14).

<i>Material</i>	<i>Weight in Tons</i>
Batteries	8,561
Electronic Waste	2,919
Glass	9,352
Household Hazardous Waste	910
Metals	1,494,092
Aluminum Cans/Nonferrous—Aluminum, Brass, Copper	77,618
Ferrous—Steel and Iron	1,355,816
White Goods (ferrous)	50,887
Other (combined metals, steel slag, mixed metals, etc.)	9,771
Oil (Motor, Cooking)	67,997
Paper	239,777
Cardboard	148,148
Magazines/Mixed	18,136
Newsprint	14,997
Sorted Office Paper	12,890
Sorted White Ledger	103
Other (rolls of paper, consumer board, paper board, etc.)	45,503
Plastic	84,149
HDPE (high density polyethylene)	5,187
LDPE (low density polyethylene)	4,631
PET (polyethylene terephthalate)	3,524
Poly Pipe (polyethylene terephthalate)	66,111
Other (poly logs, electronics plastics, chemical jugs, barrels, etc.)	4,696
Textiles & Leather	8,270
Tires & Rubber	7,559
Yard Wastes	163,216
Total	2,086,820

Arkansas also reclaimed 488,673 tons of road material; 95,752 tons of asphalt; 34,806 tons of shingles; 19,648 tons of tire-derived fuel; and 1,084,971 tons of wood waste for fuel which were not included in the above totals.

Landfilled = 3,265,463

Recycled = 2,086,820

Total Waste Stream = 5,352,283

Recycling Rate = $\text{Recycled/Waste Stream} \times 100 = \mathbf{39\%}$





America Recycles Day

You've probably heard of Earth Day, but have you ever heard of America Recycles Day? Begun in 1997, ARD is the only nationally-recognized day dedicated to promoting and celebrating recycling in the United States.

America Recycles Day is November 15 each year, and ARD events are sprinkled throughout the fall. However, as with Earth Day, one day is just an affirmation of actions that should be, and are, taken 365 days a year. In the case of ARD, that means recycling everything you can and encouraging others to do the same.

For the past several years, the Arkansas Department of Environmental Quality joined the celebration with a special event to announce the latest recycling rate for the state. This year's event will be held on November 14 at the ADEQ headquarters in North Little Rock.

The event this year will also be used to unveil a new recycling slogan and logo, and to recognize the slogan's author. This slogan/logo will be available for use by recyclers throughout the state to help citizens identify recycling opportunities and encourage them to participate in recycling programs.

More than 200 slogans were submitted as part of a contest held by ADEQ earlier this year. The winning entry was selected by recycling professionals from throughout the state in a two-step evaluation process.

***America Recycles Day is an initiative of Keep
America Beautiful. For more information, visit
<http://americarecyclesday.org>.***



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