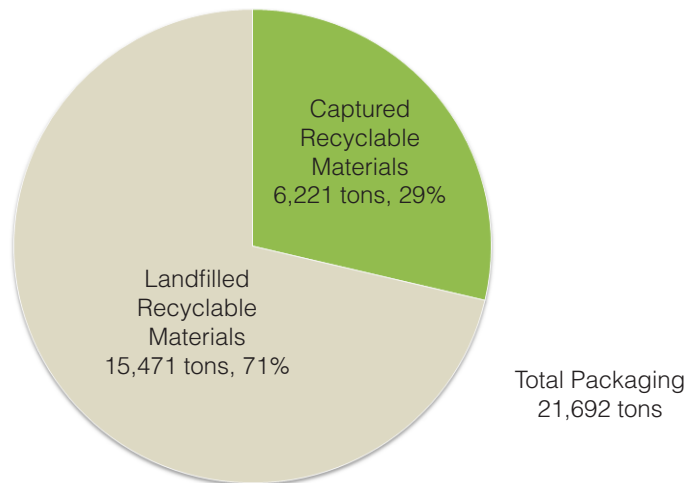

TRADITIONAL RECYCLABLES

Traditional recycling includes items that are disposed of by households on a daily basis such as cardboard, paper, bottles, cans, newspapers, and jars. This recycling stream is comprised almost entirely of packaging. According to the US EPA, packaging makes up approximately 30% of the United States' waste stream. This percentage can be used to estimate total tons of packaging available for recovery in the Athens Hocking Solid Waste Stream. Thirty percent of the 2012 AHSWD waste stream is just under 22,000 tons. According to the 2012 ADR¹ AHSWD is capturing only about 6,000 tons² of this recyclable material. About 15,000 tons remains to be captured.

2012 MATERIALS PACKAGING RECYCLING RATE IN THE AHSWD



In order to recycle these materials, they are sent to a processing facility or, in industry terms, a Materials Recovery Facility (MRF). The ability to provide recycling services depends on waste and recycling haulers having access to a MRF, and, the MRF's material capacity and ability to sort materials. Once the materials are sorted and processed into bales they are sold as commodities on the open market. The revenues from the sale of the recycled commodities help to pay for the processing of recyclables. The current MRF in Athens and Hocking Counties is at capacity and unable process comingled recyclables.

A new facility is needed if Athens and Hocking Counties want to capture and process these recyclables locally, which provides local jobs and revenue from materials. Having a locally owned and operated MRF also provides greater opportunities for developing recycling systems that meet the needs of local communities and can be sustained long-term. A new facility or transfer station must be developed for traditional recycling rates to improve and to make recycling more convenient to the communities. Two MRF feasibility studies have been developed and both show scenarios that a local MRF is feasible³.

Setting up a local MRF and a system to capture all of the packaging that is recyclable in the waste stream, would help keep existing jobs in the region.

1 <http://www.epa.ohio.gov/dmwm/Home/SWMgmtPlanning2.aspx>

2 This number was determined by adding together glass, ferrous and non-ferrous metals, paper, plastics, comingled recyclables, and cardboard from the 2012 ADR.

3 One study was conducted by GT Environmental and can be found here: <http://www.athenshockingrecycle.org/downloads/MRF%20Study%20Final%20Report.pdf> The second study was conducted by AOZWI and can be found here: <http://ruralaction.org/wp-content/uploads/2013/03/App-D-MRF-Feasibility-Study.pdf>



Baseline for Traditional Recyclables

Traditional Recycling programs vary widely depending on the location within the District due to the limited processing capacity of the existing local facility and its availability for use to local haulers. This has created inconsistency amongst recycling programs (comingled vs. separated) and their local availability. These limitations typically create higher costs for services due to the cost of transporting recyclables farther to a facility with additional processing capacity.

Multi-unit living complexes and public spaces have very limited recycling services, if any. And, businesses also have limited recycling services. All three have great potential for increasing resource recovery due to the population density, the frequency of visitors, and the larger volume of material generated than a typical single residence.

Many private businesses and one nonprofit organization provide recycling services to Athens and Hocking Counties. Recycling providers, who voluntarily reported for the ADR, include Farmer's, Trace's A-1 Sanitation, Rumpke, Vickroy's, and the Athens Hocking Recycling Center (AHRC). For a full list of services, see pages 9 and 17 of the MRF feasibility study.¹ The types of service provided vary widely based on the company providing the service, the contract developed with the municipality (if applicable), the local ordinances, and the location.

Curbside recycling is provided by the AHRC in the City of Athens and immediate surrounding areas; the service is available by subscription in Amesville, Albany, Nelsonville, and The Plains.

Recycling drop-off opportunities are provided by AHRC in 20 locations throughout the AHSWD². These drop-offs service the more rural areas of the counties where curbside recycling is not available. Two drop-offs, one in each county, are permanent and available at least six days per week, every week. Thirteen township drop-offs are available one week per month, and five township drop-offs are available four hours per month.

According to the 2011 ADR, Farmer's Refuse provided curbside pickup and one drop-off location in the City of Logan. This may shift because Rumke recently purchased farmers. Rumpke has two recycling roll-offs in the City of Nelsonville. Vickroy's Disposal and Trace's A-1 sanitation also recycle some materials within the AHSWD. There are certainly other service providers, but they may not have participated in the voluntary ADR reporting.

Until the recycling processing capacity issue is solved and new shared infrastructure is developed, traditional recycling programs will continue to remain inconsistent throughout the District and the cost of services will restrict the ability of new and existing recycling programs to expand and become more convenient.

¹ <http://ruralaction.org/wp-content/uploads/2013/03/App-D-MRF-Feasibility-Study.pdf>
² Times and locations that recycling rollofs are available and can be found on the AHSWD website: www.athenshockingrecycle.org

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ACTION STEPS FOR TRADITIONAL RECYCLABLES

1. DEVELOP A PLAN AND BUSINESS MODEL FOR CONSTRUCTING A NEW MRF OR TRANSFER STATION, WHICH PRIORITIZES JOB RETENTION AND CREATION IN THE REGION, AND IS CAPABLE OF MEETING ALL OF THE DISTRICT'S RECYCLING NEEDS WITH THE ABILITY TO PROCESS COMMINGLED RECYCLABLES.

- a. Engage with local haulers to understand types of incentives they would need to participate in recycling collection and use of the facility for tipping. **(1yr)**
- b. Identify key partners and build relationships that ensure long-term success of the facility and adequate through-put of materials. **(1yr)**
- c. Include plans for a buyback program¹ in the design for the MRF. **(1yr)**
- d. Include plans that allow for expansion to accept additional types of materials (ex. plastics #3-7, aseptic packaging). **(1yr)**
- e. Explore the costs and benefits of a flow control policy that requires recyclable material generated in the AHSWD be processed in the AHSWD. Special attention should be given to the development of a policy that retains or creates jobs and local business opportunities. **(3yrs)**

2. EXPAND AND INCREASE CONVENIENCE² OF THE RURAL RECYCLING DROP-OFF PROGRAM.

- a. Transition the remaining 4 hour recycling drop-off sites to week long recycling drop-off sites. **(1yr)**
- b. Identify additional locations for recycling drop-off sites that can provide access to recycling in rural areas that currently lack recycling services. **(1yr)**
- c. Develop a business plan for a pay-as-you-throw³ (PAYT) trash and recycling drop-off center that is available to the public 24 hours a day and 7 days a week. Include compacted load capability at sites. Include a plan for security, such as cameras that can be monitored via the internet.⁴ **(1yr)**
- d. Pilot two new 24/7 PAYT and recycling drop-off centers. Locate one in Hocking County and one in Athens County. Determine pilot sites based on the success of current drop-off sites. **(3yrs)**
- e. Identify additional recycling drop off locations that can be transitioned to 24/7 PAYT and recycling drop-off centers. **(3yrs)**
- f. Transition the identified recycling drop-off locations to 24/7 PAYT and recycling drop-off centers, while taking cost and frequency of use into account. **(5yrs)**

3. PROVIDE TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE TO CITIES AND VILLAGES THAT HELPS TO IMPROVE OR ESTABLISH RECYCLING PROGRAMS.

- a. Provide assistance to cities to implement citywide curbside recycling programs and reduce costs for services. Assist with contract development options, resolutions⁵ and ordinances for new programs and reporting. **(3yrs)**
- b. Assist rural villages in implementing recycling programs and determining whether a curbside program or drop-off program would be cost effective and meet the needs for the village. **(3yrs)**
- c. Assist cities, villages, counties and state parks with implementing recycling in public spaces including streets with high pedestrian traffic, public parks, and events. **(3yrs)**
- d. Create ordinances that require business and multiunit housing to plan for recycling and waste reduction.⁶ Explore local contract options that help to reduce costs for recycling. **(3yrs)**

1 A case study of a buyback program is included in the appendix.

2 A convenient site is one that is available 24 hours a day and 7 days a week. They should be located in a rural population center, or, in commonly visited locations such as schools, major employment centers, and popular stores.

3 Pay-as-you-throw is a trash system where the user pays more or less based on the amount of trash they generate. This system is in contrast to a more traditional system where a flat rate is charged for trash regardless of how much trash a person generates.

4 See appendix for a case study of a successful program in Logan County, OH.

5 A sample resolution in the appendix

6 Hamilton County in Ohio has a multi-unit recycling program that could be looked to as a model.