



Otsego County Materials Management Survey

RESIDENT SURVEY

Otsego County is developing a Materials Management Plan, and your input will help shape it. The plan is required by the Michigan Department of Environment, Great Lakes, and Energy (EGLE) to help communities better manage waste and materials, reduce landfill use, and expand recycling and reuse options. This short survey asks about household hazardous waste, food waste, recycling, and composting. Your feedback as a resident will help us understand what's working, what isn't, and where we should focus next. Return this survey to ldamer@nemcog.org or mail to L. Damer, NEMCOG, P.O. Box 457, Gaylord, MI 49734. Thank you for being part of the process.

Which of the following best describes you?

- Full-time or Part-time/seasonal resident of Otsego County.
 - Bagley Twp.
 - Charlton Twp.
 - Chester Twp.
 - City of Gaylord
 - Corwith Twp.
 - Dover Twp.
 - Elmira Twp.
 - Hayes Twp.
 - Livingston Twp.
 - Village of Vanderbilt
 - I am a resident, and I also own a business in Otsego County.
 - I own a business in Otsego County and reside elsewhere.
 - I work in Otsego County and live outside of the County.
 - I work in Otsego County and live outside of the County.
- In what county do you reside: _____

Do you rent or own your home? (County residents?)

- Rent Own N/A

What is your age group?

- 18-29 30-39 40-49 50-59 60+

How do you prefer to receive information?

- Radio/tv Flyer/mailings Newspaper
- Local government Social media

How many people are in your household?

- 1 2 3 4 5 6+

What new materials management programs would you support? (Check all that apply.)

- Pay-as-you-throw program (by volume) Repair/reuse centers (fix-it clinic, swap events) Community food waste drop-offs
- Apartment/duplex recycling programs Expansion of residential recycling access Community food scrap recycling
- Business incentives to reduce packaging waste

Food Waste

In the last month, what foods did you throw away most often?

- Meat Leftovers Non-perishable items
- Dairy foods Fresh produce Other: _____

What would motivate you to reduce food waste?

- Spend less money Concerns about the environment
- Reduce overall waste Reduce landfill waste
- Support local food banks Other: _____

Select your level of agreement with the following:

	Strongly Disagree	Disagree	No Opinion	Agree	Strongly Agree
Food waste has a negative impact on the environment.					
Food waste costs me money.					
Currently, I am taking steps to reduce food waste.					
I'm willing to change my behavior to reduce food waste.					
I think about food waste when I eat out.					
I think about food waste when I am grocery shopping.					

Household Hazardous Waste (HHW)

What types of HHW does your household produce? (Check all that apply.)

- Acids/Bases Adhesives/Glues Aerosol cans Sharps/Needles Mercury
- Antifreeze Batteries/e-cigs/vape Beauty products Medications Tires
- Electronics waste Gasoline, kerosene, solvents Household cleaning products Used motor oil Light bulbs
- Pesticides/herbicides Compressed gas cylinders Ammunition/Fireworks/Flares Paints, stains, and thinner

Do you know how to dispose of HHW properly?

- Yes No Unsure

Until now, were you aware that these items require special disposal?

- Yes No

How do you dispose of HHW? (Check all that apply.)

- I throw them in the trash. I store them in my home.
- I use HHW drop-off sites. Other: _____

How do you dispose of electronics/batteries? (Check all that apply.)

- I throw them in the trash. I store them in my home.
- I use electronic drop-off sites. Other: _____

Do you currently use a drug/medication takeback program?

- Yes No If yes, where: _____

Would you use a local HHW drop-off event if available?

- Yes No Unsure

What motivates you to dispose of HHW properly?

- It is good for the environment.
- I feel it is expected of me.
- It promotes public health.
- It reduces materials in the landfill.
- Other: _____

What makes proper HHW disposal difficult?

- Lack of information Too expensive
- Hours of drop-off locations Unreliable collection services
- Disposal locations are too far Don't trust disposal programs
- Lack of transportation Vehicle isn't large enough
- Lack of space to store HHW until disposal

What frequency of HHW drop-off events do you prefer?

- Annually 2 times a year Quarterly

How many miles would you travel to properly dispose of HHW?

- <5 6-10 11-15 16-20 21-25 26+

Would you pay for proper disposal at an event?

- Yes No Unsure

What is the most time you would spend at a HHW drop-off event?

- 15 min. 30 min. 45 min. 1 hour

Recycling

What recyclables does your household produce? (check all that apply)

- | | | | |
|--|---|---|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Bulky plastic items | <input type="checkbox"/> Magazines and newspapers | <input type="checkbox"/> Plastic drink bottles | <input type="checkbox"/> Cardboard |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Non-food clear glass | <input type="checkbox"/> Plastic food containers | <input type="checkbox"/> Colored glass jars and bottles | <input type="checkbox"/> Office paper |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Plastic household jars/bottles | <input type="checkbox"/> Clean aluminum foil | <input type="checkbox"/> Paperboard food boxes | <input type="checkbox"/> Plastic tubs/lids |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Clear glass jars and bottles | <input type="checkbox"/> Tin, steel, and aluminum cans/lids | <input type="checkbox"/> Empty aerosol cans | <input type="checkbox"/> Paper coffee cups |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Paper cartons (milk, juice, etc.) | <input type="checkbox"/> Wrapping paper (non-glitter/foil) | | |

Do you know what items are recyclable in your area?

- Yes No Unsure

How often do you recycle?

- Daily Weekly Monthly Never (Skip to next section)

What items do you recycle regularly? (check all that apply)

- | | | | |
|------------------------------------|------------------------------------|---|---|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Magazines | <input type="checkbox"/> Paper | <input type="checkbox"/> Plastic bottles | <input type="checkbox"/> Clothing (donate/thrift) |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Cardboard | <input type="checkbox"/> Newspaper | <input type="checkbox"/> Aluminum cans | <input type="checkbox"/> Glass bottles |
| | | <input type="checkbox"/> Deposit containers | |

What non-traditional items do you recycle?

- Batteries Electronics Motor oil Paint

Do you clean out your food containers before recycling?

- Always Sometimes Never

Would you participate if curbside recycling were available?

- Yes No Unsure

Do you feel your drop-off location is too far away?

- Yes No Unsure

Are you willing to pay a monthly fee for curbside recycling?

- <\$5 <\$10 <\$15 >\$15 Not willing

Would you utilize local community recycling events?

- Yes No Unsure

How often would you set out materials for curbside recycling?

- Weekly Monthly Bi-monthly Quarterly Never

Would you use a local township drop-off location?

- Yes No Unsure

Select your level of agreement with the following:					
(1) Strongly Disagree → (5) Strongly Agree	1	2	3	4	5
Recycled items actually get recycled.					
Recycling keeps items out of landfills.					
Recycling is good for the economy.					
I can recycle more than I do.					
Recycling conserves natural resources.					
Recyclables provide a positive economic benefit as commodities.					
I am satisfied with the recycling program in my area.					
I have the information I need to properly recycle.					

What makes recycling difficult?

- Need transportation to drop off recyclables
- Small vehicle/transport issues
- Lack of information about recycling
- Drop off location is too far away
- Lack of space to accommodate recyclables
- Lack of trust for recycling programs
- Too expensive
- Unreliable collection services

What would motivate you to recycle more than you do?

- Getting paid for recycling
- More info about recycling
- I'm already recycling.
- Curbside recycling
- Other: _____

Composting

Would you use a yard waste or food scrap drop-off site if available?

- Food scrap only Yard waste only Both Neither

Does your household currently compost?

- Yes No, but I am interested. Not interested.

What does your household compost?

- | | | |
|--|--|---|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Grass clippings | <input type="checkbox"/> Plant trimmings | <input type="checkbox"/> Egg shells |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Leaves | <input type="checkbox"/> Shredded paper | <input type="checkbox"/> Coffee grounds/filters |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Tea bags | <input type="checkbox"/> Small sticks | <input type="checkbox"/> Fruit/vegetable scraps |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Paper bags | <input type="checkbox"/> Wood chips | <input type="checkbox"/> Shredded cardboard |

What do you do with your compost?

- Gardening
- Donate to local gardens
- Share with others
- Nothing – stockpile
- Nothing – spread it and it disappears

How long have you been composting?

- <1 year 1-3 years 4-6 years 7+ years