



DPW Annual Residential Recycling Report

2023 Highlights



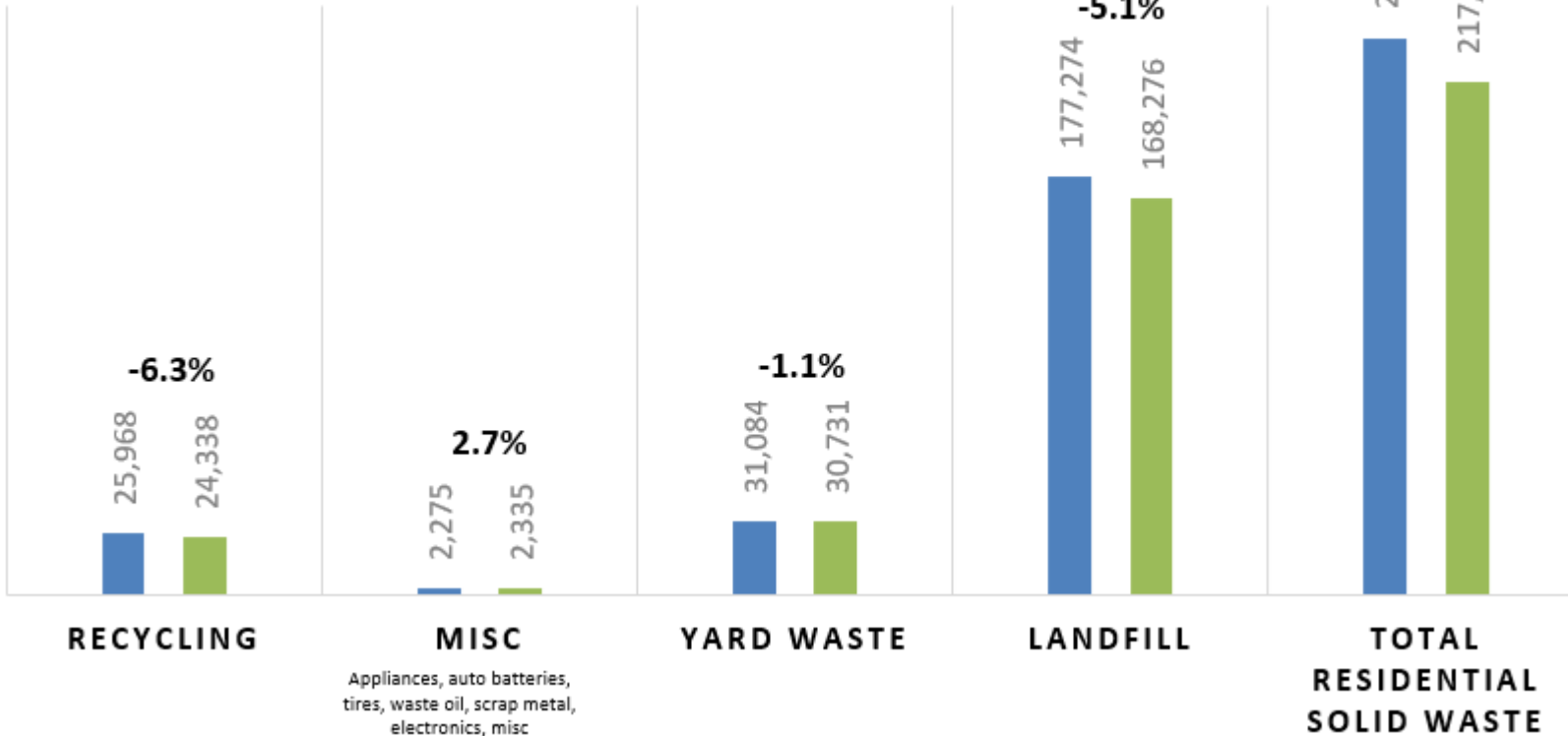
Recycling Results

Total Residential Tons Collected

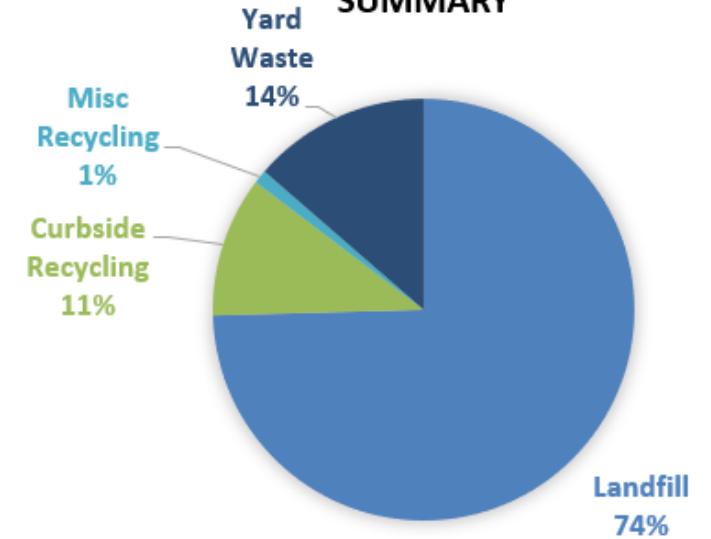


RESIDENTIAL TONS COLLECTED

■ 2022 ■ 2023



2023 TOTAL RESIDENTIAL SOLID WASTE SUMMARY



Education and Events

Keep Greater Milwaukee Beautiful, Compost Bin Sale, Fall Mailer



KEEP
GREATER
MILWAUKEE
BEAUTIFUL

2023 Fall Mailer



Fall 2023 City of Milwaukee Department of Public Works • milwaukee.recycles.com • 414-288-CITY (2489)

Fire at the Milwaukee Recycling Facility

On the afternoon of Wednesday, 5/31/2023, a major fire broke out at the Joint Materials Recovery Facility (MRF) where Milwaukee's curbside recyclables are sorted and prepared for market. All staff were evacuated quickly, with no injuries reported. The Milwaukee Fire Department quickly extinguished the flames by the evening. What caused the fire is unknown, and it will likely remain so due to the severity of it. Based on past fires at the MRF and others across the country, it might have been caused by contamination like a battery or other flammable material. Much of the equipment is significantly damaged, along with the roof and siding. Insurance will cover most of the associated costs; however, the impacts of the fire go beyond financial. As a result, it affects workers' livelihoods, causes strain on operations, and tests the capacities of other recycling facilities now processing more material with the Milwaukee facility down.

Recycling Collection and Future of the MRF

The residential curbside collection program remains unimpacted. Please continue to recycle right and set out carts on collection day. Find your schedule at Milwaukee.gov/CollectionDay. Keep a copy of the recycling guide in common areas like on the fridge and reference the online recycling directory to know "where to throw." Both resources can be found at MilwaukeeRecycles.com. After being collected curbside, recyclables are taken to a City of Milwaukee transfer station and then moved to other regional MRFs for sorting. As for the future of the MRF, there are still many unknowns. DPW staff are working with various specialists to understand the scope of damage from the roof down to the plumbing. Once the inspections are completed and the damage's full impacts are understood, planning can begin on the next steps for the City-owned site and the future of the MRF. Providing an effective recycling program is the law in Wisconsin, and it remains a priority for Milwaukee. DPW will continue to work to build a resilient program to support Milwaukee's waste reduction goals!

The Larger Impacts of MRF Fires

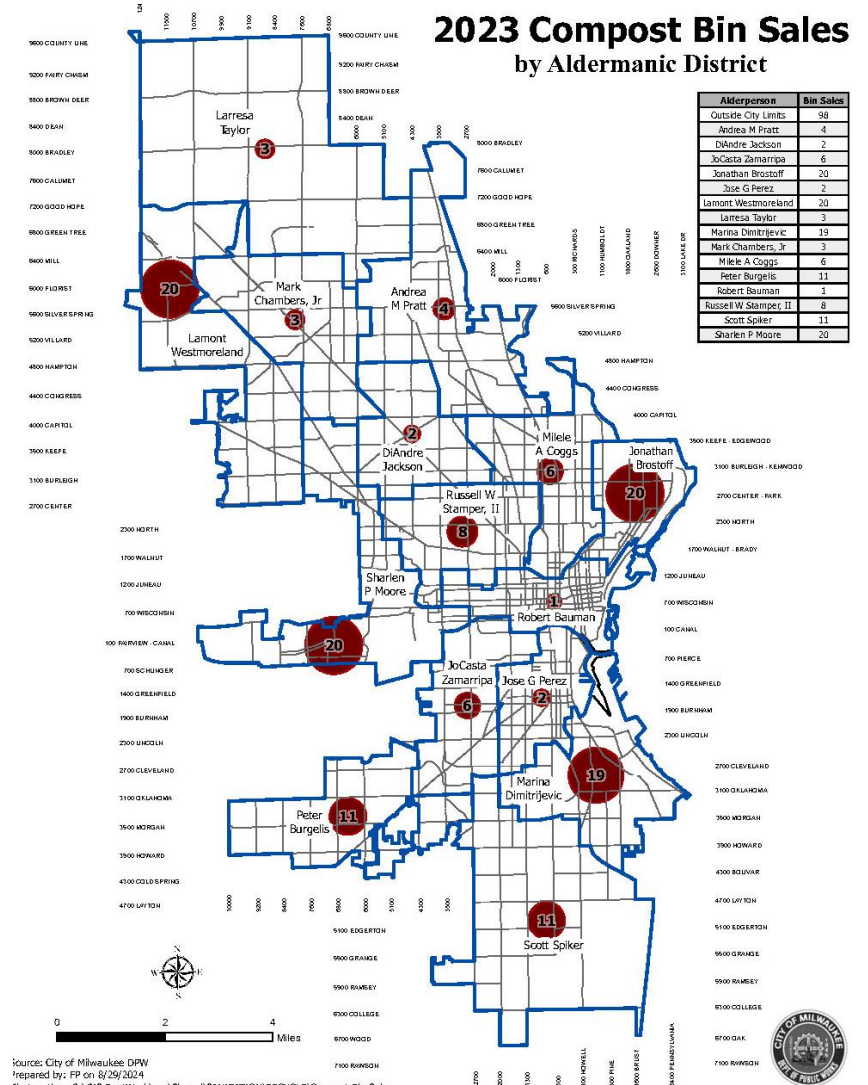
Electronic devices are now part of daily life, from the workplace to home. If improperly disposed, these devices and other flammable materials can cause dangerous and damaging facility fires. These fires put staff at a huge risk and can cause damage to facilities that are costly to repair or even beyond repair. In addition to staff safety and facility damage, MRF fires impact regional recycling operations. When a MRF is inoperable due to fire or damaged equipment, recyclables must be diverted to other regional facilities. Suppose nearby MRFs can't take in the material due to capacity or processing constraints. In that case, the material must be shipped further out of the region resulting in higher costs and removing commodities from local markets. Southeastern Wisconsin is currently experiencing this strain due to the fires at the Milwaukee and Columbia County MRFs and the reconstruction at a third facility in the region. One small device in a curbside garbage or recycling cart has much more significant lasting impacts. Proper disposal is critical to help prevent fires. See page 2 for a list of resources for properly disposing of electronics, batteries, and other household hazardous items.



MilwaukeeRecycles.com Recycle For Good, Milwaukee!

- Recycle for Good Programs and Tours

- 22 Schools
- 1,189 Students
- 289 adults



234 Bins Sold



The MRF Fire

05/31/2023



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The MRF Fire, cont.

Program Cost Increases, Tonnage Map

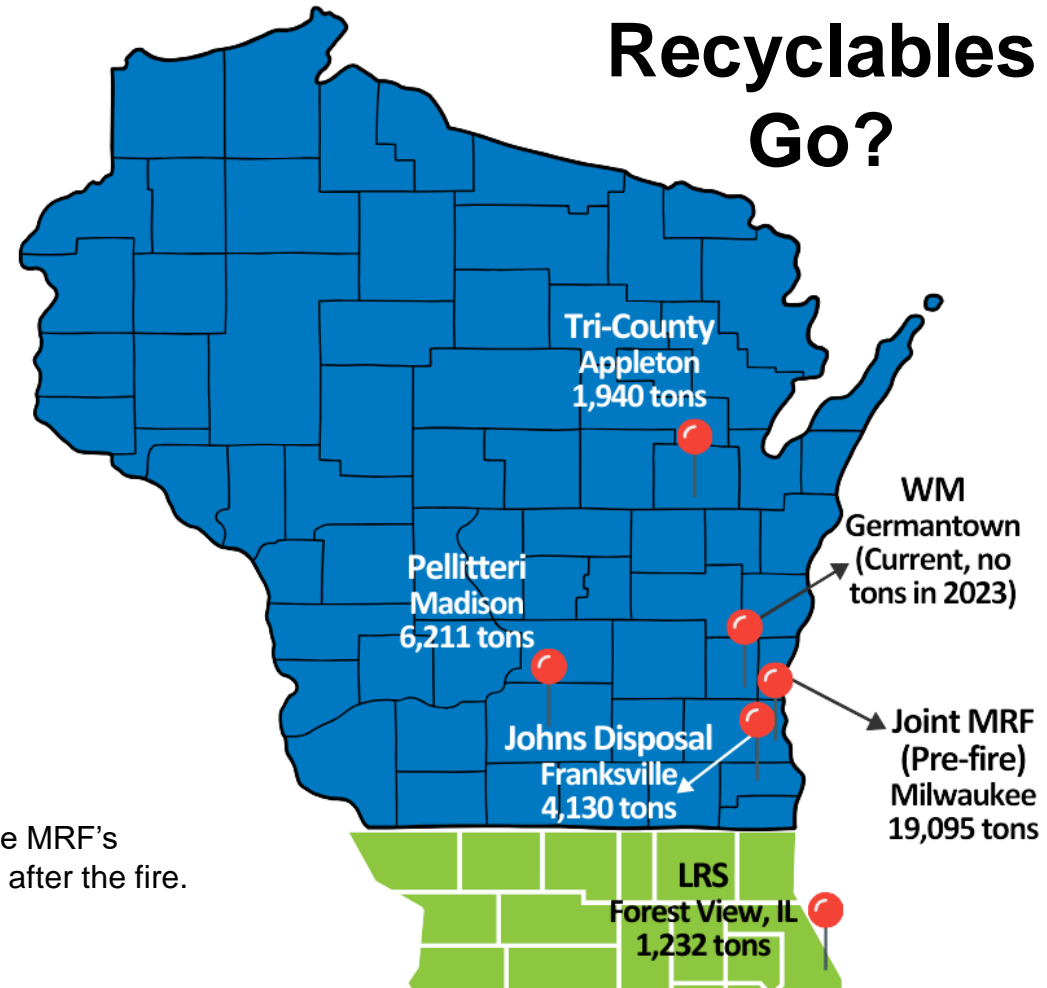


Recyclables Processing Financials Comparison

| | 2022 | 2023 | Change | % Change |
|---|---------------------|---------------------|-----------------------|-----------------|
| Commodity Sales Revenue | | | | |
| Revenue/Ton (Market Value) | \$ 130.57 | \$ 57.60 | \$ (72.97) | -55.9% |
| City's Share (Rev/T Received from Contractor) | \$ 72.88 | \$ 14.90 | \$ (57.98) | -79.6% |
| Total revenue to City | \$ 1,773,946 | \$ 410,089 | \$ (1,363,857) | -76.9% |
| Processing Costs | | | | |
| Processing per ton rate | \$ 51.91 | \$ 89.40 | \$ 37.49 | 72.2% |
| Processing tons | 25,967.73 | 24,337.77 | (1,629.96) | -6.3% |
| Processing cost | \$ 1,510,987.51 | \$ 1,637,147.42 | 126,159.91 | 8.3% |
| Transportation cost | \$ - | \$ 1,044,883.71 | 1,044,883.71 | |
| Total Processing Costs | \$ 1,510,988 | \$ 2,682,031 | \$ 1,171,044 | 77.5% |
| Net Revenue | | | | |
| Net revenue (received after processing) | \$ 262,958 | \$ (2,271,942) | \$ (2,534,901) | -964.0% |
| Net revenue per ton | \$ 10.13 | \$ (93.35) | \$ (103.48) | -1021.9% |
| Avoided Disposal Costs | | | | |
| Landfill costs per ton | \$ 47.17 | \$ 48.71 | \$ 1.54 | 3.3% |
| Landfill costs avoided | \$ 1,224,898 | \$ 1,185,493 | \$ (39,405) | -3.2% |
| Total Benefit | | | | |
| Total Net benefit | \$ 1,487,856 | \$ (1,086,450) | \$ (2,574,306) | -173.0% |
| Total Net benefit per ton | \$ 57.30 | \$ (44.64) | \$ (101.94) | -177.9% |

Total cost for recyclables processing, including processing costs and revenues received through the MRF's operating contract until May 31, and processing and transportation through alternative agreements after the fire.

Where Do Milwaukee Recyclables Go?



Looking Ahead

Recycling for Good Education, Food Waste Reduction



LET'S MAKE MILWAUKEE CLEAN & GREEN.

DPW and multiple city-wide partners are reinvigorating the *Recycle for Good* education and outreach campaign. Multiple strategies will be evaluated and deployed, including forming a field staff task force, specialized messaging to lower-volume routes, and providing funding opportunities to community organizations for recycling education.



The **FEED MKE Project** is a 2-year, grant-funded effort to coordinate and expand public, private, and governmental initiatives to address the interconnected issues of food insecurity, waste reduction, landfill diversion, and climate change.