

Residential Recycling Initiative
Department of Environmental Quality
Status Report
January 14, 2015

Much has been accomplished in the nine months since Governor Rick Snyder's call to action on April 14, 2014, to double Michigan's recycling rate. Michigan's Residential Recycling Plan (Plan) outlined the steps necessary to achieve the ambitious goal. The components of the Plan include:

- Measuring recycling;
- Providing outreach, education, and technical assistance;
- Fostering strong recycling markets;
- Increasing access and participation;
- Creating the Governor's Recycling Council.

Appropriation - The appropriation of \$1 million in the Department of Environmental Quality's (DEQ) fiscal year (FY) 2015 Budget and the use of \$250,000 Community Pollution Prevention (P2) Fund monies is enabling the DEQ to do the work necessary to implement the Plan. The funds are being used as follows:

- \$250,000 in 2014 for the Community P2 grants used for recycling measurement and identifying best practices (see below).
- Up to \$600,000 in 2015 for Community P2 Grants to support the growing recycling access and participation (see below).
- \$250,000 to grow recycling markets and ensure existing Michigan recycling markets are supplied with the valuable recycled commodities they need.
- The balance of the recycling funds have been used to fund DEQ staff working to implement the Recycling Initiative.

Governor's Recycling Council – The Council advises the DEQ on implementing the Governor's Residential Recycling Plan and other related issues so that the state will achieve a 30 percent residential recycling rate within two years. The council met on May 20, 2014 in Lansing, July 22, 2014 in Emmet County, September 3, 2014 at the Michigan Recycling Coalition office in Lansing, and November 6, 2014 at Schupam in Wixom.

Community Pollution Prevention grants FY 2014 – Three separate grants for FY2014 were awarded to collect data on Michigan's recycling rate, percentage of population with convenient access to recycling, high performing recycling programs, composition of municipal solid waste currently landfilled and incinerated, and the economic value of this material. This data will assist local recycling programs identify best practices and aid the state to benchmark progress on the DEQ scorecard. The results from the recycling measurement grant will be presented at the Governor's Recycling Summit.

Community Pollution Prevention grants FY 2015 – The FY2015 grants will be used for projects that enhance local or regional recycling programs and lead to increases in the statewide recycling rate. The target date for releasing the grant request for proposals is January 2015. The DEQ is hosting a Webinar on February 11, 2015, at 10 a.m. to assist with the grant application process. Requests for funding will be accepted through April 1, 2015.

clean, recycled commodities for their manufacturing processes. Work is focusing on the following areas:

- Commodity Specific End-use Market Development
- Sector Specific End-use Market Development
- Organics
- Recycled Materials Market Directory
- Inventory Existing End-use Markets
- Quantify existing and potential economic impact of the recycling supply chain
- Recycling Collection and Processing Capacity

Additionally, The DEQ is working with the Michigan Economic Development Corporation to catalog existing business development tools that can be used to support the growth of the recycling industry.

Recognition – The DEQ will recognize successful programs already achieving a 30 percent recycling rate. The recycling programs achieving the goal will be recognized at the Recycling Summit on May 5, 2015. Businesses, institutions, government agencies, non-profits, and other organizations helping to achieve the Governor's recycling goals will be recognized. The Excellence in Recycling Awards will celebrate success in the collection, processing, and utilization of recycled materials, as well as the creation of recycled products. A Webinar will be held on January 22, 2015, at 10 a.m. to assist with the awards application process.

Best Practices – By recognizing the successful recycling programs that are already achieving a 30 percent recycling rate the state of Michigan will be able to catalog best practices currently in place throughout Michigan. These best practices will be used as a tool to educate communities and service providers on the methods to grow recycling in Michigan.

Recycling Summit - The Governor's Recycling Summit is being planned in conjunction with the Michigan Recycling Coalition's Annual Conference, May 5-7, 2015, at the Kalamazoo Radisson. The Summit will emphasize the economic opportunities of recycling.

Information and resources –

- To view Michigan's Residential Recycling Plan and find other documents regarding the Governors Recycling Council visit www.michigan.gov/mirecycles and search "recycling plan of action"
- For general recycling information visit www.michigan.gov/deqrecycling
- For more information about the grants program, visit www.michigan.gov/deqp2grants. For more information about the Excellence in Recycling Awards Program, visit www.michigan.gov/deqrecycling click on "Excellence in Recycling Awards".
- Sign up for the Community P2 Grant Webinar on February 11, 2015 at 10 am and the Recognition Webinar on January 22, 2015 at 10 am webinar by visiting www.michigan.gov/deq and searching "DEQ Webinars".