



SUMMARY OF RECOMMENDATIONS

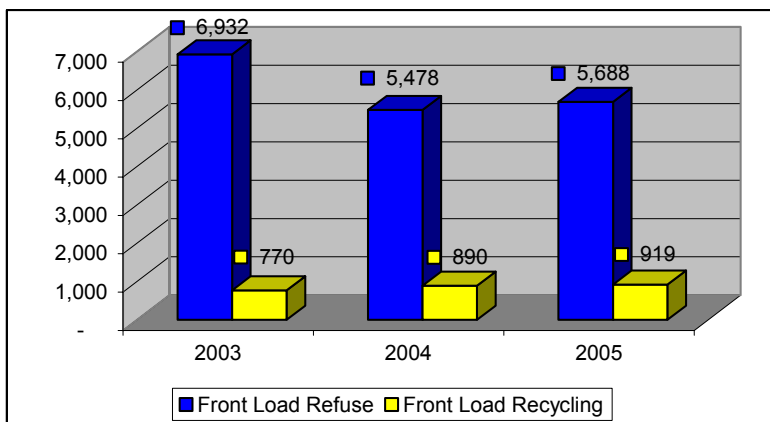
City of Ann Arbor

Commercial Recycling Committee of the Environmental Commission

Early in 2006, City Council requested that the Environmental Commission create a Commercial Recycling Committee with broad local business representation. Their assignment would be the development of recommendations for an effective commercial recycling initiative that would achieve City Solid Waste Plan goals for 50+% diversion of our waste stream, and maximize use of the capital improvements underway to the City MRF, Transfer Station and Compost Facility.

These final recommendations to the Environmental Commission and City Council strive to:

- Improve overall waste handling services – assuring a "clean community"
- Expand recycling and landfill diversion
- Lower overall costs for the community
- Enhance quality of life and business opportunities for our community

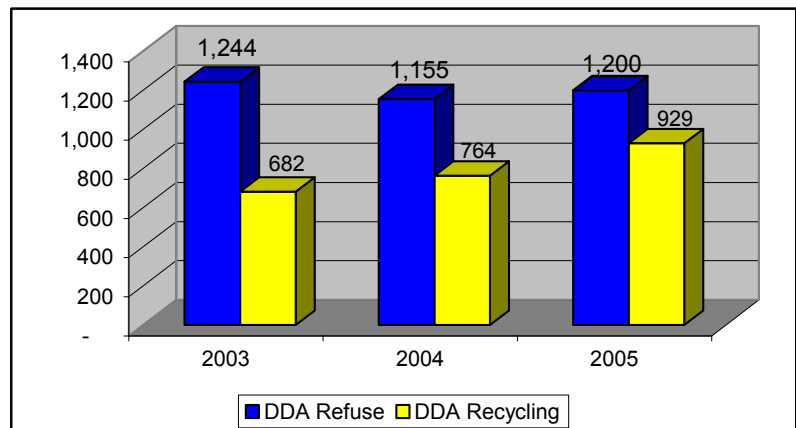


City Commercial Recycling Tons:

The City's Solid Waste Plan Update for 2002-2007 included goals for expanding commercial recycling collection and processing to address the low rate of commercial recycling (shown in the chart at 10 to 14%), especially compared to the city residential recycling rates near 50%. The Plan Update identified recycling and waste reduction as the keys to environmentally and economically responsible waste handling.

City DDA Recycling Tons:

Since the Plan adoption, city staff have been working to install additional commercial recycling equipment at the city's recycling facility (2007 completion date) and working with the Downtown Development Authority (DDA) to determine just how effective commercial recycling collection programs could be within the city. The chart to the right shows how successful these preliminary efforts have been – with DDA recycling increasing to 43% overall in 2005.



The Commercial Recycling Committee's task was to recommend approaches that would adapt this success to city-wide recycling, using the best techniques that could be found in nation-wide case studies.



The Commercial Recycling Committee included representatives from:

- Chamber of Commerce, Downtown Development Authority and merchant associations
- Hospitality industry (restaurants/grocery)
- Construction industry as well as Property Management, Real Estate and small business
- Environmental Commission and City Council.

The Committee developed goals for a solution that would have the following features:

- Has the city "partner" with businesses in accomplishing recycling goals, bringing a "were investing in recycling" mindset to businesses with the benefits of no increase in taxes, a reduction in solid waste fees, more equity in distribution of services for our tax dollar and better utilization of city resources and buying power.
- Builds on the current system and ordinance, striving to achieve net savings for the city and its business constituents city-wide, achieving efficiencies with strong city service contracts and franchises, matching the "mandatory" recycling for residents, and capitalizing on the investments already being made in the publicly owned and privately operated MRF and Transfer Station.
- Provides a customer-oriented approach (i.e.: simpler with perception that its free) that embraces community values for recycling and resource management, building ownership for the solution, with strong education/outreach and consistency in image/look/branding and the ordinance being viewed as important to establish expectations with a strong technical assistance approach to help avoid penalties.
- Reduces future barriers to recycling and responsible waste handling by assuring that new developments will have adequate space on site for appropriate sized recycling containers.

RECOMMENDED SERVICES

- The city would provide commercial recycling services throughout the city. An Ordinance would require building owners, managers and tenants to recycle either through the city program or through other means (e.g. businesses contracting for confidential document shredding) as long as their program was in compliance with a new commercial recycling ordinance.
- The city would provide vegetative food waste composting services to larger commercial generators of food prep waste in the city (e.g. grocery, catering, hotels and restaurants generating over 1 to 2 ton/month), with the service offered free in the DDA area and for a fee outside the DDA area.
- Construction and demolition projects over \$50,000 would need to achieve recycling goals as well and construction waste processors and haulers would be franchised and licensed to provide recycling services in compliance with a new commercial recycling ordinance.
- The city would continue to provide a base level of solid waste services as they do under their current system (e.g. waste carts in DDA area and servicing of dumpsters at a lower than market rate) and then franchise solid waste services for those businesses that already pay private contractors, helping to reduce these costs, improve overall service capacity and develop more "recycling friendly" waste collection arrangements services.
- These franchise hauler arrangement would then save 10% to 30% for most businesses on their current trash costs with the net impact depending on how the city handles franchise fees, billing, education/training and payments to franchisee for the base level services described above.