



2019 HOW IS MY CITY OR TOWN DOING?

RECYCLING, COMPOSTING, AND WASTE DIVERSION IN RHODE ISLAND

At Rhode Island Resource Recovery Corporation (Resource Recovery), we use data to help municipalities measure their program's success in a few different ways. On the following page, you will find a chart listing RI's 39 municipalities grouped by program size and type, allowing for a fair comparison of how your city or town is doing. Perhaps the fairest way to compare your city or town's success is against itself, year over year.

The Three Categories Are As Follows:

1. Municipalities serving 10,000 households or more, through a curbside collection program.
2. Municipalities serving less than 10,000 households, through a curbside collection program.
3. Municipalities serving households through a transfer station, with limited or no curbside collection, and/or the option for residents to hire a private trash and recycling hauler.

The Chart Shows Four Different Measures of Success:

1. **Tons of Trash Sent to Landfill per Household Served in Program:** This figure expresses how much trash is generated and landfilled, on average, by each household the municipality serves. The households served figure is notoriously difficult to calculate in many of the communities that utilize a transfer station.
2. **MRF Recycling Rate:** This is our simplest measure of recycling, which divides the total tons of mixed recyclables (materials placed in your bin/cart at home) sent to Resource Recovery's Materials Recycling Facility (MRF) by the total of these tons plus the tons of trash delivered to Resource Recovery for landfilling. Resource Recovery automatically collects both of these numbers when your city or town's trucks cross our scales. By law, all municipal mixed recycling and trash must be delivered to Resource Recovery.
Example: If a city brought 30 tons of recycling and 70 tons of trash, then $30 / (30+70) = 0.3$ or 30%
3. **Mandatory Recycling Rate:** This measure builds on the one above, by adding the materials on the Rhode Island Department of Environmental Management's (RIDEM) Mandatory Recyclables List. These materials are leaf and yard waste composted at Resource Recovery or elsewhere as well as clothing/textiles and scrap metal reused or recycled elsewhere. We divide these tons by their total plus the total tons of landfilled trash.
Example: Add 10 tons of mandatory materials to above example = $40 / (40+70) = 0.36$ or 36%
4. **Rate of Overall Material Diversion from Landfill:** This measure expands on the previous one even more, by adding in all other materials that are diverted from the landfill for reuse or recycling such as books, bulky rigid plastics, cooking oil, electronic waste, food scraps, (recoverable) mattresses, motor oil & filters, paint, shredded paper and tires. We divide these tons by their total plus the total tons of landfilled trash.
Example: Add 5 tons of other diverted materials to above example = $45 / (45+70) = 0.39$ or 39%

The State of RI Has Set a Two-part Goal for Its 39 Municipalities:

§ 23-18.9-1: Beginning July 1, 2012 every city or town that enters into a contract with the Resource Recovery Corporation to dispose of solid waste shall be required to recycle a minimum of thirty-five percent (35%) of its solid waste and to divert a minimum of fifty percent (50%) of its solid waste. RI municipalities commonly measure these against their Mandatory Recycling Rate and Overall Material Diversion Rate, respectively.

How Can I Help My City or Town Improve Its Recycling and Diversion Efforts?

Visit our website, www.rirrc.org, to learn how to recycle right in your bin/cart, reduce waste, reuse items, compost, recycle special/bulky items and properly dispose of household hazardous waste. Our website also provides information on additional free programs and services we offer to RI residents, businesses, schools and community groups.

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Rhode Island Municipal Waste Management Data by Collection Program and Type

	Tons of Trash Sent to Landfill per HH in Program	MRF Recycling Rate	Mandatory Recycling Rate	Rate of Overall Material Diversion from Landfill
≥ 10K households served curbside				
Coventry	0.91	25.7%	35.6%	36.4%
Cranston	0.79	25.2%	37.4%	37.7%
Cumberland	0.79	27.2%	35.3%	35.9%
East Providence	0.86	24.3%	51.5%	52.0%
Johnston	1.54	11.1%	13.7%	13.9%
Newport	0.60	30.8%	41.7%	42.6%
North Providence	0.74	25.0%	34.9%	35.4%
Pawtucket	0.89	18.7%	25.2%	25.7%
Providence	1.11	11.5%	16.7%	18.1%
Warwick	0.82	26.5%	49.3%	49.5%
West Warwick	1.01	20.0%	30.2%	30.7%
Woonsocket	0.92	21.9%	30.6%	32.8%
≥ 10K Curb. AVG.	0.92	20.2%	32.5%	33.2%
< 10K households served curbside				
Barrington	0.93	28.5%	50.1%	50.7%
Bristol	0.92	22.7%	33.9%	34.7%
Burrillville	0.76	28.8%	34.7%	36.0%
Central Falls	1.03	19.8%	21.8%	22.6%
East Greenwich	1.00	28.1%	38.1%	38.6%
Foster	1.14	25.7%	26.3%	27.2%
Lincoln	1.19	23.6%	28.7%	29.3%
Middletown	0.62	36.6%	48.2%	48.8%
North Smithfield	0.83	29.2%	35.9%	37.5%
Scituate	0.96	27.3%	29.9%	30.6%
Smithfield	0.74	29.7%	41.1%	41.8%
Tiverton	1.00	24.9%	27.1%	28.0%
Warren	0.81	23.9%	27.1%	27.6%
< 10K Curb. AVG.	0.92	26.3%	35.0%	35.7%
Transfer station / independent curbside collections				
Charlestown	0.37	29.5%	34.4%	36.5%
Exeter	0.89	20.1%	27.5%	29.3%
Glocester	0.63	29.0%	33.2%	35.1%
Jamestown	1.85 ^e	34.7%	49.9%	51.1%
Little Compton	0.70	21.7%	26.0%	28.7%
Narragansett**	0.55	31.5%	37.4%	38.9%
New Shoreham	*	7.3%	17.3%	25.3%
North Kingstown	1.04 ^e	35.3%	48.8%	49.4%
Portsmouth	0.59 ^e	35.9%	54.2%	56.1%
Richmond	*	39.0%	43.8%	45.2%
South Kingstown**	0.46 ^e	39.8%	49.6%	52.7%
West Greenwich	0.44 ^e	25.6%	32.1%	33.7%
Westerly/Hopkinton	1.75	22.7%	32.1%	33.3%
T-Station/Ind. AVG.	0.84	28.2%	38.1%	40.0%
STATE AVERAGE	0.98	22.6%	33.9%	34.8%
^e Number of households served is rough estimate				
* Data on number of households served unavailable				
** SK & Narragansett agree upon a split of shared figures from Rose Hill Transfer Station				
Trash Landfilled per HH	Total Tons of Trash Landfilled / Reported Number of Households Served			
MRF Recycling Rate	Total Tons of Mixed Recyclables / Above Numerator + Trash Tons			
Mandatory Recycling Rate	Total Tons of Mixed Recyclables + Leaf & Yard + Clothing + Metals / Above Numerator + Trash Tons			
Overall Diversion Rate	Total Tons of All Materials Kept Out of Landfill / Above Numerator + Trash Tons			