

2021 HOW IS MY CITY OR TOWN DOING?

MUNICIPAL RECYCLING, COMPOSTING AND WASTE DIVERSION IN RHODE ISLAND



At Rhode Island Resource Recovery Corporation (Resource Recovery), we use data to help RI's municipalities measure their program's success in a few different ways. On the following page, you will find 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 and/or residents have the option 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 was generated and landfilled by each household the municipality serves. This figure is notoriously difficult to calculate in many of the communities that utilize a transfer station as households served may be estimated.
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 include 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, (recyclable) mattresses, motor oil & filters, paint, paper shredded at special events 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%
5. **Pounds of Rejected Recycling per Household Served in Program:** This figure expresses how much rejected recycling was generated and landfilled by each household the municipality serves, in pounds. Rejected recycling is contaminated mixed recycling loads that do not meet minimum quality standards, are not processed in the MRF and are then landfilled.

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 Rhode Island 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

Municipality	Tons of Trash Landfilled per HH	MRF Recycling Rate	Mandatory Recycling Rate	Overall Diversion Rate	Pounds of Rejected Recycling per HH
≥ 10K Households Served Curbside					
Coventry	0.98	24.8%	33.1%	33.8%	6
Cranston	0.89	24.0%	35.7%	36.0%	66
Cumberland	0.87	25.6%	33.2%	33.4%	2
East Providence	0.89	23.3%	54.0%	54.4%	31
Johnston	1.72	12.4%	15.2%	15.3%	22
Newport	0.63	29.0%	39.5%	40.0%	0
North Providence	0.87	21.7%	31.9%	32.2%	35
Pawtucket	0.96	18.0%	24.7%	25.1%	75
Providence	1.36	6.5%	11.7%	12.0%	547
Warwick	0.89	25.2%	49.5%	49.8%	9
West Warwick	1.01	20.3%	29.7%	30.2%	48
Woonsocket	0.99	22.0%	29.9%	31.0%	0
≥ 10K Curb. AVG.	1.00	18.0%	30.8%	31.2%	70
< 10K Households Served Curbside					
Barrington	1.01	25.9%	45.2%	46.0%	34
Bristol	1.00	21.4%	29.9%	30.4%	16
Burrillville	0.82	27.4%	30.4%	33.6%	6
Central Falls	1.16	25.1%	25.8%	26.1%	8
East Greenwich	1.06	26.8%	37.1%	37.4%	20
Foster	1.24	22.9%	23.2%	23.9%	9
Lincoln	1.32	21.9%	30.2%	30.7%	29
Middletown	0.68	34.5%	47.3%	47.7%	26
North Smithfield	0.92	26.1%	33.2%	33.7%	25
Scituate	1.03	24.8%	27.5%	28.1%	9
Smithfield	0.79	27.4%	39.6%	40.2%	5
Tiverton	1.16	19.6%	24.6%	25.6%	19
Warren	0.83	23.2%	39.0%	39.6%	0
< 10K Curb. AVG.	1.00	24.6%	33.7%	34.4%	16
Transfer Station / Independent Curbside Collections					
Charlestown	0.36	26.5%	41.8%	43.4%	0
Exeter ^e	0.87	23.7%	34.0%	35.7%	3
Glocester ^a	0.66	25.5%	30.5%	32.5%	0
Jamestown ^a	1.02	31.4%	42.4%	42.7%	0
Little Compton ^a	0.73	22.2%	34.4%	36.5%	0
Narragansett* ^a	0.47	34.8%	38.8%	39.5%	0
New Shoreham	**	7.5%	14.7%	18.6%	23
North Kingstown ^a	0.68	30.2%	43.4%	44.0%	0
Portsmouth	0.59	35.7%	53.6%	55.5%	0
Richmond ^e	0.55	34.3%	44.8%	46.1%	0
South Kingstown* ^a	0.56	38.5%	50.3%	51.3%	0
West Greenwich ^e	1.40	24.0%	30.6%	32.7%	19
Westerly/Hopkinton ^e	1.95	21.1%	30.2%	35.2%	0
T-Station/Ind. AVG.	0.85	26.6%	36.8%	39.2%	3
STATE AVERAGES	1.01	20.6%	32.2%	33.1%	101
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 + Composted + Clothing + Scrap Metal / Above Numerator + Trash Tons				
Overall Diversion Rate	Total Tons of All Materials Kept Out of Landfill / Above Numerator + Trash Tons				
Rejected Recycling per HH	Total Pounds of Rejected Recycling / Reported Number of Households Served				
^a Number of households includes all households or all participating households					
^e Number of households served is an estimate					
* South Kingstown & Narragansett agree upon percentage allocations of residential materials from the Rose Hill Regional Transfer Station					
** Data on the number of households served is unavailable					