

SOLID WASTE SECTION

Since the early 1990's, the County compiled the commercial sector waste generated and recycled data by sending surveys to area businesses and asking them to voluntarily report their recycled amounts. With the adoption of the updated *Municipal Waste Hauler Licensing Ordinance* in 2001, which requires all waste haulers operating in McHenry County to be licensed and provide annual waste generation and recycled reports, such surveys were not needed to in 2002 (to collect 2001 data). The waste hauler's annual reports resulted in data that indicated that the total amount of municipal solid waste generated and recycled in 2001 was less than in previous years (Table 1). The largest decrease was in the commercial sector while the residential sector had an increase in both generated and recycled quantities.

Table 2 compares 2001 and 2000 data for each zip code present in McHenry County. As can be seen in the table, recycling rates for 2001 ranged between 17.0% (60102) and 65.8% (60135). In the more densely populated southeast corner of the County, recycling rates ranged between 17.0% (60102) to 46.2% (60010). Figure 1 depicts the recycling rates, by zip code, for 2001.

The number of mandated recyclable materials for the residential sector increased with the adoption of the updated *Residential Recycling Ordinance* in June, 2001. Figure 2 depicts the composition of the mandated recyclable materials for the residential sector. As can be seen, newsprint comprises approximately 50% of all the recyclables collected.

In addition to monitoring recycling statistics for the County, the Solid Waste section of the Department completed several large projects and had a very productive year. One large project was unexpected but highly needed. The County co-sponsored a highly successful Household Hazardous Waste Collection Event in April 2002. The Department was responsible for:

- securing a location;
- obtaining assistance from other County Departments and local governments;
 - Highway Department (signs, barriers and traffic cones),
 - Sheriff's Department (traffic control on U.S. Highway 14), and
 - Algonquin Township Highway Department (tent and numerous, experienced volunteers)
- event promotion;
- alerting local fire districts and police departments of the event;
- finding volunteers;
- securing \$7,500 from the County;
- asking for financial contributions from other local governments;
 - The Department obtained an additional \$10,860 from other local governments and non-profit organizations.
- obtaining walkie-talkies from Motorola for use during the event (at no charge);

- coordinating volunteers to provide traffic control so that the vehicle flow was the most efficient;
- conducting State-required surveys of the event participants; and
- securing food and beverages for the volunteers.

During the event, approximately 518 55-gallon drums of waste material were collected and properly disposed of or recycled (Table 3). Over 3,000 households participated in the one-day event. The average time it took for a vehicle entering the parking lot to arrive at the unloading platform was approximately three (3) minutes. In all, it was judged to be an outstanding success!

The Solid Waste Management Plan 10-Year Update had a due date of November 18, 2002. Department staff prepared the State-mandated 10-Year Update in house. By doing the work in house, the Department saved the County approximately \$67,000 in consultant fees (compared to the preparation of the 5-Year Update in 1997). Not only was the preparation of the Plan fiscally responsible, it was completed and adopted by the County Board approximately two months before the required due date. The State reviewed the Update and reported that the Update was completed in compliance with the appropriate State regulations.

The *Municipal Waste Hauler Licensing Ordinance* was updated to include provisions for seasonal leaf collection. The Ordinance now requires all waste haulers that provide regularly scheduled residential curbside collection services to offer seasonal leaf collection.

In addition to the special projects listed above, the Solid Waste Section completed annually-scheduled projects. These include:

- Monitoring recycling activities for all County government buildings;
- The Municipal Solid Waste Stream Recycling Analysis & Report;
- The Illinois Environmental Protection Agency's annual recycling survey, which includes the municipal solid waste generated and recycled data for McHenry County; and
- The Reduce, Re-use and Recycle Awards for County businesses and other entities.