

RECYCLING SURVEY

State Name: *Delaware*

Agency Name: *Dept. of Natural Resources & Environmental Control*

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1. Please indicate whether recycling of household or residential recyclables is mandatory, voluntary or perhaps both (mandatory for some materials and voluntary for others) in your state.

Recycling in Delaware is completely voluntary.

2. Is there a State Law(s) that mandates, encourages, or otherwise facilitates the recycling system or programs in your state and what is the reference for that section of your state code?

There is a state law (Title 7 Del. Code, Chapter 64, §6450 - §6459) requiring the Delaware Solid Waste Authority to establish and operate a statewide recycling system.

3. Does your state law (or other directive) mandate, encourage or otherwise specify a state goal for the rate of recycling or diversion (e.g. percentage of overall waste stream, etc.) If so, what is the statutory reference?

Executive Order #82, signed by the Governor in September 2000, sets a goal of diverting 30% of residential solid waste (it does not set a target date for achieving the goal).

4. Please indicate how your state measures recycling rates? (Are there reporting requirements? who reports and how frequently?) What wastes are captured in the measurement of your recycling/diversion rate? (e.g. residential garbage? yard waste? commercial and industrial wastes? waste tires? white goods? automobiles? etc?).

The Delaware Solid Waste Authority is required to report annually on its activities, including recycling and waste reduction. In addition, DSWA is required to monitor recycling throughout the state, by means of a registration and information-gathering effort. DSWA solicits information from private sector recyclers and includes this information in its reports but recognizes that the data is incomplete.

DSWA does have good information on the quantity of material captured in the statewide drop-off program and material diverted from the working face of its landfills. The most recent report issued containing this information is for FY2003.

5. What association does commercial, institutional, and industrial recycling have with the household or residential recycling in your state? Are recycling activities from these sectors factored into your overall state recycling rate?

To the degree that DSWA is able to obtain information on these sectors, the data are included in the recycling and reuse rate reported by DSWA.

6. What is your most recently measured rate of recycling or diversion for your state? (Please indicate the time frame for this measurement. e.g. calendar year, fiscal year, etc.)

DSWA reports a recycling and reuse rate each fiscal year. For FY 2003, the reported rate was 71% of the materials needing to be managed. This rate includes the beneficial use of specialized waste (e.g., use of such materials as sludge, fly ash, and ground C&D waste as landfill cover or in other applications on the landfill), private recycling of such things as concrete and asphalt, as well as the materials collected by DSWA or private companies for traditional recycling.

The residential diversion rate and MSW diversion rate were calculated by Franklin Associates (under contract to DSWA) for the year 2000. Those rates were 13% and 21% respectively.

7. What are the most commonly employed systems in your state for collecting residential recyclables. Are different sized communities required or encouraged to meet a certain standard of recycling services?

Most residential recyclables are collected through the statewide drop-off program. This program accepts containers (aluminum and steel cans, glass containers, and plastic bottles); newspaper, phone books, magazines, and junk mail; OCC; plastic grocery bags; used motor oil; textiles; and electronic goods. The landfills (also operated by DSWA) accept source-separated yard waste and divert tires and white goods from the working face. In 2003, DSWA began offering subscription curbside recycling in the most populous county of the state. A few small towns have also implemented curbside recycling with the help of the state's Recycling Assistance Grant program. Communities are not required to meet any standard of recycling services.

8. Do you have rural communities in your state that have developed and are maintaining successful residential recycling programs? What type of "system" are these successful communities employing?

Under the statewide drop-off program, recycling centers are within convenient driving distance of most residents, both urban and rural. In addition, for people who take their

own trash to a landfill or collection station, each of these locations has a full recycling center. No rural areas have become involved in efforts to provide other recycling programs for residents.

9. What incentives (grants, loans, tax incentives, etc.) are offered in your state for recycling and to whom are these incentives available? (state government, local governments, private companies, universities and institutions, etc.) How are these grants or loans funded?

Since 2001, the state has had a Recycling Assistance Grant program to help encourage recycling initiatives at the local level. Eligible entities are municipalities, not-for-profit organizations (e.g., service organizations, environmental groups, scout troops, religions organizations), and schools and universities. The grant program is funded through General Funds and must be approved each year by the General Assembly. Total amount of funding is usually \$50,000 per year.

The Green Industries Initiative is an incentive program to encourage businesses to establish new systems (or expand existing ones) for collecting or processing recyclable materials from the MSW waste stream, or for manufacturing products from materials diverted from the waste stream. Benefits include low-interest loans, tax credits, priority permitting, and technical assistance.

10. Does your agency or state have a "recycling program,"? In what agency is the program housed and how many full time employees are dedicated to recycling program activities?

The drop-off program ('RECYCLE DELAWARE') is housed in the Delaware Solid Waste Authority. The program manager is Rich Von Stetten; he should be contacted for specific information about the number of employees. Contact information is:

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Like Mississippi, Delaware has a task force (the Governor's Recycling Public Advisory Council) that is developing a comprehensive plan for improving our chronically low residential recycling rate. The council has been working for 3 ½ years and has issued three annual reports, each one containing recommendations. These reports are on DNREC's web page at www.dnrec.state.de.us (click on "Recycling").

The council is nearing completion of a report that will recommend statewide mandatory curbside recycling (with some exemptions) using single-stream collection with MRF

processing. They have already recommended a ban on landfilling of yard waste. They have struggled to develop a plan that will be palatable to the legislators as well as most stakeholders – definitely not an easy task.

The answers to the questions you posed are in the attachment. If you have any additional questions, please direct them to me, and I will do my best to respond.

Good luck. As a native Mississippian (born in Biloxi), I would like to see your efforts succeed.