**Recycle Center Report to the Community, Year 2021**

**Brown County Solid Waste Management District**

**(Recycle Center)**

2021 was a good year for the Solid Waste District. Many key recycle material commodity prices took a healthy increase strengthening our cash position. Cardboard went from $70 a ton to $170/ton. Office paper went from $50/ton to $115/ton. #1 plastic went from $0/ton to $10/ton. Aluminum cans went from $300/ton to $700/ton. Scrap metal went from $135/ton to $70/ton. These prices remain in effect as of this report (2/15/2022). However we cannot dictate commodity prices. They dictate to us.

The decision was made in 2021 to hire a part-time CDL driver. This has enabled the District to transport all recycle and trash material for substantially increased income dollars.

Gross material intake in 2021 was 715 tons while in 2020 it was 659 tons. This resulted in an 8.5% annual increase. Material from business recycling is substantial for our operation. Business recycling continues to be a substantial part of our operation. Most all major businesses in Brown County such as Hard Truth, Brown County Inn, Speedway and IGA participate.

The percentage intake breakdown is as follows. Cardboard still takes to top spot. The breakdown is:

Cardboard: 54%

Glass: 17%

Metal Products: 11%

Plastics: 9%

Paper Products: 9%

Additionally, we took in 97 Freon appliances, for recycling in 2021. This includes: refrigerators, freezers, water coolers and dehumidifiers.

The Recycle Center still remains a 75% taxpayer funded operation. Our major tax source is Property Taxes. The remaining 27% comes from donations, trash sales and the sale of recyclable materials.

2021 prices were as follows:

Cardboard: $170/ton

Newspapers/magazines: $50/ton

Office paper: $115/ton

#1 plastic: $10/ton

#2 clear plastic: $600/ton

#2 colored plastic: $150/ton

Clear glass: $30/ton

Colored glass: $20/ton

Aluminum: $700/ton

Scrap Metal: $170/ton

Aluminum foil: $100/ton

Copper: $6,400/ton

Books, #1 plastic (most common), #3, #7 plastics we are paid nothing on. Our operation is not like a normal business. We do not set market prices. However, we are seeing some promising upward trends in commodity prices thus far in 2022. These prices are always subject to change.

Our downstream material flow is very legitimate. Here are what some of your major recycled products are made into and where they go.

Cardboard: new cardboard, partition board & paper grocery sacks

Major buyer: Eaton Paper Mills – Eaton,IN

Glass: fiberglass, commercial carpeting & other glass products

Mohawk Industries – Edon, NC

Plastics: plastic pellets for general manufacturing, carpet padding & new plastics.

Mohawk Industries – Edon, NC – commercial carpeting & numerous plastics manufactures such as Nypro Kanaack in AL

Paper Products: other paper products such as office paper, toilet paper, paper towels & facial tissue. - Kimberly Clark – Owensboro, KY

Total intake for our Electronics Recycling days was 26,020 lbs. document shredding was 16,500 lbs. The District received a Grant from the Indiana Department of Environmental Management for $28,500 to assist in paying for a Tox Away Day Event. This is for the recycling of hazardous materials. This Event was held on Saturday, July 31st. Total intake was eight tons. Total cost of Event was $12,880. The District received a 50% reimbursement from the IDEM grant.

The District also was awarded a Grant from the Brown County Community Foundation in the amount of $3,887 for new outside recycle bins.

The Recycle Center officially retired the recycled caps/benches program in 2021. We produced 50 benches during its course. However due to storage issues and increased labors costs to process, the decision was made to discontinue it.

Our bagged trash service did well in 2021 with a gross intake of $8,116.47. We are proud to partner with Republic on this program.

In conclusion, 2021 was a good year. Please visit browncountyrecycles.org for up-to-date information and event dates. Our phone number is (812) 988-0140 if there are ever any questions or concerns.