**Recycle Center Report to the Community, Year 2024**

**Brown County Solid Waste Management District**

The Recycle Center had another good year in terms of volume and grants. Commodity prices weakened somewhat for the year, but he realized a slight increased volume to help offset that. Prices on cardboard, metals and paper products weakened. The commodity price history for 2024 is as follows:

Cardboard from$125/ton to $85/ton

Newspaper/Magazines from $5/ton to $10/ton

#2 Clear Plastic was steady all year at $300/ton

#2 HDPE was steady all year at $80/ton

Steel Cans from $215/ton to $180/ton

Scrap Metal from $175/ton to $125/ton

Cardboard pricing is the most critical as it comprises 53% of total intake. Prices are expected to climb again into 2025.

Percentage intake breakdown by weight is as follows:

Cardboard 52.8%

Metal Cans/Scrap 14.5%

Paper Products 7.8%

Plastics 7.0%

Glass 17.6%

Misc .3%

The Recycle Center took in 72 Freon appliances in 2024. This is comprised of freezers, water coolers, dehumidifiers and refrigerators.

Gross material intake for 2024 was 784 tons which represents a 2.2% increase over 2023. We still maintain five satellite recycling locations around the county plus the main facility at 176 Old State Road 46.

Downstream material flow is very legitimate. Here are what some major recycled products are made into and where they go. There have been some minor changes with this.

News/mail – Bucyrus, Ohio – Made into insulation.

Sorted office Paper – Owensboro, KY – Made into Commercial paper towels.

Cardboard – Battle Creek, MI – Made into Kraft liner board to make packaging like Pop Tart boxes and FedEx envelopes.

#1PET Bottles – Richmond, IN – Pelletized to make carpet pad or clothing

#2 Natural and #2 Color – Indianapolis, IN – pelletized to use in manufacturing to make more containers.

Film – Winchester, VA – Made into deck boards.

#4&#5 – Indianapolis, IN – Pelletized to use in manufacturing to make more containers.

The vendors who take our recycle material are as follows:

WestRock Indianapolis: cardboard, plastic, paper products

Bloomington Iron-Metal: steel/aluminum cans, scrap metal

Strategic Glass Indianapolis: clear/brown/green glass

Technology Recyclers Indianapolis: electronic products

Speedy Shred Seymour: document shredding

Republic Services Bloomington: trash program

T&T Tire Milan: tires

The Recycle Center is a 76.8% taxpayer funded operation with the major tax revenue coming from property taxes. The remaining 23.4% comes from sale of recycle materials, trash sales and donations.

In 2024 we had our Tire Collection Day taking tires of all sizes. Intake quantities for our Special Events are in the chart below:

Tires: 2,300 (primarily passenger car)

Electronics: 21,337 lbs. including 104 TV sets and computer monitors

Document Shredding: 6,420 lbs.

The Recycle Center was awarded a Grant from the Brown County Community Foundation in the amount of $15,000 which was used to pave the drop-off area. This had been gravel for years and the new concrete foundation is safer, raises less dust and is easier to walk and drive on. In addition, we were awarded a Tire Collection Grant from the Indiana Department of Environmental Management in the amount of $5,000 for our Tire Collection Recycle Day.

Our bagged trash program for 2024 was the most successful it’s ever been. Gross sales were $26,297 with a net profit of 17,367. We partner with Republic Services out of Bloomington for this.

The Adopt-A-Road program is still in place however we have lost 3 members in 2024 with no new ones added. We will discontinue the sign placement program due to constant damage & destruction.

Listed below are the processors we work with on our materials:

West Rock: cardboard, paper products, plastics, books

Strategic Glass: all glass products

Bloomington Iron & Metal: steel cans, aluminum cans and scrap metal

Speedy Shred: shredded paper events

Technology Recycling: electronics recycling events

Republic Services: trash

Staples Office Supply: computer cartridges

The Recycle Center still maintains a strong business pick-up program in and around Nashville. Larger business customers include IGA, Brown County Inn, Speedway, Dunham Plumbing, Hard Truth, BP Gas Station, MacDonalds, Law Enforcement Center and several others. Our largest single recycler is the IGA grocery. It represents approximately 25% of our total annual intake.

In summary the Brown County Solid Waste Management District had another productive year. Visit **browncountyrecycles.org** for all up-to-date information regarding recycling. Our phone number is (812) 988-0140.