



2023 - 2024 ANNUAL REPORT

FLOYD COUNTY SOLID WASTE MANAGEMENT DISTRICT



www.recyclefc.com / 2524 Corydon Pike, Suite 103, New Albany, IN

Introduction

The Floyd County Solid Waste Management District, operating as Recycle Floyd County, is charged with providing recycling services in Floyd County. It does so by operating two drop off centers at the county annex located at 3005 Grant Line Road (Tuesday-Saturday) and at the Galena Digital Library (Wednesdays Only). Recycle Floyd County also collects recyclables and corrugated paper at approximately 35 businesses, schools, and non-profit agencies every week. The district is governed by a board comprised of leaders from Floyd County government, the City of New Albany, and the Town of Georgetown.

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What We Recycle & How Much

2023 Results-Total Recyclable Volume Collected

- Residential Single Stream (RSS) [includes paper, plastics & glass]
- Corrugated Packaging (OCC)
- Aluminum (ALUM)
- Sheet Iron (Metals)
- Hazardous Household Wastes (HHW)
- Electronics Recycling

CATEGORY	TOTAL
RSS-Annex	472,045
RSS-Galena	257,384
RSS-Direct	1,140
OCC	717,940
Alum	18,336
Sheet Iron	53,749
HHW	3,110
Electronics	27,249
Total LBS	1,550,953
TOTAL TONS	775

*On March 15, 2022, the Board of the Floyd County Solid Waste Management District set the goal of recycling 50% of household trash by 2030 and the birth of the district's **50 by 30** slogan.*

Traffic Counts

LOCATION	TOTAL
Annex 3005 Grant Line Road	33,518
Galena Digital Library	18582
TOTAL	52,100





The Spirit of Recycle Floyd County

The foundation of our organization are the people who assist our patrons at our drop-off centers, the people who pick up the corrugated boxes at around 35 businesses and schools throughout the county, and those who transport recyclables to the regional collection centers in Louisville and southern Indiana. Our team totals 14 employees, 10 of them are part-time. They don't work simply for the modest wages. Every one of them is committed to a more sustainable environment and a more engaged community.

Background

In 1990, the Indiana General Assembly passed Public Law 10-1990. This legislation made sweeping changes in existing state solid waste law, including creating the solid waste management districts. The districts had a number of responsibilities, including developing solid waste management plans with guidance from the Indiana Department of Environmental Management (IDEM). This triggered the creation of the Floyd County Solid Waste Management District, doing business today as *Recycle Floyd County*.

Our Goal

On November 17, 2020, the administrator of the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (USEPA) announced the national recycling goal is to increase the U.S. recycling rate to 50 percent by 2030. On March 15, 2022, the Board of the Floyd County Solid Waste Management District set the goal of recycling 50% of household trash by 2030 and the birth of the district's *50 by 30* slogan.

There are many reasons why Floyd County citizens recycle. They range from helping improve the environment or simply reducing the volume of waste being landfilled, to supporting a sustainable economy or recycling just because it's the right thing to do. In Floyd County, we recycled nearly 1,551,000 pounds, or 775 tons, in 2023.

Floyd County is home to 80,454 citizens. The city of New Albany contracts for its trash collection and recycling services. *Recycle Floyd County* largely focuses on the 43,043 who live outside of the city. At about 4.9 pounds per person per day of household trash, and at Indiana's approximate recycling rate of 21%, we theoretically could recycle 22 tons per day. Our back of the envelope calculation suggests that we currently recycle around 20 pounds per year per man, woman and child in Floyd County. We want to do better.

But first, we face frequent questions regarding what is recyclable, and where does it go, and does it financially make sense?



The Business Case for Recycling

As in many cases, there are many factors affecting whether a business plan makes sense. It's no different with recycling. Here are a few ways to look at the business case for recycling.

Recycling pays in more ways than one. The average consumer can spend around \$210 annually on plastic trash bags alone. Recycling reusable products that'll otherwise be thrown out cuts that number in half. Recycling can also generate a few extra dollars. Some recyclable materials, such as aluminum cans, can be sold for profit. In the case of Recycle Floyd County, revenue from aluminum and metal cans and corrugated boxes offsets the operational costs that exceed the funds committed by county government.

Recycling also pays dividends to the community, creating jobs in the collection and selling of recyclables, as well as reducing the amount of trash requiring landfill space and pollutants in the community.

At the household level, there are several benefits that accrue to consumers because of active and ongoing recycling. One benefit can be a reduction in waste disposal costs. A number of communities around America incentivize recycling by charging for trash destined for the landfill. Another is the deep commitment people have to conserve our resources. That's why companies such as the makers of Tide, Cheer and Spic & Span worked hard in the 1990's to incorporate post-consumer recycled high-density polyethylene (HDPE) in their plastic bottles to create a demand for recycled content.

A key lesson for our Recycle Floyd County team is the spirit displayed that those who visit our recycling drop-off centers. These individuals and families take recycling as a serious commitment to a better community and a more sustainable world. Many of our fellow citizens deliver their recyclables so routinely that they arrive at essentially the same time every week, rain or shine, hot or cold. They believe a community committed to recycling is a major factor in how they, and others, evaluate the "quality of place." The sustainable mindset in an important element of the community's character.

To summarize, there are ways to run a profitable business with sufficient scale to maximize the collection and reuse of recycled materials. However, on the smaller scale where we operate in Floyd County, we count on revenue producing materials that offset operational costs in the range of 10-15%. That's why we count on funding from county government for the majority of our funding in the absence of a specific solid waste tax found in a number of counties that funds recycling.

How We Are Funded

Most everyone agrees that recycling makes sense as a means of reducing the amount of household trash that ultimately ends up in a landfill. What everyone does not understand is the financial structure surrounding recycling. The 2024 Solid Waste/Recycle Floyd County budget is \$529,000. The Floyd County Commissioners' Economic Development Income Tax (EDIT) funds \$400,000, the County Adjusted Gross Income Tax (CAGIT) funds \$16,584. We are budgeted to collect \$71,600 in earned income as well. Our team transports corrugated trailers to the Municipal Recycling Facility (MRF) in Louisville every day. We get paid for corrugated paper on a per ton basis. Today, it totals \$75 per ton. In 2022 and early 2023, the markets collapsed so we didn't get paid anything. The market for recyclables can go up and go down. We also collect metal and aluminum cans. These commodities are currently valued at \$0.67 per pound for aluminum and \$0.06 per pound for metals.

The district's earned income includes revenue from electronics (televisions, computers, printers, etc.) and household hazardous wastes (pesticides, herbicides, paints). Together, this income totaled just under \$21,000 last year. Income from all sources totaled \$49,000.

Many districts around Indiana are funded by a property tax assessment similar to what funds county government, the schools and our libraries. As a result, funding for recycling per capita varies widely. In 2023, neighboring Clark County's solid waste budget amounted to \$12.25 per person. In Harrison County, it was \$21.60 per person. In Floyd County, it amounted to \$6.55 per person. Remember that residents of the City of New Albany pay a fee of \$15.63 per month for their trash collection and recycling as part of their New Albany Municipal Utilities bill.

What is Recyclable. What Isn't Recyclable

In recycling jargon, newspapers, magazines, miscellaneous office paper, plastic bottles, and glass containers are referred to as "single stream" recyclables. For those who recycle today, you're familiar with green bins used to collect single stream materials. We pay for these materials to be transported to a municipal recycling facility (MRF) in Louisville. In 2023, this cost amounted to \$17,593. There are a number of materials that while theoretically recyclable, cannot be accepted for recycling. For example, we do not accept plastic bags or Styrofoam.

We also do not accept wood, old bathroom fixtures such as toilets or sinks, or furniture.

Our Partnership with the Indiana Department of Environmental Management (IDEM)

Making Recycling More Convenient and Fashionable

We appreciate the support that IDEM is providing our organization in 2024. By funding 50% of a \$104,000 initiative through its Recycling Market Development Program, IDEM is helping make recycling more convenient to the residents of Floyd County. This initiative, supported by the purchase of two new recycling trailers and two open top bins, will enable our team to move into 5 neighborhoods and establish 4 recycling "hubs" near another 38 neighborhoods in July. The grant includes an expanded marketing and communications program to build awareness and encourage recycling among those families who currently do not recycle. Our goal is to accelerate our movement towards a 50% recycling rate for Floyd County households by 2030.

IDEM is also funding 75% of a second program, the Community Recycling Grant Program, that includes the purchase of a baler that will generate a higher return on the corrugated boxes we collect. The grant also provides dollars for recycling education materials for use in fourth grade classrooms throughout the county.

Our Partners

Indiana University Southeast	Cobbler's Crossing	Southern Estates	Glenwood Farms
Wolf Lake	Woods of Lafayette	Floyd County Parks	Loftus Properties
Floyd County Road Department	Ideology	Floyd County Stormwater	Floyd County Corrections
Floyd County Soil & Water Conservation District	Scott Burch Mount Tabor Elementary School	New Albany-Floyd County Consolidated Schools Corporation	Floyd County Human Resources

Our Partnership with PC Home Stores

Partnerships in any endeavor are essential for success. We want to recognize in particular PC Home Stores, including PC Home Center, 123 Cherry Street in New Albany for their commitment to recycling and their support for Recycle Floyd County. The latest example of this commitment is their offer to make recycling bins available, at cost, to families either currently recycling or starting to recycle for the first time. We appreciate the support of David Stemler, Mark McCartin and the entire PC team for their dedication to making our community a better place.



Looking Ahead at 2024 and Beyond

We look to the future with a strong sense of optimism and the belief that our 50 by 30 goal is attainable and that most of our citizens truly understand that recycling is the right thing and the smart thing to do.

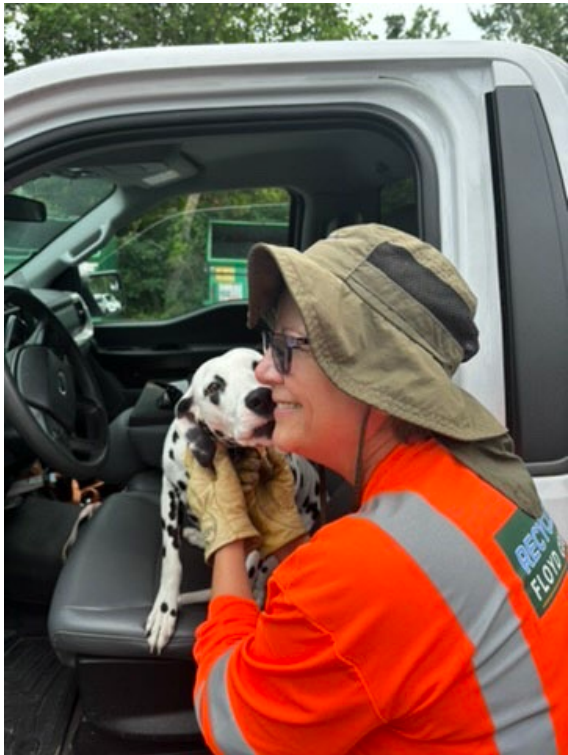
Our Board of Directors

Floyd County Commissioner Jason Sharp and Floyd County Council member Brad Striegel are serving as board president and vice president, respectfully, in 2024. Mr. Striegel served as president and County Commissioner John Schellenberger as vice president in 2023. We are grateful for their service and that of the other members of our board: Al Knable, Floyd County Commissioner, Adam Dickey, New Albany City Council, Brandon Hopf, Georgetown Town Board, and Jeff Gahan, New Albany Mayor.

Recycler of the Year!

Mt. Tabor 4th Grade Teacher, Scott Burch





Our Best Friends

A major key to personal growth is to never stop learning. Many folks who recycle drive electric or hybrid cars. There is a good balance between Purdue, IU, UofL and UK fans. But one constant that every Recycle Floyd County team member would tell you is that avid recyclers love pets, especially dogs. As we did last year, we dedicate two pages to those pets who make our days, be it cold, hot, cloudy, or windy, a little brighter.







