

Recycling Progress Report 2016



Greetings Refuse/Recycling Customers!

According to the USEPA, the average person in the US generates 4.4 pounds of waste every day. 1.5 pounds is recycled or composted; the remaining 2.9 pounds finds its way to a landfill. How do we compare?

The City's waste stream has been in gradual decline for nearly 25 years; reduced from about 4,500 tons per year to 3,500 tons/year. That's great news and fits in well with the most important step in the Waste Management Hierarchy pyramid.

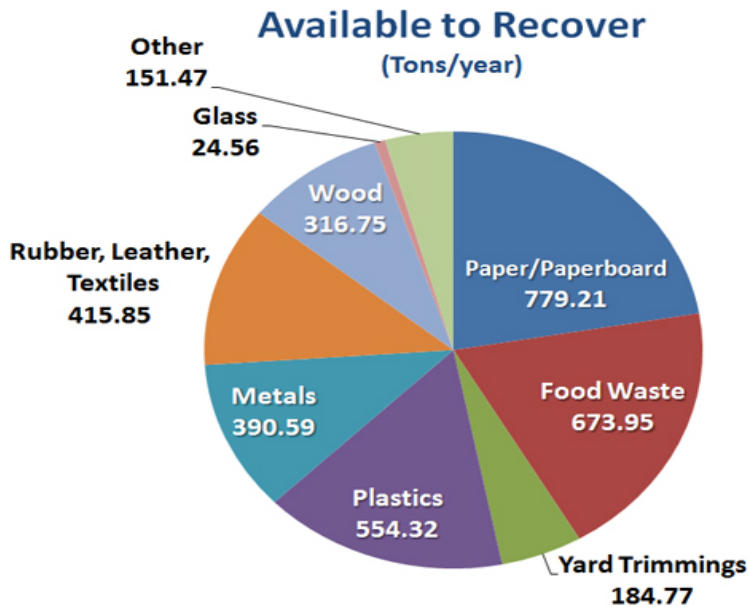
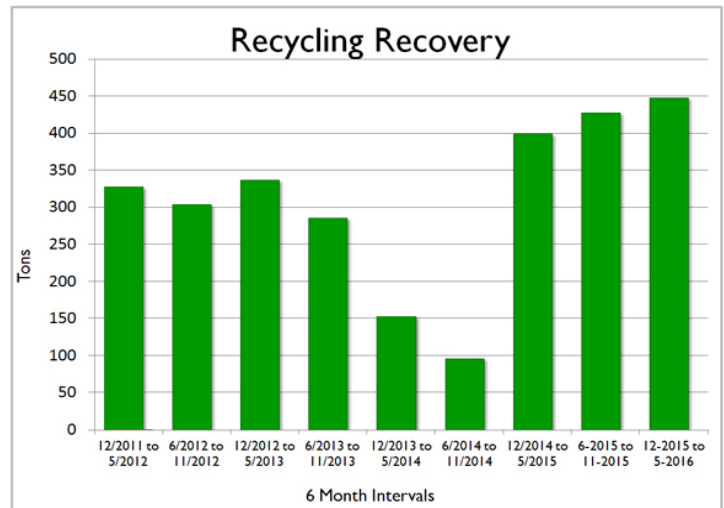


In Oberlin, we generate about 3.3 pounds of waste per person per day. That's 25% less than the national average. In 2015, we disposed of 3,504.82 tons of solid waste. We also recycled 1,536.39 tons of paper, glass, plastics, metal cans and organic materials. Each of us recycles just over a pound per day. In 2015, our recycling rate inched up to 30.56%.

While we strive to reduce solid waste going to the landfill and to increase recycling recovery rates, there is still a lot of work to do to achieve the goals of our *Zero Waste Plan*.

Using our 2015 solid waste and

recycling data and comparing it to national statistics on the composition of the residential/commercial waste stream, we find that there is still plenty of room for improved recovery of almost every type of material.



Paper remains the single largest component of our waste stream, followed closely by food waste. In combination, each of us throws away almost a pound of paper and food waste *every day!* Between the City's recycling service and the *Paper Retriever* collection bins behind the Oberlin Public Library, at all schools and on campus at the college, most kinds of paper can be easily recovered.

Food waste presents a great opportunity to reduce the waste stream. A few tips to keep in mind are:

- purchase only what you can eat before it spoils
- plan meals to use what you have available
- size portions appropriately

Each of us throws out almost ½ pound of food everyday!

Consider setting up a home composting system to manage the food scraps you do produce. See the Rebate Offer on the other side of this page.



Recycling Rebates

Purchase a Home Composting Bin and the City of Oberlin Recycling Program will reimburse you up to *\$100 for the cost of the bin.



Drop off your tube TV (smaller than 32"), your flat panel TV (including LCD, Plasma, LED smaller than 50") or your Portable TV to any Best Buy store for a *\$25 fee and we'll refund your fee!



Bring your receipt to the Public Works Dept. at City Hall, 85 S. Main St. between 8AM-4:30PM, Mon. - Fri. and we'll process your reimbursement. Receipts must be dated between 5/28/16 and 11/1/2016. *Limit one reimbursement per household for each program. Offer only available to Oberlin city residents.

2016 **Styrofoam™**
Recycling Drop-off
Aug. 21 through Sept. 5

Drop-off your molded EPS#6 Styrofoam™ packaging during these dates at:



Additional drop-off dates:
September 25 - October 9, 2016
October 23 - November 6, 2016

Do you have a reuse/repurpose tip? Contact us at recycling@cityofoberlin.com. If you have questions call Lori at 440-935-0096 or Republic Services at 440-774-4060.

Mixed Recycling - Recycle These Items Only

Please...

- Empty and rinse all containers. Flatten all boxes.
- Do not bag recycling; place items loose in dumpster.
- Questions call 440-935-0096 or recycling@cityofoberlin.com

Do Not Include

- Tires
- Styrofoam
- Scrap Metal
- Garbage
- Metal Trays
- Aluminum Foil
- Shredded Paper
- Paper Towels
- Plastic Bags
- Chip Bags
- Plastic Wrap
- Food
- Light Bulbs
- Clothing
- Furniture
- Yard Waste

New Recycling Label on Commercial and College Recycling Dumpsters

Contamination of properly prepared recyclable materials occurs when well-meaning recyclers include non-recyclable items in our recycling carts and dumpsters. **Non-recyclable items make up 17% of the recycling waste stream at Republic's Lorain County Recycling Center.** In Lorain County, that's about 3,000 tons per year of misplaced waste products clogging processing equipment, decreasing productivity and increasing costs.

*****When in doubt, please do not include that item.*****
 Better yet, check the City's web-site, call us or call Republic for up to date information. To make it easier, the City's commercial recycling dumpster label has been improved to provide at-a-glance information on what to include as well as more specifics on what not to include. Please be aware that there are numerous opportunities to reuse or recycle those items which cannot be collected in our recycling carts and dumpsters. You'll find a comprehensive resource list on our web-site. Thank you for sharing our commitment to recycle by recycling daily and recycling right!