



Ionia Conservation District Recycling Proposal

Project: Recycling drop-off facilities across Ionia County

Scope: The 2022 changes in Solid Waste Legislative Part 115 define that by 2029, Michigan counties will have a 30% waste diversion rate, followed by 40% by 2035. In addition to this, by 2029 all municipalities in Michigan over 5,000 people will have curbside recycling services and all counties with over 10,000 people will have one recycling drop-off site per 10,000 people. At this point, the two municipalities in Ionia County with populations over 5,000 people (Ionia and Belding, 11,704 and 6,129 respectively) have curbside services and are in compliance. The next largest municipality, Portland (3,947) has had a steady population since 1990. With our current population (67,000), we will need six recycling drop-off facilities strategically placed in more rural areas.

Objectives:

- *The installation of six recycling compactor drop-off sites*
 - Similar to those placed throughout Montcalm County
 - Placement in: Ionia, Muir, Lake Odessa, Belding, and Portland
 - Includes: cardboard compactor, single stream (aluminum, glass, plastics) compactor, poured concrete, steel barrier, security cameras
 - Compactors shown to have minimal contamination, dumping
 - Host community agreement with Pitsch Sanitary Landfill and grants provide funding
 - Ideal placement near municipality DPW

Timeline:

- October 2023: Receive approval from county commissioners
- December 2023: Site determination
- January 2024: Hire Resource Recovery Coordinator
- February 2024: Receive approval for site placement from municipalities
- April 2024: Site I placement
- April 2025: Site II placement
- January 2026: Host Community Agreement takes effect
- January 2026: Hire Resource Recovery Support Staff
- April 2026: Site III placement
- April 2027: Site IV placement
- April 2028: Site V placement
- April 2029: Site VI placement

Benefits:

- Ionia County will be in full compliance with EGLE policy changes to Part 115 by 2029.
- After six years, Ionia recycling program budget will become fully sustainable.
- Ionia Conservation District will continue to organize and operate all materials management needs in Ionia County.
- Local investiture will yield local advocacy.

