

# 2023 HOW IS MY CITY OR TOWN DOING?

## MUNICIPAL RECYCLING, COMPOSTING AND WASTE DIVERSION IN RHODE ISLAND



At Rhode Island Resource Recovery Corporation (Resource Recovery), we use data to help RI's cities and towns measure their program's success in a few different ways. On the following page, you will find RI's 39 municipalities grouped by program size and type, allowing for a fair comparison of how your city or town is doing.

### The Three Categories Are As Follows:

1. Municipalities serving more than 10,000 households through a curbside collection program.
2. Municipalities serving less than 10,000 households through a curbside collection program.
3. Municipalities serving households through a transfer station and/or residents have the option to hire a private trash and recycling hauler.

### The Chart Shows Six Different Measures of Success:

1. **Tons of Trash Landfilled per Household Served:** This measure expresses the average amount of trash landfilled per household served.
2. **Pounds of Accepted MRF Recycling per Household Served:** This measure expresses the average amount of mixed recycling accepted by Resource Recovery's Materials Recycling Facility (MRF) per household served.
3. **Pounds of Rejected MRF Recycling per Household Served:** This measure expresses the average amount of mixed recycling per household served that was rejected and required landfilling as a result of not meeting the MRF's minimum quality / acceptance criteria.
4. **MRF Recycling Rate:** This is our simplest measure of recycling. It divides the total tons of accepted MRF recycling by the total of those tons plus the tons of trash delivered for landfilling. For example, if a city brought 30 tons of recycling and 70 tons of trash, then  $30 / (30+70) = 0.3$  or 30%.
5. **Mandatory Recycling Rate:** This measure builds on the one above, by adding the materials on the Rhode Island Department of Environmental Management's (RIDEM) Mandatory Recyclables List (<https://rules.sos.ri.gov/regulations/Part/250-140-20-2>). These materials include leaf and yard waste composted at Resource Recovery or elsewhere as well as clothing/textiles and scrap metal reused or recycled elsewhere. We divide these tons by their total plus the total tons of landfilled trash. For example, adding 10 tons of RIDEM mandatory materials to the above example equals  $(30+10) / (30+10+70) = 0.36$  or 36%.
6. **Overall Diversion Rate:** This measure once again expands on the previous by adding in all other materials that are diverted from the landfill for reuse or recycling. These materials can include but are not limited to items such as books, bulky rigid plastics, cooking oil, electronic waste, food scraps, mattresses, motor oil & filters, paint, tires, etc. We divide these tons by their total plus the total tons of landfilled trash. For example, adding 5 tons of other diverted materials to the above example equals  $(30+10+5) / (30+10+5+70) = 0.39$  or 39%.

### The State of RI Has Set a Two-part Goal for Its 39 Municipalities:

**§ 23-18.9-1:** Beginning July 1, 2012 every city or town that enters into a contract with Resource Recovery to dispose of solid waste shall be required to recycle a minimum of thirty-five percent (35%) of its solid waste and to divert a minimum of fifty percent (50%) of its solid waste. RI municipalities commonly measure these against their Mandatory Recycling Rate and Overall Material Diversion Rate, respectively.

### How Can I Help My City or Town Improve Its Recycling and Diversion Efforts?

Visit our website, [www.rirrc.org](http://www.rirrc.org) to learn how to recycle right in your bin/cart, reduce waste, reuse items, compost, recycle special/bulky items and properly dispose of household hazardous waste. Our website also provides information on additional free programs and services we offer to RI residents, businesses, schools and community groups.

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Rhode Island Municipal Waste Management Data by Collection Program and Type

Municipality	Recycling & Diversion Rates			Per Household (HH) Served in Program		
	MRF Recycling	Mandatory Recycling	Overall Diversion	Tons of Trash Landfilled	Pounds of MRF Recycling	Pounds of Rejected Recycling
<b>&gt; 10K Households Served Curbside</b>						
Coventry	24.2%	33.1%	33.8%	0.90	575	11
Cranston	19.7%	31.7%	32.0%	0.89	436	131
Cumberland	22.3%	30.4%	30.6%	0.83	480	26
East Providence	18.8%	40.6%	41.1%	0.86	397	65
Johnston	10.7%	13.6%	13.7%	1.78	427	48
Newport	27.6%	37.7%	38.2%	0.57	435	0
North Providence	16.0%	24.7%	25.0%	0.87	330	78
Pawtucket	13.8%	20.3%	20.6%	0.89	283	138
Providence	2.9%	7.8%	8.3%	1.34	79	624
Warwick	24.5%	48.0%	48.4%	0.85	553	2
Woonsocket	20.5%	29.2%	30.4%	0.91	471	9
<b>&gt; 10K Curbside AVG.</b>	<b>14.8%</b>	<b>26.4%</b>	<b>26.8%</b>	<b>0.97</b>	<b>406</b>	<b>103</b>
<b>&lt; 10K Households Served Curbside</b>						
Barrington	24.6%	47.6%	48.2%	0.97	630	42
Bristol	26.1%	34.9%	35.4%	0.73	518	6
Burrillville	24.8%	31.2%	32.3%	0.81	532	6
Central Falls	17.1%	18.7%	19.1%	1.15	474	55
East Greenwich	24.6%	34.6%	34.9%	0.99	646	8
Foster	18.9%	19.7%	20.6%	1.19	554	6
Lincoln	21.4%	28.7%	29.1%	1.22	667	32
Middletown	35.3%	46.9%	47.3%	0.58	635	18
North Smithfield	23.7%	31.5%	32.7%	0.92	568	45
Scituate	21.7%	24.5%	25.1%	1.05	581	3
Smithfield	26.1%	38.6%	39.2%	0.77	546	11
Tiverton	31.2%	35.6%	36.4%	0.50	456	26
Warren	23.0%	35.8%	38.4%	0.75	448	0
West Warwick	13.7%	24.0%	24.7%	1.08	343	133
<b>&lt; 10K Curbside AVG.</b>	<b>23.0%</b>	<b>32.8%</b>	<b>33.6%</b>	<b>0.91</b>	<b>543</b>	<b>28</b>
<b>Transfer Station / Independent Curbside Collections</b>						
Charlestown	24.9%	39.9%	41.7%	0.34	223	0
Exeter <sup>e</sup>	21.4%	30.6%	40.7%	0.55	298	0
Gloicester <sup>a</sup>	22.7%	27.9%	30.3%	0.68	399	0
Jamestown <sup>g</sup>	30.9%	40.9%	41.3%	0.87	776	5
Little Compton <sup>g</sup>	22.5%	28.9%	31.4%	0.64	369	0
Narragansett <sup>*</sup>	28.8%	31.1%	31.5%	0.68	547	2
New Shoreham <sup>l</sup>	8.5%	32.4%	41.9%	0.24	45	0
North Kingstown <sup>g</sup>	32.6%	53.2%	53.6%	0.63	613	0
Portsmouth	34.1%	54.3%	55.5%	0.56	581	0
Richmond/Hopkinton <sup>**e</sup>	36.8%	40.7%	42.7%	0.49	576	0
South Kingstown <sup>*a</sup>	29.6%	38.1%	39.5%	0.56	473	0
West Greenwich <sup>f</sup>	23.7%	32.1%	34.0%	1.19	737	0
Westerly <sup>g</sup>	29.9%	39.0%	49.3%	0.89	755	3
<b>Transfer Station AVG.</b>	<b>29.3%</b>	<b>40.0%</b>	<b>43.8%</b>	<b>0.67</b>	<b>529</b>	<b>1</b>
<b>STATE AVERAGES</b>	<b>18.5%</b>	<b>29.6%</b>	<b>30.7%</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>420</b>	<b>130</b>
MRF Recycling Rate	Tons of MRF recycling divided by the above numerator + trash tons					
Mandatory Recycling Rate	Tons of MRF recycling + composted + clothing + scrap metal divided by the above numerator + trash tons					
Overall Diversion Rate	Tons of all materials diverted from the landfill divided by the above numerator + trash tons					
Trash Landfilled per HH	Tons of trash landfilled divided by reported number of households served					
Recycling per HH	Pounds of MRF recycling divided by the reported number of households served					
Rejected Recycling per HH	Pounds of rejected recycling divided by the reported number of households served					
<sup>a</sup> Number of households includes all households or all participating households						
<sup>e</sup> Number of households served is an estimate						
<sup>l</sup> Tonnage figures reported include the months of January, February, March, November & December only						
<sup>*</sup> South Kingstown & Narragansett agree upon percentage allocations of residential materials from the Rose Hill Regional Transfer Station						
<sup>**</sup> Hopkinton residents utilize Richmond's transfer station						

You can also find detailed municipal data summaries and corresponding data trend charts on our website.

Last updated: 4/2/2024; visit [www.rirc.org](http://www.rirc.org) for most up-to-date version (published yearly on/before April