2024 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 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.

Last updated: 4/1/2025; visit www.rirrc.org for most up-to-date version (published yearly on/before April 1).

[1]

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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
> 10K Households Served Curbside						
Coventry	24.9%	33.1%	33.8%	0.83	551	10
Cranston	14.6%	27.0%	27.3%	0.96	328	257
Cumberland	19.5%	28.4%	28.6%	0.93	451	58
East Providence	16.6%	35.9%	36.6%	0.91	364	115
Newport	28.1%	42.0%	42.4%	0.56	438	0
North Providence	12.8%	22.5%	22.8%	0.94	277	136
Pawtucket	10.8%	17.1%	17.4%	0.90	217	216
Providence	2.4%	7.1%	7.8%	1.34	65	648
Warwick	24.0%	49.8%	50.2%	0.87	550	14
Woonsocket	19.9%	29.1%	30.1%	0.95	472	19
> 10K Curbside AVG.	13.4%	26.2%	26.7%	0.92	371	147
< 10K Households Served Curbside						
Barrington	25.7%	48.7%	49.4%	0.95	655	21
Bristol	25.6%	32.7%	33.2%	0.74	511	3
Burrillville	24.5%	31.4%	32.7%	0.80	522	31
Central Falls	18.2%	20.1%	20.4%	1.12	496	36
East Greenwich	23.8%	35.4%	35.7%	1.02	637	18
Foster	18.8%	19.5%	20.3%	1.21	559	25
Johnston	11.0%	14.1%	14.3%	1.76	438	71
Lincoln	21.9%	29.2%	29.5%	1.22	684	17
Middletown	34.4%	48.5%	49.1%	0.58	604	23
North Smithfield	24.5%	32.2%	33.6%	0.79	517	32
Scituate	21.7%	24.9%	25.6%	0.97	539	13
Smithfield	26.2%	38.5%	39.2%	0.77	548	22
Tiverton	30.4%	34.5%	35.3%	0.52	456	18
Warren	21.5%	35.5%	36.1%	0.77	422	0
West Warwick	10.9%	20.9%	21.6%	1.16	284	203
< 10K Curbside AVG.	20.5%	29.6%	30.2%	0.96	525	36
Transfer Station / Independent Curbside Collections						
Charlestown	24.3%	33.1%	35.0%	0.32	204	0
Exeter [e]	18.4%	25.1%	29.4%	0.53	238	0
Glocester [a]	24.8%	30.5%	33.0%	0.62	406	1
Jamestown [a]	30.5%	45.4%	45.8%	0.78	684	2
Little Compton [a]	22.6%	28.5%	31.1%	0.63	367	0
Narragansett [*]	27.7%	30.3%	30.7%	0.64	488	3
New Shoreham	11.7%	32.3%	34.3%	1.41	376	0
North Kingstown [a]	33.9%	54.7%	55.1%	0.57	586	9
Portsmouth	34.1%	52.6%	54.0%	0.60	621	0
Richmond/Hopkinton[**e]	34.1%	38.0%	39.9%	0.52	540	0
South Kingstown [*a]	27.3%	35.9%	37.3%	0.68	513	3
West Greenwich [e]	20.9%	26.9%	29.2%	1.25	660	7
Westerly [a]	27.5%	33.2%	40.7%	0.89	676	0
Transfer Station AVG.	27.9%	38.1%	40.8%	0.67	499	2
STATE AVERAGES	17.2%	28.7%	29.5%	1	393	159

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

[a] Number of households includes all households or all participating households

[e] Number of households served is an estimate

[*] South Kingstown & Narragansett agree upon percentage allocations of residential materials from the Rose Hill Regional Transfer Station

[**] Hopkinton residents utilize Richmond's transfer station

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

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