

2025 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.

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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	24.4%	32.9%	33.4%	0.81	526	9
Cranston	16.7%	28.6%	29.0%	0.92	371	201
Cumberland	19.9%	27.8%	28.1%	0.91	453	14
East Providence	17.5%	36.2%	37.1%	0.88	372	70
Newport	30.1%	40.0%	41.5%	0.55	476	0
North Providence	15.8%	22.7%	23.1%	0.96	358	58
Pawtucket	13.0%	19.3%	19.6%	0.84	252	178
Providence	2.6%	6.8%	7.3%	1.43	78	654
Warwick	23.9%	49.2%	49.6%	0.86	537	5
Woonsocket	19.1%	26.7%	27.6%	1.01	474	5
> 10K Curbside AVG.	14.3%	26.2%	26.8%	0.92	390	119
< 10K Households Served Curbside						
Barrington	24.6%	49.7%	50.4%	0.95	622	23
Bristol	25.3%	31.1%	31.9%	0.73	493	3
Burrillville	24.9%	30.8%	32.1%	0.81	537	12
Central Falls	18.1%	19.0%	19.4%	1.13	497	66
East Greenwich	23.0%	35.7%	36.2%	1.01	601	19
Foster	21.4%	23.8%	24.9%	1.06	578	15
Johnston	11.5%	15.8%	15.9%	1.76	456	82
Lincoln	21.2%	28.0%	28.6%	1.23	660	9
Middletown	33.7%	48.0%	48.5%	0.58	585	32
North Smithfield	23.9%	28.8%	29.2%	0.75	471	20
Portsmouth	29.9%	42.4%	43.2%	0.52	439	0
Scituate	20.7%	23.2%	23.9%	1.00	522	22
Smithfield	25.6%	35.7%	43.2%	0.75	514	7
Tiverton	28.4%	32.7%	33.8%	0.53	424	38
Warren	22.5%	35.9%	36.6%	0.74	429	0
West Warwick	14.3%	23.6%	24.2%	1.09	366	112
< 10K Curbside AVG.	20.9%	30.0%	31.1%	0.91	512	29
Transfer Station / Independent Curbside Collections						
Charlestown	23.1%	33.0%	35.1%	0.33	196	0
Exeter	18.7%	28.7%	32.5%	0.54	247	0
Glocester	23.5%	28.4%	31.2%	0.60	371	1
Jamestown	29.9%	37.8%	38.5%	0.78	670	0
Little Compton	21.7%	28.7%	31.2%	0.61	337	0
Narragansett *	31.4%	34.0%	34.6%	0.59	542	0
New Shoreham	15.5%	30.0%	31.9%	1.38	504	0
North Kingstown	32.0%	52.7%	53.1%	0.54	510	0
Richmond/Hopkinton**	27.5%	34.0%	36.6%	0.58	441	8
South Kingstown *	28.6%	38.0%	39.5%	0.64	513	0
West Greenwich	20.8%	29.3%	31.4%	1.16	610	0
Westerly	28.5%	41.3%	43.6%	0.82	656	0
Transfer Station AVG.	27.9%	39.2%	40.8%	0.71	466	1
STATE AVERAGES	17.8%	28.9%	29.8%	0.93	403	136

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

* 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.

Last updated: 3/24/2026; visit www.rirrc.org for most up-to-date version (published yearly on/before April 1).