



# TUSCOLA COUNTY RECYCLING

## ANNUAL REPORT 2024

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Email: [recycle@tuscolacounty.org](mailto:recycle@tuscolacounty.org)

Website: [www.tuscolacounty.org](http://www.tuscolacounty.org)

Tel: (989)672-1673

Address, 987 Ellington Street (M24)

Caro, MI 48723





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# **2024 Annual Report**

## **About Tuscola County Recycling Facility:**

We began operations in 1996 as a millage funded operation. The operation began at a one-acre site that was leased from the Village of Caro. The County, and the Village funded building the structure that housed the program.

In 2017 the County purchased the former Riverview Recycling location, which is just north of the original site. The building was remodeled and operation began in 2020. The new site is 10-acres which will allow for future growth.

Three full-time, and three part-time employees operate the Facility. The Recycling Coordinator is also the Tuscola County Maintenance Director.

When the millage was approved, a Recycling Advisory Committee was also put in place. Some of the duties of the committees are to help ensure that the millage funding is being handled correctly, and to provide feedback to the Recycling Coordinator. The Committee meets every other month, on the first Thursday.

## **What we do:**

Tuscola County Recycling is open to all County residents. The Facility accepts material Monday thru Friday, from 8:00 A.M. to 4:30 P.M. Residents can bring their recyclables to us, and sort their material by using the containers we have set up inside the building, or if they prefer, our employees will assist them.

Over the past twenty-seven years, the facility has added new programs, and additional items for recycling. We hold year round tire collections, and electronics collections, also hazardous waste is accepted from May through September .

In 2024, the Facility also provided trailers to two townships for weekend collections. The locations are Gagetown, and Juniata townships. The trailers are dropped off to the township on Friday, and on Monday, the trailer is brought back to the Facility for processing. Townships provide their own staff for loading the trailer.

The Facility provides weekly, or by-weekly pick-up to over 100 businesses in Tuscola County.

Permanent collection trailers are at the Tuscola County Medical Care Facility in Caro, Kingston High School, Hills and Dales Hospital in Cass City, and Dollar Tree in Caro. These trailers are brought back to the Facility weekly, or bi-weekly for processing.

There is a staffed trailer brought to Mayville on Thursdays, and Cass City on Fridays. Our staff provides recycling service at these locations, from 9:00am-12:30pm.

## **Scrap Tires**

With funding provided by EGLE, and Tuscola County Mosquito Abatement, we were able to provide eleven Township/Village tire collection events. This is a free collection event for County residents, who can bring their used tires for recycling. The Township/Village provide the labor for their event, in which they are provided a semi-trailer for the tires. The tires are then picked up by Geocycle LLC, they will clean, and shred the tires turning them into landscape mulch, or playground surfacing.

## **Material Collected**

2024 was a good year for us in the sense of recyclables collected. We processed 1,142,465 pounds, or on average 4,644 pounds per day. This is all sorted by hand; we do not have any mechanical sorting equipment. So the days here are quite busy. Once the materials have been sorted, they are then boxed, or bailed for shipment.

## **Materials Management Plan**

In 2023 the state of Michigan passed part 115 laws to help the state reach better recycling rates. This is a multi year plan to achieve a higher recycling rate by 2032. Tuscola County along with Huron, Sanilac, and Lapeer counties entered into an agreement of a multi county plan. The goal of the plan is for the four counties to work together with Tuscola county being the hub for Huron, and Lapeer counties to increase their recycling collections.

Thank you to all of the County residents, and businesses that recycle with us.



# Education Report



## Education report

Tuscola County Recycling Facility education program, for 2024, was facilitated mostly thru; social media, our website, fliers, brochures, and advertisements in the local newspapers.

We were able to have eleven tours ,at the facility, for 152 students, and 27 adults.

Four recycling presentations were given to 123 students, and 59 adults.

One of these tours was held for the Bay/ Thumb region of the Michigan Recycle Coalition. Mike Miller is the new regional director for this group. He facilitated meetings both here in Caro, and also at the annual MRC conference .

We were able to collaborate with the Caro Garden Club for their annual youth sculpture contest. This contest is a National Garden Clubs, Inc. contest. Grades fourth thru eighth are eligible to enter the contest with a sculpture created from recycled materials. One event was held in 2024, for 8 students, and 14 adults. Students were given a recycling presentation, and then provided with the recyclable materials needed to create their sculptures. All the sculptures were judged and were eligible for local, state, and national level prizes.

We set up two displays at the Caro Community Library to showcase both what we recycle at the facility, and many items that are made from recycled content. We also donated recycled products for a trash to treasure jewelry event held at the library.

We also had the opportunity to set up three times at the Caro Farmers market for the kids day events. We handed out recycling information, provided a recycled material craft, and offered games to be played that were made from recycled content items. We also sponsored a drawing for a backpack filled with recycled content school items .

Future education goals will include tours, displays, presentations, and continue our public outreach programs for all ages including information geared towards recycling knowledge for all of our residents.

# Bay/ Thumb Area of the Michigan Recycling Coalition



Mike Miller regional director of the Bay/ Thumb Area



MRC conference 2024



Quarterly meeting for Bay/ Thumb Area held in Caro

Mike Miller is the new regional director for the Bay/ Thumb area group of the Michigan Recycling Coalition. He will host quarterly meetings that bring local recycling experts together for networking, and local tours . He will also co-lead a combined regional session at the yearly MRC conference.

In 2024, the attendees of the meeting were able to tour our facility.

# **Recycling Advisory Committee**



## **RECYCLING ADVISORY COMMITTEE MEETING DATES**

**Tuscola County Purdy Building  
Board Room  
4:30 P.M.**

**February 1, 2024  
April 4, 2024  
June 6, 2024  
August 1, 2024  
October 3, 2024  
December 5, 2024**

## **2024 Recycling Advisory Committee members**

**Commissioner Matt Koch**

**Patty Frazer**

**John Johnson**

**Sherry Burns**

**Mike Warchuck**

**Terry Jones**

**Roger Allen**

# 2024 Financial Summary

## 2024 Revenue Highlights:

Millage	\$276,401.69
Wind revenue	\$51,976.05
Sales of Material/Services	\$57,184.80
Interest	\$6,295.16
Paper shredding services	\$2,454.80
Household hazardous waste	\$4,432.62
Electronic hazardous waste	\$5,307.90
Tire drive	\$2,088.00
Sign Lease	\$1,850.00
EGLE clean sweep grant	\$17,720.29
EGLE scrap tire cleanup grant	\$0
Donations	\$53.87
DPA Services	\$10,000.00
Misc.	\$1,577.27
Total revenues	\$437,342.45

## 2024 Fund Balance:

Fund Balance	\$260,360.31
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## 2024Expense Highlights:

Salaries	\$208,915.37
Fuel	\$6,456.15
Advertising	\$3,717.86
Utilities	\$6,454.45
Household Hazardous Waste	\$10,929.89
Electronic Hazardous Waste	\$3,250.00
Equipment repairs	\$7,561.58
Supplies, printing, postage	\$4,473.80
Tire Drive	\$2,744.50
Insurance & Bonds	\$2,970.23
Indirect costs	\$8,210.00
Misc.	\$113,777.33
Total Expenditures	\$379,461.16



# Materials recycled

For the year 2024 we collected 1,142,465 pounds or 571 tons of recyclable material.

As much as the Facility tries to recycle everything that comes to us, unfortunately we can't. The Facility has one six yard dumpster that is emptied once a week. We estimate that 312 cubic yards, or 15,600 pounds of materials are sent to the landfill. Most of this material is household trash brought in with the recyclables.

Based on the 2023 Midwest average of \$57.24 per ton, for tipping fees at landfills. An estimated \$36,684, in fees, were saved, on the 571 tons of material recycled, at the Facility.

Cardboard 624,416 pounds

Paper 169,720 pounds

Plastic 35,110 pounds

Oil 13,300 pounds

Metal 45,412 pounds

Styrofoam 5,400 pounds

Batteries 4,157 pounds

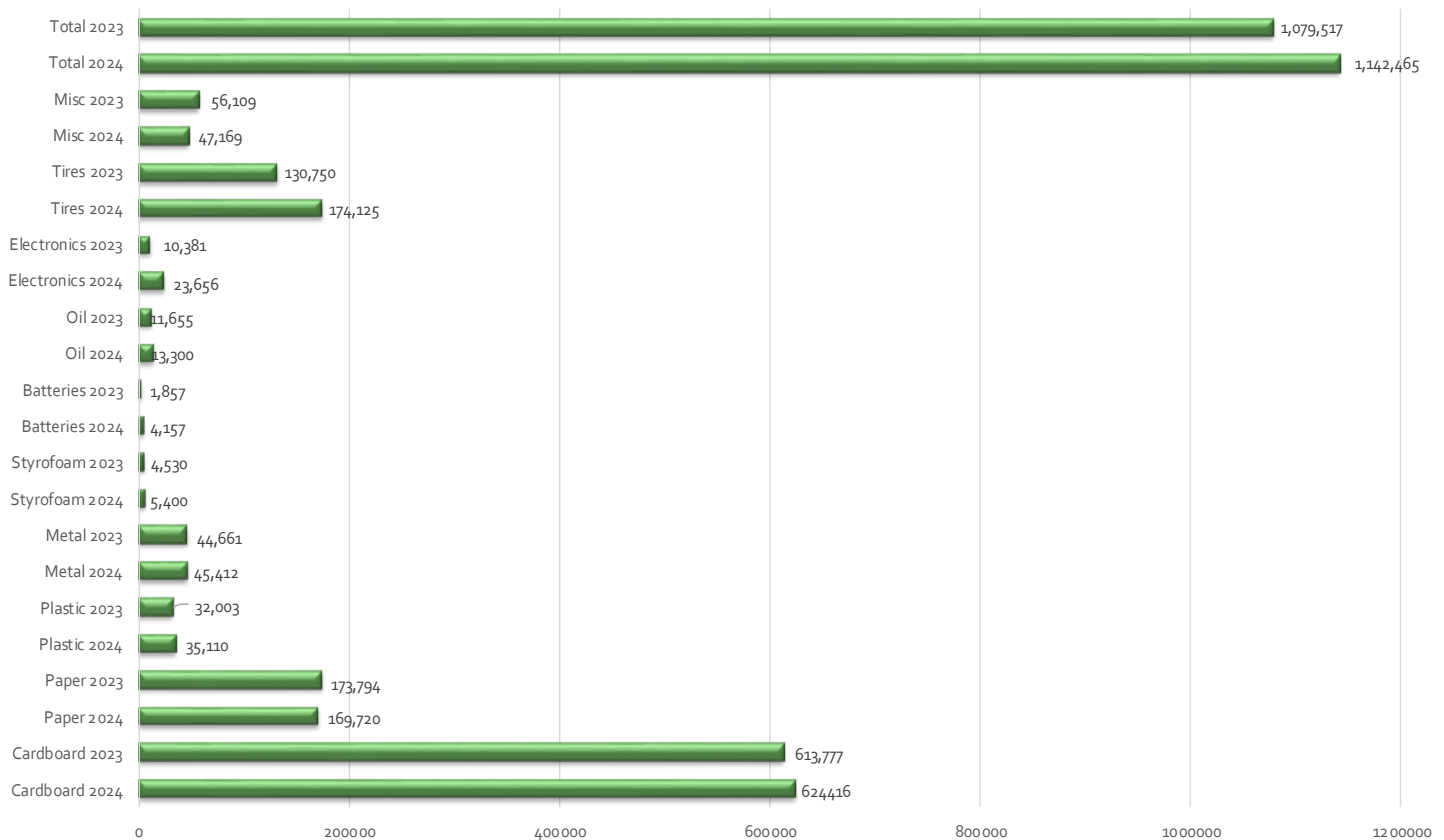
Electronics 23,656 pounds

Tires 174,125 pounds

Misc 47,169 pounds

Total Weight 1,142,465 pounds

Tuscola County Recycling Two Year Comparison



# Where does the recycling go?



M i c h i g a n

- ★ State Capitals    - - - International Boundaries    - - - Toll Roads and Bridges    - - - Major Rivers  
● County Seat    - - - State Boundaries    - - - Interstate Highways    - - - Intermediate Rivers  
● Cities 500,000+    - - - County Boundaries    - - - U.S. Highways    - - - Lakes  
● Cities 100,000-499,999    - - - State Roads  
● Cities 50,000-99,999  
● Cities 10,000-49,999  
● Cities 0-9,999



# Satellite Trailer Programs



TUSCOLA COUNTY  
RECYCLING

## MONTHLY TOWNSHIP DROPOFF SITES

### DROP OFF SITE COLLECTION DAYS – 2024

ACCEPTABLE ITEMS FOR THE DROP OFF TRAILER SITES

\*Clear glass bottles & jars \* Newspaper, junk mail, office paper & phone books \*Magazines & catalogs  
\* Corrugated Cardboard, boxboard (cereal boxes), \*Steel cans \*Aluminum cans  
\* #1 & #2 plastic bottles \* #5 plastic cups, tubs & trays \*Polystyrene #6 (includes egg cartons)

Please rinse out all bottles, cans, and jars

TOWNSHIP	DAY	HOURS	LOCATION
JUNIATA	1st TUESDAY,	3:00PM-7:00PM	JUNIATA TOWNSHIP HALL 1971 S. RINGLE ROAD, CARO CALL (989) 673-4332
	3rd SATURDAY	8:00AM-12:00PM	
WATERTOWN	4th SATURDAY	9:00AM TO 1:00PM	WATERTOWN TOWNSHIP HALL 9405 FOSTER STREET, FOSTORIA CALL (989) 795-2127

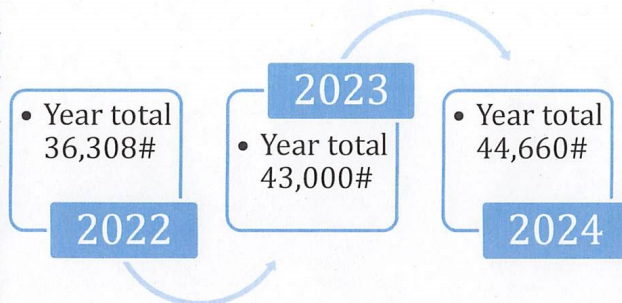
*Both Juniata, and the Village of Gagetown/  
Elmwood Township participated in monthly  
recycling collections, in their townships.*

*We also provided two satellite trailers with  
weekly drop off locations. We are in Mayville, on  
Thursdays, and Cass City,  
on Fridays from 9:00Am– 12:30Pm.*

## Satellite Trailer Program

For the month of  
Jan- Dec 2024

	Mayville	Cass City	Totals
	Weights	Weights	
January	1,640#	2,420#	4,060#
February	1,460#	2,120#	3,580#
March	1,080#	1,380#	2,460#
April	1,380#	2,340#	3,720#
May	2,240#	2,420#	4,660#
June	1,200#	2,100#	3,300#
July	1,400#	2,280#	3,680#
August	1,640#	2,700#	4,340#
September	1,160#	2,940#	4,100#
October	1,700#	2,520#	4,220#
November	1,000#	2,380#	3,380#
December	1,160#	2,000#	3,160#





# Household Hazardous Waste Collection



## HOUSEHOLD HAZARDOUS WASTE

- \*Collection dates for hazardous materials will be **May 1 through October 1**
- \*Anyone with more than a box full, must call ahead for arrangements. Space is limited.
- \*All material subject to available storage space
- \*Flammable liquids such as gas, and mixed oil will only be accepted when ERG, the collection company, is at the recycling facility to do a pickup. You will need an apt. for this.
- \*All paints (oil based or latex), and stain have a \$2.00/can, or \$10.00/ bucket fee.
- \*The paint and stain will be recycled into a new paint product.

Note— this will take place of the two free hazardous waste collections that were held in previous years.



Packaged hazardous waste to ship

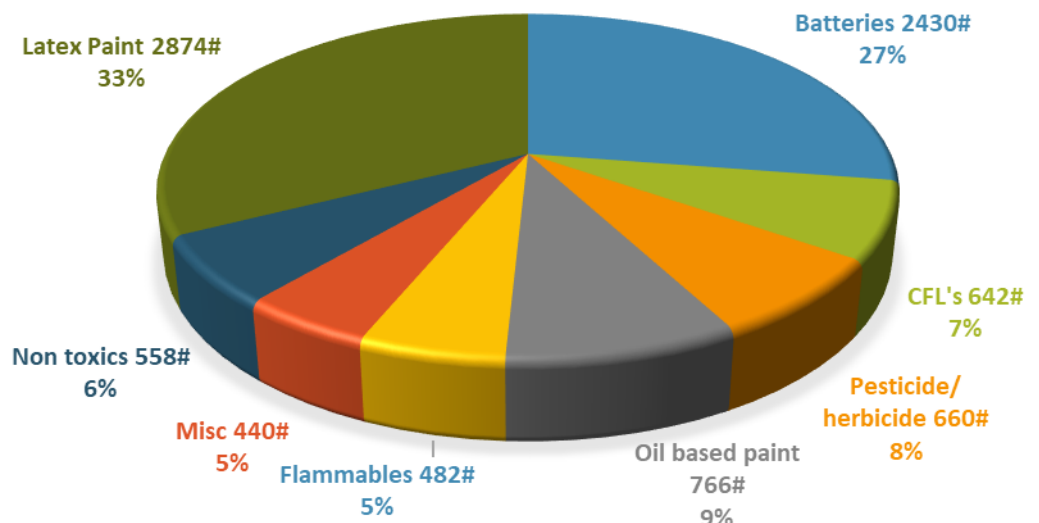


ERG semi

Hazardous waste is loaded into a semi trailer for delivery to ERG, in Livonia, MI. The collected products are processed by either recycling, incineration, stabilization, or landfilled depending on the type of material it is comprised from.

Household hazardous waste collected from May 1st thru October 1st, 2024 equaled 8,852 pounds. All of the hazardous waste is handled through ERG of Livonia, MI.

## HAZARDOUS WASTE COLLECTED IN 2024



## Improvements made in 2024



Placing the new glass roll off



Glass collected in 2024

In September, we switched our glass company from Glass Recyclers, in Dearborn, over to Recycle Services in Sylvania, Ohio.

Previously we were only able to collect clear glass bottles, and jars.

With the new company we can now accept clear glass, color glass, drinking vessels, candle glass, also window, shower doors, and table top glass (frames removed).

Expanding the types of glass accepted is a great addition to our trash diversion efforts.



## Materials to be shipped

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Gaylords of paper,  
bales of shredded  
paper, bales of  
plastic bottles, and  
bales of cardboard  
ready for shipping.



# Electronics, and tire recycling



These tire collections are made possible by a tire grant from EGLE, and funding from Tuscola County Mosquito Abatement

**EGLE**  
MICHIGAN DEPARTMENT OF  
ENVIRONMENT, GREAT LAKES, AND ENERGY

**T.C.M.A.**  
TUSCOLA COUNTY MOSQUITO ABATEMENT

**TUSCOLA COUNTY  
RECYCLING**

## 2024 FREE TIRE COLLECTIONS

These collections are limited to Tuscola County residents only (no out of county residents, no business, and no commercial tires). Residents are limited to bringing only seven (7) tires per vehicle. Tires must be no taller than 48" in height and up to 12" in width. Please make sure tires are clean, and they are not attached to an axle. Please bring help to unload your tires. Please contact Tuscola County Recycling for additional information at 989-672-1673, or email [recycle@tuscolacounty.org](mailto:recycle@tuscolacounty.org)

**\*Tuscola Township**, on May 4, 2024, at the Tuscola Township Hall, 8561 Van Cleave Road Vassar, MI 48768. Collection held from 9:00AM–until 12:00PM

**\*Watertown Township**, on May 18, 2024, at the Watertown Township Hall, 9405 Foster Street Fostoria, MI 48435. Collection held from 8:00 AM– 12:00PM

**\*Wells Township**, on May 18, 2024, at the Wells Township Hall, 2190 Frankford Road Caro, MI 48723. Collection held from 8:00AM– 12:00 PM

**\*Village of Reese**, on May 20, 2024, at the Dunn Hardware parking lot, 2023 Gates Street Reese, MI 48757. Collection held from 9:00AM– 1:00 PM.

**\*Village of Cass City**, on June 8, 2024, at the Municipal Building parking lot, 6506 Main Street Cass City, MI 48726. Collection held from 9:00AM– 1:00PM

**\*Arbela Township**, on June 15, 2024, at Arbela Township Hall, 8935 Birch Run Road, Millington, MI 48746. Collection held from 8:00 AM– 2:00 PM.

**\*Village of Unionville**, on June 22, 2024, at the Village of Unionville building 6454 Merry Street Unionville, MI 48767. Collection held from TBD

**\*Dayton Township**, on June 29, 2024, at the Dayton Township Hall 4879 Hurds Corner Road Mayville, MI 48744. Collection held from 9:00 AM– 3:00 PM.

**\*Denmark Township**, on July 20, 2024, at Zwerk Farms 7647 Sanilac Road Vassar, MI 48768. Collection held from 7:00 AM– 11:30 AM.

**\*Elkland Township**, on August 3, 2024, at the Elkland Township cemetery, East edge of Cass City, 6868 Cass City Road Cass City, MI 48726. Collection held from 9:00 AM– 2:00 PM.

**\*Village of Gazetown**, on TBD, at the DPW Garage parking lot, 4771 Gifford Street Gazetown, MI 48735. Collection held from TBD

The following tires are not allowed at these collections, per the tire company. tracks, loader, airplane, golf cart, forestry, logging, earthmover, mining, and solid fork truck tires, or any tractor tires over 12" wide and over 48" high

Electronics, and tires are collected year round at the facility.

In 2024, 174,125 pounds of tires were recycled.

Eleven free tire collections were held in the county that were sponsored by EGLE, and Tuscola County mosquito abatement.

Also 23,656 pounds of electronics were recycled.

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## **Future Objectives:**

- \*Research the types of new materials that can be accepted.
- \*Continue educating the residents on the importance of proper recycling.
- \*To divert as much material, as possible, from landfills.
- \*Work with County businesses to continue their recycling efforts, and increase the number of businesses we service.
- \*Work with the schools, within the County, to recycle their materials.
- \*Continue giving residents responsible solutions for disposing of their hazardous waste, electronics, tires, waste oil, and antifreeze.

