Michigan local leaders' views on recycling: current challenges and opportunities for improvement

By Debra Horner, Natalie Fitzpatrick, and Thomas Ivacko

This report is the second in a series on recycling issues in Michigan communities. It presents the views of Michigan's local government leaders on challenges their jurisdictions face and opportunities to introduce, expand, or improve recycling services. The findings are based on statewide surveys of local government leaders in the fall 2021 wave of the Michigan Public Policy Survey (MPPS), as part of the Michigan Local Recycling Policy Project.

EGLE
MICHIGAN DEPARTMENT OF
ENVIRONMENT, GREAT LAKES, AND ENERGY

CLOSUP
Center for Local, State, and Urban Policy
M | Gerald R. Ford School of Public Policy

Key Findings

- As with many types of public services, challenges for recycling services are relatively common across Michigan communities. Among jurisdictions that have at least some recycling services today, the most common challenges include the cost of recycling (reported by 46% of jurisdictions), improper recycling practices by users (40%), and a lack of end markets for recycled materials (39%). Statewide, just 9% report facing no challenges of any kind to their local recycling.

  » For those with recycling challenges, the state's smaller jurisdictions are most likely to say costs are their top challenge, while jurisdictions with over 10,000 residents are most likely to rank a lack of end markets for recycled materials as their greatest challenge.

- Among jurisdictions with no recycling services, the most common factors cited for the lack of services are costs (55%), lack of processing infrastructure (35%), and lack of staffing for waste and recycling services (31%).

  » Smaller jurisdictions are more likely to rank lack of processing infrastructure as a particularly significant barrier, while larger jurisdictions are more likely to identify staffing issues.

- In order to improve or expand recycling, additional funding (73%) and additional local or regional partnerships (64%) were the most frequently cited resources needed by jurisdictions that currently have recycling services available. In order to introduce recycling, these same resources were also the top mentions by those with no recycling available to residents today. In addition, a sizeable percentage of these leaders were unsure about the potential impact of other resources, which may provide an opportunity for outreach and information on overcoming barriers to recycling services in underserved communities.

Background

This is the second in a series of reports from the MPPS Fall 2021 survey wave on community recycling across Michigan.

For many years, Michigan's state government has been a strong proponent of increased recycling efforts, including its recently established goal of tripling the state's current per capita recycling rate.[1] However, there are a range of challenges that both the state and local governments face in attempting to reach such goals. Furthermore, improper recycling practices by community members that contaminate otherwise recyclable materials has also been a continuing problem,[2] sometimes driving costs higher for local governments.[3]

The first report in this series on recycling noted that the vast majority of Michigan's local leaders believe recycling is either very (47%) or somewhat (39%) important to their community members.[4] It also reported that more than three-quarters of local communities have some recycling services or programs available, including curbside recycling collection for residents, on-site recycling collection for local businesses, access to a drop-off recycling facility, household hazardous waste collection opportunities, household electronic equipment collection opportunities, and collection of yard waste material for composting. Meanwhile, 18% of leaders from cities, villages, and townships statewide report that residents in their jurisdictions do not have access to any of these recycling services or programs.

The following report now turns to questions regarding the challenges those local leaders identify for their current recycling efforts, or reasons their jurisdictions are not currently engaged in recycling, as well as resources that might encourage local governments to introduce, improve, or expand recycling services.
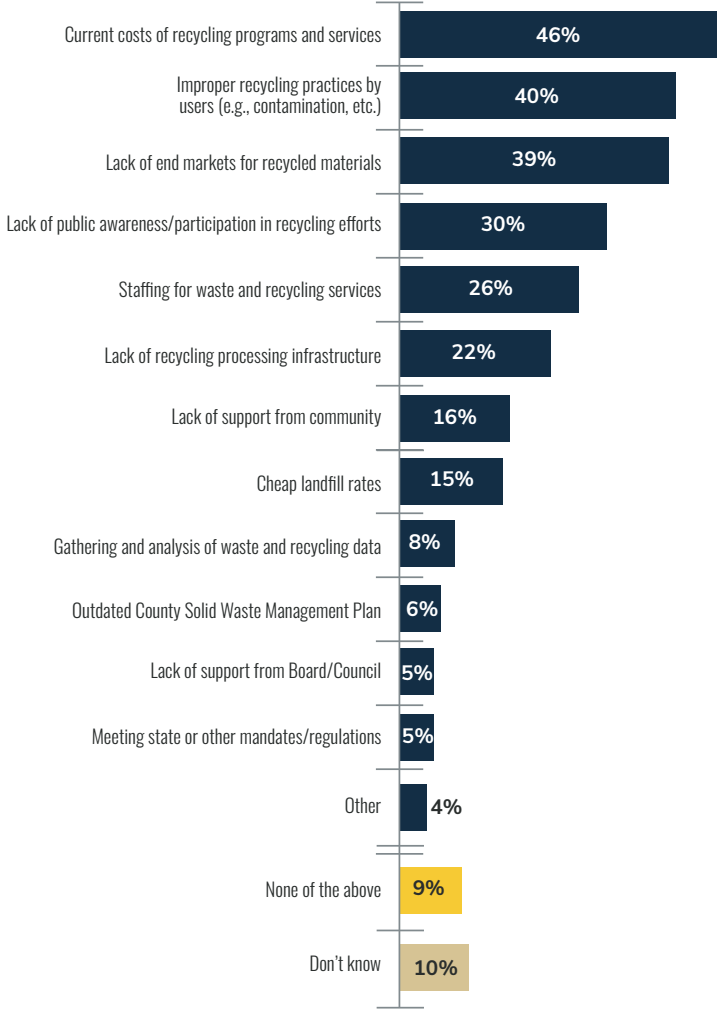
Costs are the most common challenge for jurisdictions where recycling is available

The Fall 2021 MPPS asked local officials about the challenges their communities may be facing regarding recycling, as well as what kinds of resources might encourage the introduction or expansion of recycling efforts.

When presented with a long list of potential challenges for recycling in their jurisdiction, the most common issue cited in communities with recycling services today is the cost of such services, reported by 46% of local leaders (see *Figure 1*). The next most common challenges are improper recycling practices by users (40%) and a lack of end markets for recycled materials (39%). Costs, contamination, and end markets are all recycling challenges that may be intertwined.

Meanwhile, more than a quarter of local leaders say that lack of public awareness or participation in recycling efforts (30%) and staffing for recycling services (26%) are local challenges as well. Overall, fewer than one in ten (9%) local leaders from jurisdictions with recycling available today report having no challenges of any kind with local recycling efforts, while another 10% are unsure.

Figure 1
Percent statewide reporting various challenges for recycling in their jurisdiction (among jurisdictions where at least some recycling is available)

Challenge	Percent
Current costs of recycling programs and services	46%
Improper recycling practices by users (e.g., contamination, etc.)	40%
Lack of end markets for recycled materials	39%
Lack of public awareness/participation in recycling efforts	30%
Staffing for waste and recycling services	26%
Lack of recycling processing infrastructure	22%
Lack of support from community	16%
Cheap landfill rates	15%
Gathering and analysis of waste and recycling data	8%
Outdated County Solid Waste Management Plan	6%
Lack of support from Board/Council	5%
Meeting state or other mandates/regulations	5%
Other	4%
None of the above	9%
Don't know	10%

Local leaders from fully urban jurisdictions, and those in West Central Michigan most likely to indicate costs are a challenge to recycling

Looking by population size of Michigan communities, cost concerns are found frequently among jurisdictions of all sizes. Approximately half of local leaders from jurisdictions with over 5,000 residents say current costs of recycling services are among their challenges for local recycling (see *Figure 2a*). Yet even in smaller jurisdictions, costs are a frequent concern, with 46% of those communities of 1,501–5,000 residents and 42% of the smallest jurisdictions— those with fewer than 1,500 residents—reporting that recycling costs are a local challenge.

By urban-rural status of the community, local officials from fully urban jurisdictions (56%) are the most likely to express concerns about costs (see *Figure 2b*). Fully rural jurisdictions (49%) are close behind, while communities that are mostly rural (44%) or mostly urban (42%) are slightly less likely to cite high costs. Rural communities often have particular challenges with costs because of the combination of the small volume of recycling they produce, and the greater distances recycling must be transported for processing and end markets.[5]

By region, as shown in *Figure 2c*, communities in the West Central Lower Peninsula (57%) and the Upper Peninsula (52%) are the most likely to indicate costs are a challenge for local recycling, while those in the Northern Lower Peninsula (33%) are the least likely to say the same.

Figure 2a
Percent reporting that costs are a challenge for recycling in their jurisdiction (among jurisdictions where at least some recycling is available), by jurisdiction size
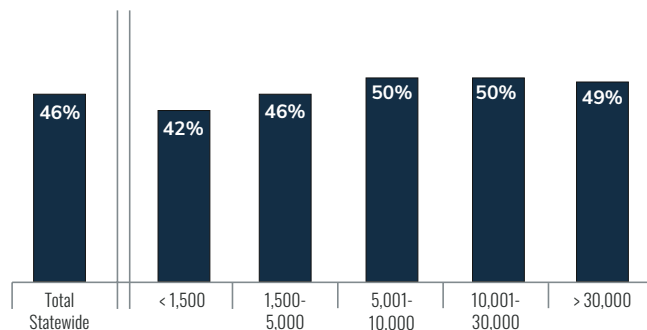

Figure 2b
Percent reporting that costs are a challenge for recycling in their jurisdiction (among jurisdictions where at least some recycling is available), by urban-rural self-identification
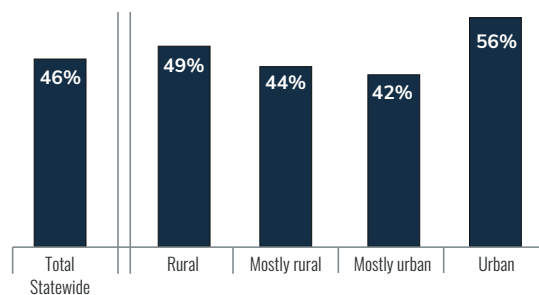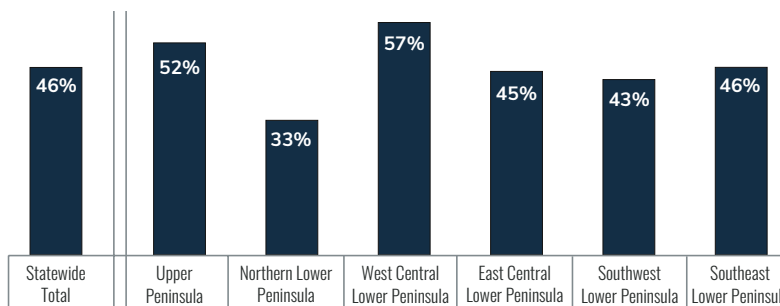

Figure 2c
Percent reporting that costs are a challenge for recycling in their jurisdiction (among jurisdictions where at least some recycling is available), by region

Most significant recycling challenges are costs for smaller jurisdictions, lack of end markets for larger places

Table 1
Percent of jurisdictions who rank a particular challenge as "most significant" for their community's recycling (among jurisdictions where <u>at least some recycling</u> is available and that report at least one challenge), by jurisdiction size

	Population <1,500	Population 1,501-5,000	Population 5,001-10,000	Population 10,001-30,000	Population >30,000	Total most significant challenge
Current costs of recycling programs and services	38%	28%	33%	25%	15%	30%
Lack of end markets for recycled materials	9%	20%	19%	33%	35%	19%
Improper recycling practices by users (e.g., contamination, etc.)	14%	15%	13%	19%	11%	15%
Lack of public awareness/ participation in recycling efforts	7%	9%	9%	5%	9%	8%
Staffing for waste and recycling services	5%	9%	10%	5%	7%	7%
Lack of recycling processing infrastructure	12%	4%	6%	4%	2%	6%
Lack of support from the community	9%	5%	4%	1%	8%	6%
Cheap landfill rates (that make it less expensive to throw trash out than recycle)	2%	5%	3%	3%	3%	3%
Other	2%	1%	1%	0%	4%	1%
Gathering and analysis of waste and recycling data	1%	1%	0%	3%	1%	1%
Lack of support from our Board/Council	0%	2%	1%	0%	2%	1%
Outdated County Solid Waste Management Plan	1%	1%	0%	1%	1%	1%
Meeting State or other mandates/regulations	1%	0%	1%	0%	1%	1%

After reporting whether they have any challenges regarding local recycling, local leaders who identified challenges were asked to rank the top three most significant ones. In communities that currently have recycling services and that identified at least one challenge, no single issue dominated the top ranking. Costs of recycling received the most top rankings, with 30% of local leaders statewide saying it is their most significant challenge (see *Table 1*). However, local leaders from smallest jurisdictions are approximately twice as likely as those from the largest jurisdictions (those with more than 30,000 residents) to say costs are their most significant challenge. These largest jurisdictions are more likely to rank a lack of end markets for recycling as their most significant problem (35% of the largest communities, compared with 19% of all communities statewide).

Meanwhile, only a handful of jurisdictions (1% or fewer) rank issues such as a lack of support from their local Board or Council, gathering and analyzing data on recycling, outdated County Management Plans, or State regulations as their top challenge.
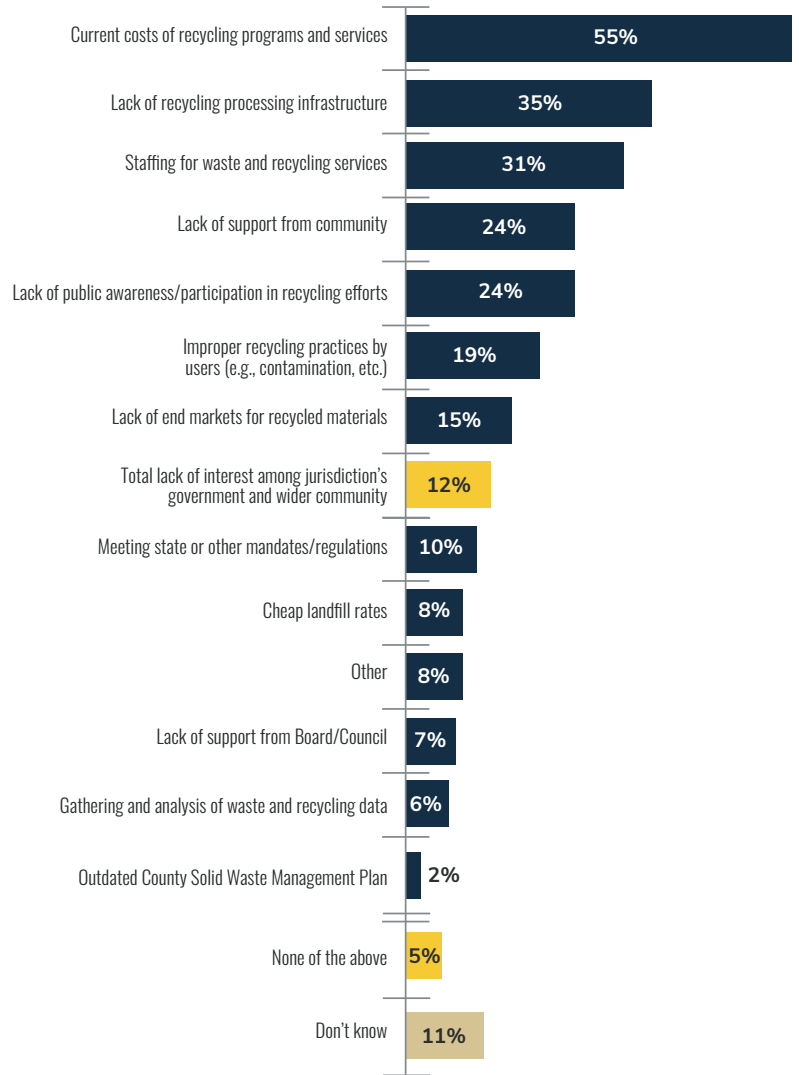
Also see Appendix A for additional breakdowns of most significant rankings for recycling challenges by jurisdiction urban–rural self–identification and region.

Costs also most frequent reason for total lack of recycling

As shown in *Figure 3*, among jurisdictions with no recycling services in their community today, costs are again the most frequently cited reason (55%). However, in contrast to places that *do* have recycling available, the next most common reasons for their lack of recycling are not users' inappropriate recycling practices or lack of end markets, but instead are a lack of infrastructure for processing recycled materials (35%) and challenges with staffing for recycling services (31%). In addition, nearly a quarter (24%) of these jurisdictions say there is a lack of community support for recycling services. That said, only 12% of officials from places with no current recycling say there is a *total* lack of interest in recycling among the jurisdiction's government and the wider community, even if there may not be strong support for it. Meanwhile, only 5% say none of these are factors, and 11% report they are unsure about reasons their jurisdiction is not engaged in recycling.

Figure 3
Percent statewide reporting various reasons they are not engaged in recycling efforts (among jurisdictions where <u>no recycling</u> is available)

Reason	Percent
Current costs of recycling programs and services	55%
Lack of recycling processing infrastructure	35%
Staffing for waste and recycling services	31%
Lack of support from community	24%
Lack of public awareness/participation in recycling efforts	24%
Improper recycling practices by users (e.g., contamination, etc.)	19%
Lack of end markets for recycled materials	15%
Total lack of interest among jurisdiction's government and wider community	12%
Meeting state or other mandates/regulations	10%
Cheap landfill rates	8%
Other	8%
Lack of support from Board/Council	7%
Gathering and analysis of waste and recycling data	6%
Outdated County Solid Waste Management Plan	2%
None of the above	5%
Don't know	11%

For communities without recycling, costs are top ranked factor overall; while staffing challenges are top factor for over a third of communities with more than 5,000 residents

Table 2
Percent who rank a particular factor as "most significant" for their community's lack of recycling efforts (among jurisdictions where _no recycling_ is available and that report at least one factor), by jurisdiction size

|	Population <1,500	Population 1,501-5,000	Population >5,001	Total most significant factor
Current costs of recycling programs and services	43%	40%	55%	43%
Lack of recycling processing infrastructure	15%	15%	0%	14%
Staffing for waste and recycling services	11%	6%	34%	10%
Lack of support from community	6%	12%	11%	8%
Other	8%	4%	0%	6%
Lack of public awareness/participation in recycling efforts	4%	6%	0%	5%
Improper recycling practices by users (e.g., contamination, etc.)	3%	6%	0%	4%
Meeting state or other mandates/regulations	3%	2%	0%	3%
Cheap landfill rates	3%	2%	0%	3%
Lack of end markets for recycled materials	2%	2%	0%	2%
Gathering and analysis of waste and recycling data	0%	2%	0%	1%
Outdated County Solid Waste Management Plan	1%	2%	0%	1%
Lack of support from Board/Council	0%	0%	0%	0%

Note: Respondents who selected "total lack of interest" were not asked to rank the significance of other factors

On the fall 2021 wave of the MPPS, 18% of jurisdictions statewide reported that their residents have no recycling services currently available.[6] Most of these are small jurisdictions with fewer than 5,000 residents. Regardless of community size, in jurisdictions where recycling is not currently available, local leaders are most likely to say costs are the most significant barrier to recycling in their communities, with 43% ranking it highest (see _Table 2_). Looking beyond costs, a lack of infrastructure for processing recycled materials is cited as the top barrier by 15% of smaller jurisdictions (those with less than 5,000 residents), while challenges with staffing for recycling services is cited as the top barrier by over a third (34%) of jurisdictions with more than 5,000 residents. And although 8% say that lack of support from their community is the most significant reason the jurisdiction is not engaged in recycling efforts, there are no local leaders in this group that indicate that lack of support on their Board or Council is the primary factor in their jurisdiction.

Local leaders indicate a number of resources would likely aid recycling expansion or improvement

Given the wide array of challenges and barriers Michigan local governments face in recycling efforts, the MPPS asked about resources that might be helpful for improving or expanding current recycling services. Unsurprisingly, with costs being a leading challenge where recycling is available today, additional funding is the most commonly identified resource needed to expand or improve current services. Statewide, 73% say additional funding would make improvement or expansion more likely, including 42% who say it would be much more likely (see *Figure 4*). When it comes to the availability of additional local or regional partnerships, nearly two-thirds (64%) of local leaders in jurisdictions with recycling currently offered say this would either somewhat increase the likelihood (36%) of expanding or improving services or make it *much more* likely (28%). Higher revenues from the sale of recycled materials, State-funded outreach and educational efforts aimed at residents and/or businesses, and technical assistance (such as customized advising on funding, partnerships, contracts, etc.) are also resources local leaders believe are more likely than not to help expand or improve current recycling services. However, there is a core group that say these additional resources would not have an impact. For example, 9% say additional funding is somewhat unlikely to make a difference, and 11% say additional funding would not make any difference to decisions to improve or expand local recycling efforts.
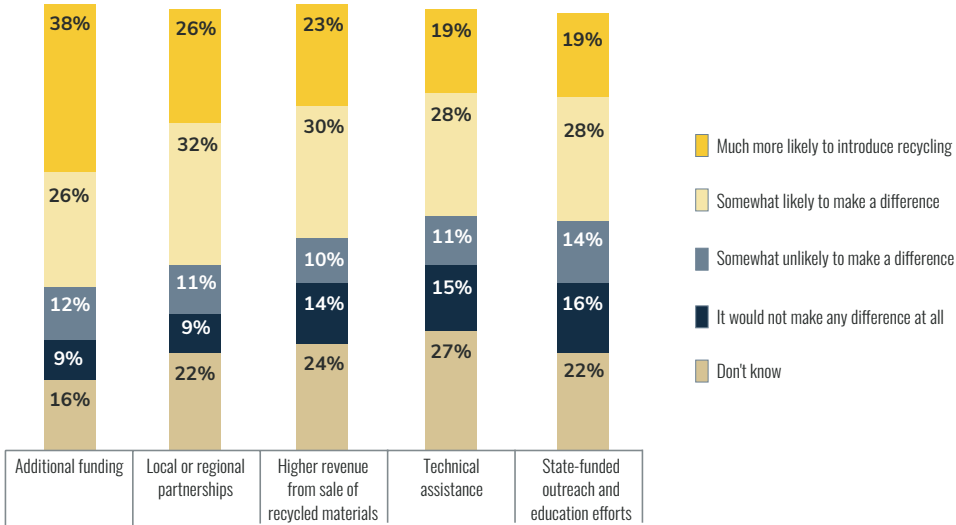
Figure 4
Likelihood of expanding or improving recycling services if various resources were available (among jurisdictions where at least some recycling is available)
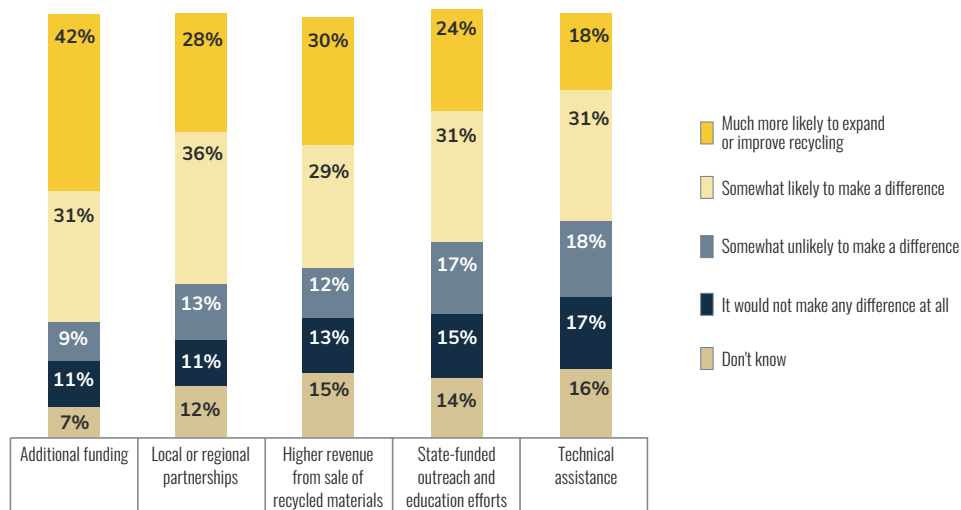
Meanwhile, among jurisdictions with no recycling services today, there is more uncertainty about what resources might encourage the introduction of new local recycling services, with large percentages answering "don't know" to each potential type of resource listed. Nonetheless, among these jurisdictions, many local leaders still indicate the availability of additional resources would improve the likelihood their jurisdictions would introduce recycling. For example, 64% of leaders from local jurisdictions with no current recycling say additional funding would encourage them to introduce services locally, and 58% say additional local or regional partnerships would, too (see *Figure 5*). State-funded outreach efforts are perceived to have the least impact, but even here, nearly half (47%) say help with outreach efforts are either somewhat likely to make a difference (28%) or much more likely (19%) to encourage local jurisdictions to introduce recycling efforts.

See Appendices B and C for breakdowns of resource impact by jurisdiction urban–rural self–identification.

Figure 5
Likelihood of introducing recycling services if various resources were available (among jurisdictions where <u>no recycling</u> is available)

	Much more likely to introduce recycling
	Somewhat likely to make a difference
	Somewhat unlikely to make a difference
	It would not make any difference at all
	Don't know

Additional funding: 38%, 26%, 12%, 9%, 16%
Local or regional partnerships: 26%, 32%, 11%, 9%, 22%
Higher revenue from sale of recycled materials: 23%, 30%, 10%, 14%, 24%
Technical assistance: 19%, 28%, 11%, 15%, 27%
State-funded outreach and education efforts: 19%, 28%, 14%, 16%, 22%

Conclusion

As with many types of public services, recycling services continue to face challenges among local governments across Michigan, both in places where they are currently offered and in communities that do not currently have recycling opportunities available. As many local leaders reported in the Fall 2021 MPPS, when it comes to recycling programs and services, costs are one of the most important factors. In communities where recycling services are currently available, 46% of local officials say costs are a challenge for their jurisdiction, and 30% say it is the *most significant* problem they face. Among jurisdictions that currently have no recycling services, more than half (55%) say costs are a barrier to offering recycling services, including 43% who say it is the most significant factor.

However, local leaders also express optimism regarding the impact that additional resources could have on the likelihood of expanding or introducing recycling services in their communities. The majority of officials in jurisdictions that currently have recycling services available believe additional funding, regional partnerships, and recycling education and outreach programs would all make the expansion or improvement of their recycling programs more likely. And nearly half (49%), believe additional technical assistance would have an impact as well. Many local leaders from jurisdictions where no recycling services are currently available also believe these additional resources could impact the introduction of new recycling services, although a substantial number are unsure about this.

Notes

1. Michigan Department of Environment, Great Lakes, and Energy. (2022). Michigan Recycling Initiatives. Retrieved from https://www.michigan.gov/egle/0,9429,7-135-3312_4123_73503_84958---,00.html

2. Devereaux, B. (2020, April 14). 2 tons of recyclables contaminated with trash in Kalamazoo. *MLIVE*. Retrieved from https://www.mlive.com/news/kalamazoo/2020/04/2-tons-of-recyclables-contaminated-with-trash-in-kalamazoo.html

3. Fraley, S. (2021, June 26). Manistee County recycling sites contaminated, truckloads of recyclables ruined. *Manistee News Advocate*. Retrieved from https://www.manisteenews.com/insider/article/Manistee-County-recycling-sites-contaminated-16275061.php

4. Horner, D., Fitzpatrick, N., Ivacko, T., and Berger, J. (2022, March). Recycling Issues, Policies, and Practices among Michigan Local Governments. Ann Arbor, MI: Center for Local, State, and Urban Policy at the Gerald R. Ford School of Public Policy, University of Michigan. Retrieved from http://closup.umich.edu/michigan-publicpolicy-survey/98/recycling-issues-policies-and-practices-among-michigan-local-governments

5. Beitsch, R. (2019, January 8). Rural Recycling Hit Hard by Shifting Scrap Market. *Pew Charitable Trusts.* Retrieved from https://www.pewtrusts.org/en/research-and-analysis/blogs/stateline/2019/01/08/rural-recycling-hit-hard-by-shifting-scrap-market

6. Horner, Fitzpatrick, Ivacko, and Berger. (2022, March).

Survey Background and Methodology

The MPPS is an ongoing survey program, interviewing the leaders of Michigan's 1,856 units of general purpose local government, conducted by the Center for Local, State, and Urban Policy (CLOSUP) at the University of Michigan in partnership with the Michigan Municipal League, Michigan Townships Association, and Michigan Association of Counties. Surveys are conducted each spring (and prior to 2018, were also conducted each fall). The program has covered a wide range of policy topics and includes longitudinal tracking data on "core" fiscal, budgetary and operational policy questions and designed to build-up a multi-year time-series.

In the fall 2021 iteration, surveys were sent by the Center for Local, State, and Urban Policy (CLOSUP) via the internet and hardcopy to top elected and appointed officials (including county administrators and board chairs; city mayors and managers; village presidents, clerks, and managers; and township supervisors, clerks, and managers) from all 83 counties, 280 cities, 253 villages, and 1,240 townships in the state of Michigan.

The fall 2021 wave was conducted from October 4 – December 6, 2021. A total of 1,356 jurisdictions in the fall 2021 wave returned valid surveys (62 counties, 209 cities, 171 villages, and 914 townships), resulting in a 73% response rate by unit. The margin of error for the survey for the survey as a whole is +/- 1.37%. The key relationships discussed in the above report are statistically significant at the p<.05 level or below, unless otherwise specified. Missing responses are not included in the tabulations, unless otherwise specified. Some report figures may not add to 100% due to rounding within response categories. Quantitative data are weighted to account for non-response. "Voices Across Michigan" verbatim responses, when included, may have been edited for clarity and brevity. Contact CLOSUP staff for more information.

Detailed tables of the data analyzed in this report broken down four ways—by jurisdiction type (county, city, township, or village); by population size, by the region, and by respondents' self-reports of whether jurisdictions are urban, mostly urban, mostly rural, or rural—soon will be available online at the MPPS homepage: https://closup.umich.edu/michigan-public-policy-survey

The survey responses presented here are those of local Michigan officials, while further analysis represents the views of the authors. Neither necessarily reflects the views of the University of Michigan, or of other partners in the MPPS.

Acknowledgement and Disclaimer

This report was prepared as an account of work sponsored by an agency of the United States Government. Neither the United States Government nor any agency thereof, nor any of their employees, makes any warranty, express or implied, or assumes any legal liability or responsibility for the accuracy, completeness, or usefulness of any information, apparatus, product, or process disclosed, or represents that its use would not infringe privately owned rights. Reference herein to any specific commercial product, process, or service by trade name, trademark, manufacturer, or otherwise does not necessarily constitute or imply its endorsement, recommendation, or favoring by the United States Government or any agency thereof. The views and opinions of authors expressed herein do not necessarily state or reflect those of the United States Government or any agency thereof.

Appendix A

Percent who rank a particular challenge as "most significant" for recycling (among jurisdictions where at least some recycling is available and that report at least one challenge), by urban-rural self-identification

	Rural	Mostly rural	Mostly urban	Urban	Statewide total for most significant problem
Current costs of recycling programs and services	34%	29%	18%	29%	30%
Lack of end markets for recycled materials	12%	25%	29%	33%	19%
Improper recycling practices by users (e.g., contamination, etc.)	12%	17%	19%	10%	15%
Lack of public awareness/ participation in recycling efforts	7%	7%	14%	2%	8%
Staffing for waste and recycling services	9%	6%	4%	10%	7%
Lack of recycling processing infrastructure	8%	7%	3%	2%	6%
Lack of support from the community	8%	4%	6%	2%	6%
Cheap landfill rates (that make it less expensive to throw trash out than recycle)	3%	3%	3%	6%	3%
Other	2%	1%	2%	2%	1%
Gathering and analysis of waste and recycling data	1%	1%	1%	4%	1%
Lack of support from our Board/Council	2%	0%	0%	0%	1%
Outdated County Solid Waste Management Plan	1%	1%	0%	0%	1%
Meeting State or other mandates/regulations	1%	0%	1%	0%	1%

Percent who rank a particular challenge as "most significant" for recycling (among jurisdictions where at least some recycling is available and that report at least one challenge), by region

	Upper Peninsula	Northern Lower Peninsula	West Central Lower Peninsula	East Central Lower Peninsula	Southwest Lower Peninsula	Southeast Lower Peninsula	Statewide total for most significant problem
Current costs of recycling programs and services	38%	24%	32%	34%	31%	26%	30%
Lack of end markets for recycled materials	24%	18%	16%	18%	14%	28%	19%
Improper recycling practices by users (e.g., contamination, etc.)	5%	20%	16%	13%	7%	20%	15%
Lack of public awareness/ participation in recycling efforts	4%	10%	8%	5%	14%	6%	8%
Staffing for waste and recycling services	4%	4%	7%	11%	8%	7%	7%
Lack of recycling processing infrastructure	10%	8%	8%	6%	5%	3%	6%
Lack of support from the community	3%	6%	7%	7%	8%	3%	6%
Cheap landfill rates (that make it less expensive to throw trash out than recycle)	4%	4%	3%	2%	3%	4%	3%
Other	1%	1%	1%	2%	3%	1%	1%
Gathering and analysis of waste and recycling data	1%	1%	1%	1%	3%	1%	1%
Lack of support from our Board/Council	2%	0%	1%	1%	2%	1%	1%
Outdated County Solid Waste Management Plan	1%	3%	0%	0%	1%	0%	1%
Meeting State or other mandates/regulations	1%	0%	1%	1%	2%	0%	1%

Appendix B

Likelihood of expanding or improving recycling services if various resources were available (among jurisdictions where <u>at least some recycling</u> is available), by urban-rural self-identification

Additional funding would make jurisdiction more likely to expand/improve recycling

	Rural	Mostly rural	Mostly urban	Urban	Total Statewide
Much more likely to expand or improve recycling	44%	37%	48%	51%	42%
Somewhat likely to make a difference	30%	35%	27%	31%	31%
Somewhat unlikely to make a difference	8%	12%	6%	11%	9%
It would not make any difference at all	11%	9%	14%	7%	11%
Don't know	7%	7%	4%	0%	7%

Local/regional partnerships would make jurisdiction more likely to expand/improve recycling

	Rural	Mostly rural	Mostly urban	Urban	Total Statewide
Much more likely to expand or improve recycling	30%	26%	33%	26%	28%
Somewhat likely to make a difference	33%	40%	38%	43%	36%
Somewhat unlikely to make a difference	11%	14%	11%	18%	13%
It would not make any difference at all	13%	10%	11%	9%	11%
Don't know	14%	11%	7%	4%	12%

Technical assistance would make jurisdiction more likely to expand/improve recycling

	Rural	Mostly rural	Mostly urban	Urban	Total Statewide
Much more likely to expand or improve recycling	21%	14%	22%	18%	18%
Somewhat likely to make a difference	25%	36%	37%	38%	31%
Somewhat unlikely to make a difference	17%	20%	17%	23%	18%
It would not make any difference at all	19%	13%	18%	16%	17%
Don't know	18%	16%	7%	4%	16%

Higher revenue from sales would make jurisdiction more likely to expand/improve recycling

	Rural	Mostly rural	Mostly urban	Urban	Total Statewide
Much more likely to expand or improve recycling	31%	26%	38%	32%	30%
Somewhat likely to make a difference	26%	33%	30%	44%	29%
Somewhat unlikely to make a difference	12%	16%	8%	11%	12%
It would not make any difference at all	14%	10%	14%	11%	13%
Don't know	17%	16%	10%	2%	15%

State-funded outreach and educational efforts aimed at residents and/or businesses would make jurisdiction more likely to expand/improve recycling

	Rural	Mostly rural	Mostly urban	Urban	Total Statewide
Much more likely to expand or improve recycling	23%	23%	32%	19%	24%
Somewhat likely to make a difference	26%	36%	33%	45%	31%
Somewhat unlikely to make a difference	16%	18%	12%	24%	17%
It would not make any difference at all	19%	10%	14%	11%	15%
Don't know	16%	12%	9%	2%	14%

Appendix C

Likelihood of introducing recycling services if various resources were available (among jurisdictions where <u>no recycling</u> is available), by urban-rural self-identification

Additional funding would make jurisdiction more likely to introduce recycling

	Rural	Mostly rural	Mostly urban or urban	Total Statewide
Much more likely to expand or improve recycling	35%	45%	76%	38%
Somewhat likely to make a difference	26%	25%	24%	26%
Somewhat unlikely to make a difference	12%	15%	0%	12%
It would not make any difference at all	9%	8%	0%	9%
Don't know	18%	7%	0%	16%

Local/regional partnerships would make jurisdiction more likely to introduce recycling

	Rural	Mostly rural	Mostly urban or urban	Total Statewide
Much more likely to expand or improve recycling	23%	41%	53%	26%
Somewhat likely to make a difference	33%	23%	23%	32%
Somewhat unlikely to make a difference	11%	13%	0%	11%
It would not make any difference at all	11%	5%	0%	9%
Don't know	22%	18%	24%	22%

Technical assistance would make jurisdiction more likely to introduce recycling

	Rural	Mostly rural	Mostly urban or urban	Total Statewide
Much more likely to expand or improve recycling	19%	23%	0%	19%
Somewhat likely to make a difference	27%	29%	45%	28%
Somewhat unlikely to make a difference	11%	16%	0%	11%
It would not make any difference at all	17%	8%	30%	15%
Don't know	26%	24%	24%	27%

Higher revenue from sales would make jurisdiction more likely to introduce recycling

	Rural	Mostly rural	Mostly urban or urban	Total Statewide
Much more likely to expand or improve recycling	21%	30%	30%	23%
Somewhat likely to make a difference	30%	27%	23%	30%
Somewhat unlikely to make a difference	9%	14%	47%	10%
It would not make any difference at all	15%	10%	0%	14%
Don't know	25%	18%	0%	24%

State-funded outreach and educational efforts aimed at residents and/or businesses would make jurisdiction more likely to introduce recycling

	Rural	Mostly rural	Mostly urban or urban	Total Statewide
Much more likely to expand or improve recycling	17%	27%	53%	19%
Somewhat likely to make a difference	29%	26%	24%	28%
Somewhat unlikely to make a difference	14%	16%	23%	14%
It would not make any difference at all	16%	14%	0%	16%
Don't know	23%	17%	0%	22%

Previous MPPS reports

Recycling Issues, Policies, and Practices among Michigan Local Governments (March 2022)

Michigan local leaders report little change in the tone of civic discourse in their communities, but are concerned about local impacts of increasingly hostile national partisan politics (January 2022)

Michigan local government officials report improved fiscal health after a year of COVID-19, but not yet back to pre-pandemic levels (December 2021)

Michigan local officials' assessments of American democracy at the state and federal levels decline sharply (November 2021)

The lingering impacts of the COVID-19 pandemic on Michigan communities and local governments (October 2021)

Michigan local governments report fewer economic challenges one year into the COVID-19 pandemic, and describe efforts to support local businesses (September 2021)

Local leaders' views on Michigan's initial COVID-19 vaccine rollout in Spring 2021 (August 2021)

Local leaders' concerns about Michigan's direction spike, while evaluations of state leaders sink over the past year (July 2021)

Michigan local leaders' views on state's new approach to electoral redistricting (February 2021)

COVID-19 pandemic sparks Michigan local leaders' concerns for fiscal health (December 2020)

The functioning of democracy at the local level: a compendium of findings from the Michigan Public Policy Survey of local leaders (December 2020)

Energy Issues and Policies in Michigan Local Governments (October 2020)

Michigan local leaders expect increased challenges for the 2020 election, but are confident about administering accurate elections (October 2020)

Michigan Local Energy Survey (MiLES): Intergovernmental collaboration on sustainability and energy issues among Michigan local governments (September 2020)

Confidence in the accuracy of Michigan's 2020 Census count among local leaders was not very high, slips further (August 2020)

Michigan local leaders expect mixed impacts from expanded voter registration and absentee voting reforms (July 2020)

Local leaders' evaluations of Michigan's direction and Governor's performance during the COVID-19 pandemic's arrival (July 2020)

The initial impact of the COVID-19 pandemic on Michigan communities and local governments (June 2020)

Energy policies and environmental leadership among Michigan's local governments (January 2020)

Mixed signals continue for Michigan local governments' fiscal health, while future outlooks worsen (December 2019)

Michigan local officials' views on the next recession: timing, concerns, and actions taken (October 2019)

Michigan local government preparations and concerns regarding the 2020 U.S. Census (September 2019)

New Governor, new evaluations of the direction Michigan is headed among local leaders (August 2019)

Positive working relationships reported among Michigan's local elected officials (June 2019)

Community poverty and the struggle to make ends meet in Michigan, according to local government leaders (March 2019)

The state of community civic discourse, according to Michigan's local government leaders (December 2018)

Despite sustained economic growth, Michigan local government fiscal health still lags (November 2018)

Michigan local government leaders' views on medical and recreational marijuana (September 2018)

Rising confidence in Michigan's direction among local leaders, but partisan differences remain (July 2018)

Michigan local government officials weigh in on housing shortages and related issues (June 2018)

Approaches to land use planning and zoning among Michigan's local governments (May 2018)

Workforce issues and challenges for Michigan's local governments (January 2018)

Local leaders' views on elections in Michigan: accuracy, problems, and reform options (November 2017)

Michigan local government officials report complex mix of improvement and decline in fiscal health, but with overall trend moving slowly upward (October 2017)

Michigan local leaders want their citizens to play a larger role in policymaking, but report declining engagement (August 2017)

Michigan local leaders' views on state preemption and how to share policy authority (June 2017)

Improving communication, building trust are seen as keys to fixing relationships between local jurisdictions and the State government (May 2017)

Local leaders more likely to support than oppose Michigan's Emergency Manager law, but strongly favor reforms (February 2017)

Local government leaders' views on drinking water and water supply infrastructure in Michigan communities (November 2016)

Michigan local leaders say property tax appeals are common, disagree with 'dark stores' assessing (October 2016)

Local officials say Michigan's system of funding local government is broken, and seek State action to fix it (September 2016)

Michigan local governments report first declines in fiscal health trend since 2010 (August 2016)

Michigan local leaders' doubts continue regarding the state's direction (July 2016)

Hospital access primary emergency medical concern among many Michigan local officials (July 2016)

Firefighting services in Michigan: challenges and approaches among local governments (June 2016)

Most local officials are satisfied with law enforcement services, but almost half from largest jurisdictions say their funding is insufficient (April 2016)

Local leaders say police-community relations are good throughout Michigan, but those in large cities are concerned about potential civil unrest over police use-of-force (February 2016)

Report: Responding to budget surplus vs. deficit: the preferences of Michigan's local leaders and citizens (December 2015)

Michigan's local leaders concerned about retiree health care costs and their governments' ability to meet future obligations (October 2015)

Fiscal health rated relatively good for most jurisdictions, but improvement slows and decline continues for many (September 2015)

Confidence in Michigan's direction declines among state's local leaders (August 2015)

Michigan local government leaders' views on private roads (July 2015)

Few Michigan jurisdictions have adopted Complete Streets policies, though many see potential benefits (June 2015)

Michigan local leaders have positive views on relationships with county road agencies, despite some concerns (May 2015)

Michigan local government leaders say transit services are important, but lack of funding discourages their development (April 2015)

Michigan local leaders see need for state and local ethics reform (March 2015)

Local leaders say Michigan road funding needs major increase, but lack consensus on options that would raise the most revenue (February 2015)

Michigan local government leaders' views on employee pay and benefits (January 2015)

Despite increasingly formal financial management, relatively few Michigan local governments have adopted recommended policies (December 2014)

Most Michigan local officials are satisfied with their privatized services, but few seek to expand further (November 2014)

Michigan local governments finally pass fiscal health tipping point overall, but one in four still report decline (October 2014)

Beyond the coast, a tenuous relationship between Michigan local governments and the Great Lakes (September 2014)

Confidence in Michigan's direction holds steady among state's local leaders (August 2014)

Wind power as a community issue in Michigan (July 2014)

Fracking as a community issue in Michigan (June 2014)

The impact of tax-exempt properties on Michigan local governments (March 2014)

Michigan's local leaders generally support Detroit bankruptcy filing despite some concerns (February 2014)

Michigan local governments increasingly pursue placemaking for economic development (January 2014)

Views on right-to-work legislation among Michigan's local government leaders (December 2013)

Michigan local governments continue seeking, and receiving, union concessions (October 2013)

Michigan local government fiscal health continues gradual improvement, but smallest jurisdictions lagging (September 2013)

Local leaders evaluate state policymaker performance and whether Michigan is on the right track (August 2013)

Trust in government among Michigan's local leaders and citizens (July 2013)

Citizen engagement in the view of Michigan's local government leaders (May 2013)

Beyond trust in government: government trust in citizens? (March 2013)

Local leaders support reforming Michigan's system of funding local government (January 2013)

Local leaders support eliminating Michigan's Personal Property Tax if funds are replaced, but distrust state follow-through (November 2012)

Michigan's local leaders satisfied with union negotiations (October 2012)

Michigan's local leaders are divided over the state's emergency manager law (September 2012)

Fiscal stress continues for hundreds of Michigan jurisdictions, but conditions trend in positive direction overall (September 2012)

Michigan's local leaders more positive about Governor Snyder's performance, more optimistic about the state's direction (July 2012)

Data-driven decision-making in Michigan local government (June 2012)

State funding incentives increase local collaboration, but also raise concerns (March 2012)

Local officials react to state policy innovation tying revenue sharing to dashboards and incentive funding (January 2012)

MPPS finds fiscal health continues to decline across the state, though some negative trends eased in 2011 (October 2011)

Public sector unions in Michigan: their presence and impact according to local government leaders (August 2011)

Despite increased approval of state government performance, Michigan's local leaders are concerned about the state's direction (August 2011)

Local government and environmental leadership: views of Michigan's local leaders (July 2011)

Local leaders are mostly positive about intergovernmental cooperation and look to expand efforts (March 2011)

Local government leaders say most employees are not overpaid, though some benefits may be too generous (February 2011)

Local government leaders say economic gardening can help grow their economies (November 2010)

Local governments struggle to cope with fiscal, service, and staffing pressures (August 2010)

Michigan local governments actively promote U.S. Census participation (August 2010)

Fiscal stimulus package mostly ineffective for local economies (May 2010)

Fall 2009 key findings report: educational, economic, and workforce development issues at the local level (April 2010)

Local government officials give low marks to the performance of state officials and report low trust in Lansing (March 2010)

Local government fiscal and economic development issues (October 2009)

All MPPS reports are available online at: http://closup.umich.edu/mpps-publications

University of Michigan
Center for Local, State, and Urban Policy
Gerald R. Ford School of Public Policy
Joan and Sanford Weill Hall
735 S. State Street, Suite 5310
Ann Arbor, MI 48109-3091

The Center for Local, State, and Urban Policy (CLOSUP), housed at the University of Michigan's Gerald R. Ford School of Public Policy, conducts and supports applied policy research designed to inform state, local, and urban policy issues. Through integrated research, teaching, and outreach involving academic researchers, students, policymakers and practitioners, CLOSUP seeks to foster understanding of today's state and local policy problems, and to find effective solutions to those problems.

web: www.closup.umich.edu
email: closup@umich.edu
twitter: @closup
phone: 734-647-4091