



# 2024-2029





# Cook County Solid Waste Management Plan 2024-2029

## THE PATH TOWARD ZERO WASTE AND A CIRCULAR ECONOMY

A 5-year plan for solid waste management that sets goals and policy recommendations for the suburban solid waste system.

### PPREPARED BY:

Cook County Department of Environment and Sustainability

### IN ASSOCIATION WITH:

University of Illinois

Prairie Research Institute

Illinois Sustainable Technology Center



**Prairie Research  
Institute**

UNIVERSITY OF ILLINOIS URBANA-CHAMPAIGN

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## **COOK COUNTY LAND ACKNOWLEDGEMENT STATEMENT**

Cook County resides on lands that have been home to Indigenous People for thousands of years. The Potawatomi, Ojibwe, Odawa and dozens of nations, were the custodians and caretakers of this land for centuries before European colonization. Truth and acknowledgement are critical to building understanding and mutual respect across all cultures, traditions and heritages. Cook County recognizes the past wrongdoings as well as present harm upon people, tribal lands and governments. We honor the Indigenous people, past and present, and pause to remember the acts of violence, displacement, colonization and removal of the original inhabitants of this land. With this land acknowledgement, Cook County commits to learning more about and doing better to support the County's native and indigenous residents as we work towards equity for all of Cook County.



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# Message From The President

Dear Cook County Resident,

I am pleased to present the 2024-2029 update to the Cook County Solid Waste Management Plan. The recommendations in this plan will further the County's progress diverting 45% of its waste away from regional landfills by 2030. The plan establishes the County's strategic priorities, which are all aimed at advancing the local circular economy and shepherding the region to the path of zero waste. These measures will help protect the environment, improve public health, increase economic opportunities and improve the solid waste management practices within suburban Cook County.



This document can serve as a resource for local government officials, solid waste joint action agencies, advocacy groups, the philanthropic community, waste related associations, local colleges and universities, large special events organizers and businesses to better understand the landscape of solid waste management in Cook County and to help all of us coordinate our goals and priorities moving forward. This document can also serve as a resource for all Cook County residents wanting to learn more about waste, recycling, food diversion and composting and related initiatives, opportunities and challenges in suburban Cook County.

I am grateful to the Solid Waste Management Advisory Committee, listed in Appendix A, which advised Cook County on current conditions and challenges and worked to prioritize goals and recommendations for this plan. The Advisory Committee spent countless hours providing invaluable feedback, research, data, ideas and support to County staff in the preparation of this plan.

I want to especially thank the Illinois Sustainable Technology Center (ISTC) at the University of Illinois for helping to develop this comprehensive plan in partnership with the Cook County Department of Environment and Sustainability. ISTC is a leading organization with researchers from multiple disciplines who work to promote sustainability and climate resiliency. Their skills and dedication have been critical to the development of this plan.

**Toni Preckwinkle**  
**President, Cook County Board of Commissioners**

# Section 1: EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

## 1.1 INTRODUCTION AND BACKGROUND

The Illinois Solid Waste Planning and Recycling Act ([415 ILCS 15/](#)) was adopted in 1988 and requires all Illinois counties to have a solid waste management plan. The purpose of this act was “to provide incentives for decreased generation of municipal waste, to require certain counties to develop comprehensive waste management plans that place substantial emphasis on recycling and other alternatives to landfills, to encourage municipal recycling and source reduction, and to promote composting of yard waste.” Solid waste management plans are required to be updated every five years to reflect current waste generation and waste management practices, review implementation status of plan recommendations and identify modified or new recommendations based on current conditions.

The Cook County Municipal Code: Article VI: [Solid Waste and Recycling](#) requires the Cook County Department of Environment and Sustainability (DES) to: (a) implement a solid waste plan for the management of municipal waste within the County, except for the corporate limits of the City of Chicago, in order to satisfy the requirements of the Solid Waste Planning and Recycling Act, 415 ILCS 15/1 et seq.; (b) implement the coordination, planning and monitoring of the solid waste management plan throughout incorporated and unincorporated Cook County; and (c) encourage municipal recycling and source reduction, promote composting of yard waste and place substantial emphasis on alternatives to landfills.

## 1.2 PURPOSE

Cook County adopted its initial Solid Waste Management Plan in 1992. Five-year plan updates have since been adopted in 2000, [2012](#) and [2018](#). The 2024 plan update summarizes existing solid waste management systems and infrastructure; related policies and programs; reports on the status of recommendations from the previous update; and proposes new recommendations that guide development of policies and programs. This plan update is intended to be a living document that will be monitored regularly and refined as needed, in addition to the state mandated five-year regular plan updates. Finally, **Cook County commits to implement, promote and expand zero waste and circular economy best practices over the next five years and in line with the Illinois Materials Management Advisory [Committee Report](#), sets the goal of achieving a 45% suburban Cook County diversion rate by 2030.**

## 1.3 PLAN DEVELOPMENT PROCESS

The 2024 plan update was developed by DES staff in collaboration with the Cook County Solid Waste Advisory Committee and with assistance from the University of Illinois: Illinois Sustainable Technology Center (ISTC). Data for this update was sourced from internal County program reports, waste haulers, municipal surveys, regional reports, state reports, census information and research compiled and supplied from ISTC. DES and ISTC reviewed current research, analysis and best practices from regional, state and national programs. Finally, DES staff held several meetings with other environmental advocacy organizations, municipal officials, non-profit organizations, recyclers, academic professionals, state and national organizations and other related stakeholders to inform the plan update.

## 1.4 MISSION, VISION AND GUIDING PRINCIPLES

**Mission:** DES works to foster healthy, resilient and thriving communities by improving the quality of life, protecting the natural environment and promoting sustainability and environmental justice (EJ) for all Cook County residents and stakeholders. DES supports and embraces sustainable materials management practices to protect public health, advance the local circular economy, protect natural habitats and waterways, and reduce carbon emissions caused by waste management practices.

**Vision:** The recommendations in this plan update will further the County's progress in decreasing its carbon emissions and achieving 45% waste diversion by 2030, as described in Section 4.7. The vision of this plan is that all Cook County municipal governments, solid waste management agencies, waste haulers and facilities, industry associations and other related stakeholders: (1) embrace the path to zero waste; and (2) work to advance the local circular economy.

**Guiding Principles:** These guiding principles serve as a compass upon which Cook County can rely as it works to advance the strategies presented in this plan update. These guiding principles will help provide direction and accountability to DES staff and other stakeholders as they work to implement the recommendations laid out in this plan update.

- 1) **Aligned with Zero Waste and Circular Economy Best Practices:** Recommendations should be developed in a way that advances [zero waste](#) practices and the local [circular economy](#).
- 2) **Center Vulnerable Communities:** Recommendations should consider specific impacts based on current and historical land use and projected climate change impacts. Recommendations should avoid additional burdens to vulnerable and EJ designated communities.
- 3) **Enhance Data Collection and Transparency:** Recommendations should be developed in a way where metrics/data can be collected and analyzed to measure progress in a transparent manner.
- 4) **Maximize Opportunities to Educate and Engage:** Recommendations should be developed in a manner that incorporates feedback from members of the public; industry best practices; and/or feedback from other public entities such as the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency. Recommendations should also include or incorporate public education or some other public engagement component.
- 5) **Green Economy:** Recommendations should help foster systems that are sustainable, cost-effective and efficient. Recommendations should encourage collaboration and help identify opportunities for innovation and green job creation.

## 1.5 DEFINING COOK COUNTY AND SUBURBAN COOK COUNTY

The government of Cook County is responsible for solid waste planning in suburban Cook County, excluding the City of Chicago. When the term "suburban Cook County" is used, the City of Chicago is excluded, but when "Cook County" is used, it refers to all of Cook County including Chicago. Suburban Cook County encompasses 133 incorporated municipalities and covers an area greater than 1,400 square miles.

In 2020, the census population of suburban Cook County was estimated to be 2,529,153 and the population of the City of Chicago was 2,746,388. The total population of Cook County (suburban Cook County and the City of Chicago) was estimated to be 5,275,541.

## 1.6 STAKEHOLDER ROLES

This plan update will provide guidance to local stakeholders in their roles and responsibilities to ensure that waste is managed to the highest and best use. This section of the plan will: (1) identify the governmental agencies, partners and other key stakeholders that have an important role in the local solid waste industry; and (2) inform waste generators (residents, businesses, public entities) about their opportunities to improve our local solid waste system.

**A. Cook County:** Cook County Government acts as a regulatory authority to permit recycling facilities and to inspect and regulate municipal solid waste (MSW) transfer stations, landfills, recycling facilities and liquid hazardous waste generators and enforce requirements for recycling and reuse of demolition debris. The County collects data regarding waste and recycling hauling, transfer station activity, landfill activity and demolition debris recycling. Cook County does not manage municipal waste, recycling and/or organic hauling contracts or services for villages, cities or townships.

### **Figure 1:**

#### **Cook County's Solid Waste Management Roles and Responsibilities**

##### **COOK COUNTY DOES:**

- 1) Inspect, permit and regulate the solid waste industry in Cook County. This includes inspecting and regulating municipal solid waste transfer stations, landscape waste transfer stations, active landfills, closed landfills, recycling facilities, liquid hazardous waste generators and other Illinois Environmental Protection Agency (IEPA) permitted solid waste related facilities and sites.
- 2) Provide leadership, resources and technical assistance to municipalities implementing recycling, zero waste and circular economy related practices and initiatives.
- 3) Partner with the IEPA to provide and promote municipal drop-off sites and one-day collection events for electronics, prescription drugs and household hazardous waste.
- 4) Participate in local, regional, state and national organizations and stakeholder groups to advance waste reduction and diversion.
- 5) Promote recycling, yard waste composting, food diversion and recycling including composting and circular economy related programs to County residents.
- 6) Provide public awareness of waste management and recycling opportunities available within the County.
- 7) Require recycling and reuse from demolition activities in Cook County.
- 8) Collect waste and recycling data from municipalities, waste haulers, MSW transfer stations and other related entities.
- 9) Update and implement Solid Waste Management Plan recommendations.
- 10) Support Cook County departments, agencies and related entities implementing solid waste management practices, recycling initiatives and other related best practices.
- 11) Own and operate a recycling and transfer facility, the Center for Hard to Recycle Materials (CHaRM Center) and is projected to open an additional facility, the Household Hazardous Waste Facility in 2025.

##### **Cook County DOES NOT:**

- 1) Inspect, permit or regulate City of Chicago solid waste facilities and sites.
- 2) Manage residential hauling contracts or services for villages, cities or townships. These contracts and services are managed by municipal public works departments or boards on behalf of residents.



**B. Municipal Governments:** Each municipality within suburban Cook County holds the primary responsibility for providing, managing and/or arranging waste management services for its residents. Most suburban Cook County municipalities provide waste collection services to residents, either in-house or contracted through a private collection service.

Quick Facts:

- 130 municipalities outsource most waste collection services, resulting in the private sector owning and operating the waste management infrastructure.
- One municipality provides municipal solid waste, yard waste and recycling services without outsourcing these services to private entities (i.e., the Village of Winnetka).
- Two municipalities provide municipal solid waste and recycling services without outsourcing these services to private entities (i.e., the Town of Cicero and the Village of Lyons).
- Three municipalities provide waste management services (i.e., self-haulers) for municipal solid and yard waste. However, these three municipalities outsource recycling services to private entities (i.e., the Village of McCook, the City of Rolling Meadows and the Village of Skokie).

**C. Local Solid Waste Agencies (SWA):** A local Solid Waste Agency (SWA) is an intergovernmental entity that provides solid waste related technical, programmatic and operational assistance to member municipalities. The primary mission of a local SWA is to advance sustainable materials management practices within their regions. There are two SWA's in Cook County: The Solid Waste Agency of Northern Cook County ([SWANCC](#)), and the Western Cook County Solid Waste Agency ([WCCSWA](#)). Most northern and western municipalities in suburban Cook County are members of one of these agencies. There is no southern SWA in Cook County.

**SWANCC:** Founded in 1988, the mission of the SWANCC is to facilitate the delivery of effective, competitive and environmentally sound collection, transportation, transfer, processing, treatment, storage, disposal, recovery and reuse of municipal waste for its members. SWANCC serves 23 member communities with a focus on reducing the volume and toxicity of solid waste through responsible waste reduction solutions and providing sound transfer and disposal of waste that is not diverted from disposal.

**WCCSWA:** Formed in 1989, WCCSWA plans for the responsible management of solid waste in west Cook County. The goal of the Agency and its members is to help residents and businesses in west Cook County to recycle and manage their garbage in an environmentally sound and cost-effective manner. WCCSWA provides recycling and waste disposal programs and technical assistance to 28 member communities in the west Cook County region. The WCCSWA targets residents, local businesses, schools and municipal governments.

**Figure 2:****Solid Waste Agencies (SWA) in Suburban Cook County Overview**

Region		Number of Suburban Municipalities in Cook County	Total Households (2021 American Community Survey 5- Year Estimates)
North	SWANCC member	23	298,786 (64%)
	Municipalities with no representation	13	167,640 (36%)
West	WCCSWA member	27	188,849 (72%)
	Municipalities with no representation	19	73,472 (28%)
South	Municipalities with no representation	51	300,510 (100%)
<b>Total</b>		<b>133</b>	<b>1,029,257</b> <b>Single and multi-family</b>

- D. Regional Associations:** While southern Cook County municipalities have no SWA, 40 southern Cook County municipalities are represented by the South Suburban Mayors & Managers Association (SSMMA). SSMMA is an intergovernmental agency providing technical assistance and joint services to municipal members in Cook and Will Counties. SSMMA members work cooperatively on transportation, legislation, land use, economic development, recycling, purchasing, stormwater and open space planning, infrastructure, human resources, public safety and housing issues. SSMMA has provided workshops and waste collection events for specialty materials and has worked with DES on various brownfield remediation related projects. In addition, [Cook County is the home](#) to six subregional Councils of Mayors (COMs) associations, and nine regional municipal associations, or COGs. COGs exist to promote subregional coordination and collaboration between municipalities on a broader range of issues. Together with the City of Chicago, the COGs are members of the [Metropolitan Mayors Caucus](#) (MMC), which is a forum for mayors to collaborate on broad regional issues. Cook County has collaborated with these associations on several initiatives highlighted in the MMC [Greenest Region Compact](#).
- E. Waste Haulers:** Waste, recyclable and organic (food and yard waste) materials are collected by private companies for both residential and nonresidential customers. There is significant diversity in business type and size among haulers, ranging from the largest waste hauling company in the U.S., to locally owned and operated businesses. Several companies solely provide hauling services, while others own and operate additional components of the waste management infrastructure, including transfer stations, recycling facilities and landfills. Waste hauling companies offer services ranging from curbside waste and recycling collection from single family homes to roll-off dumpster services for large construction projects. In 2022, waste haulers collected at least 1,041,162 tons of materials from suburban Cook County residential households: (1) 183,353 tons were recycled, (2) 93,455 tons were composted and (3) 764,354 tons were sent to landfills.
- F. Waste Generators in Cook County:** According to the IEPA's 2022 "[Illinois Landfill Disposal Capacity Report](#)," the Chicago metropolitan area has less than 10 years of landfill capacity. This waste crisis necessitates the need for everyone to support and increase efforts that advance zero waste and circular economy practices. The non-exhaustive list below is intended to engage, inform and



encourage all waste generators in Illinois to implement solutions that protect our environment, reduce carbon emissions and improve our regional economy.

- G. Residential Properties:** Cook County residents are one of the most significant waste generators in the region. Every resident can play a role in reducing waste that goes into the landfill. Possible actions residents can implement include: (1) reducing your overall waste generation through the use and purchase of sustainably produced and durable goods and eliminating single-use goods; (2) recycling effectively; (3) participating and/or supporting the growing food and yard composting movements; (4) encouraging your elected officials and local public work departments to enact policies and programs that increase recycling and composting; (5) report individuals and/or entities that illegally dump waste materials in local forest preserves, parks, alleys, vacant lots and buildings, etc.; (6) donate materials to local thrift stores, homeless shelters, food banks, food pantries and recycling drop-off stations; and (7) inform and encourage your family, friends and other networks to recycle and compost.
- H. Industrial, Commercial and Institutional (ICI) Properties:** Entities of all sizes and types can play an important role in reducing waste that goes into the landfill. Property owners of ICI buildings can benefit the environment and their own bottom line. Property owners can save money by increasing recycling, which can cut disposal costs. Property owners can conduct waste audits to better understand the amount and types of waste their organizations produce, which will allow them to find ways to reduce hauling costs and negotiate for waste and recycling services that fit their needs. Property owners that adopt sustainability practices can improve their organization's brand/image, attract quality employees and attract new customer/constituent bases. Property owners can also support efforts that advance zero waste and circular economy related practices in the region by: (1) spreading awareness about sustainable waste practices; (2) providing recycling and composting opportunities; and (3) creating awareness about their commitments towards the local environment.

## 1.7 MATERIALS MANAGEMENT AND DIVERSION EFFORTS OVERVIEW

Since the last plan update in 2018, Cook County conducted nearly 6,000 solid waste related inspections and regulated municipal solid waste transfer stations, landscape transfer stations, active landfills, closed landfills, recycling facilities, liquid hazardous waste generators, other IEPA permitted solid waste related facilities and sites and suburban recycling facilities. In addition, Cook County has provided leadership, resources, and technical assistance to municipalities implementing zero waste and circular economy related practices and initiatives.

**Figure 3:**

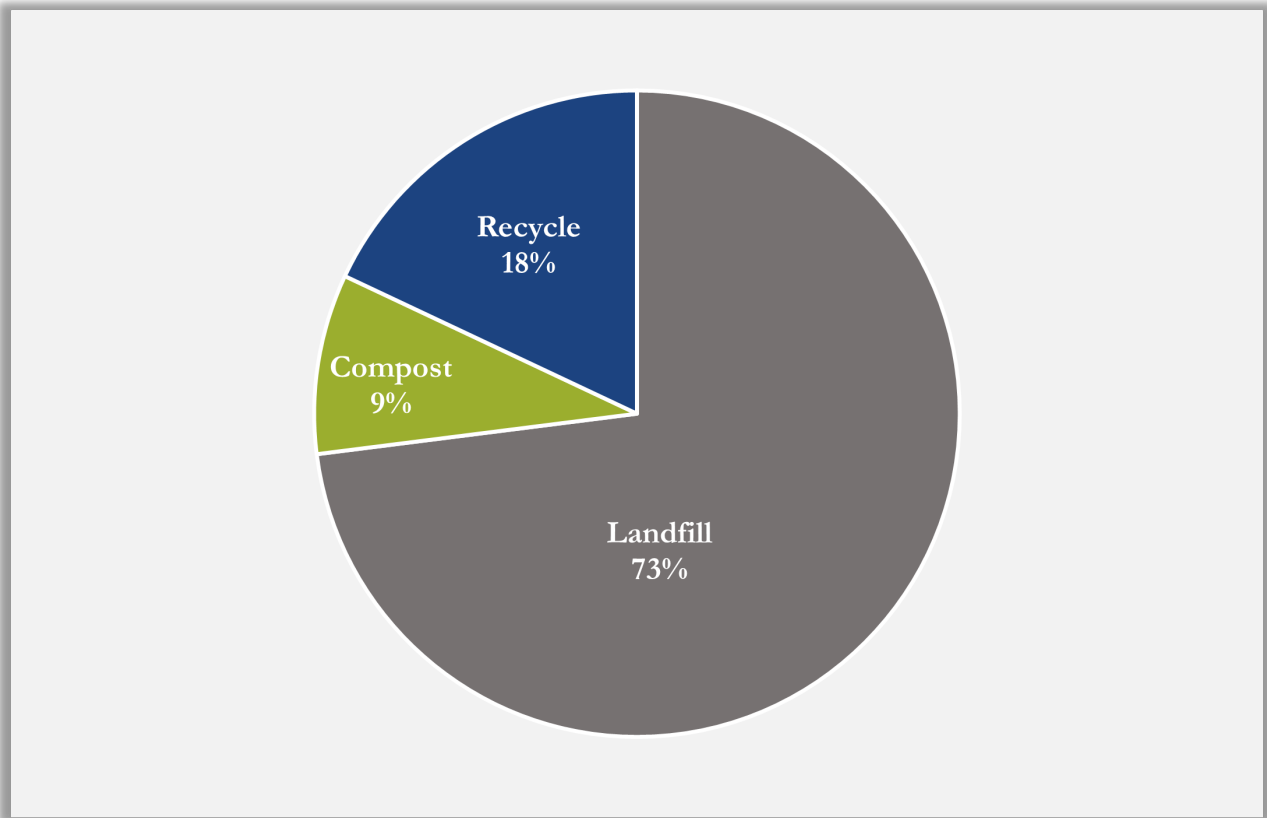


**Figure 4:**

SUBURBAN COOK COUNTY PROFILE				
Demographics	2.7 million Suburban residents	Nearly 1,030,000 Suburban single and multi-family residential households	133 Suburban municipalities in Cook County	48% of suburban municipalities have median household income below the average Cook County median household income.
Regional Population	46% of suburban residents live in the northern suburbs and reside in 301,116 households.	24% of suburban residents live in the western suburbs and reside in 171,564 households.	30% of suburban residents live in the southern suburbs and reside in 230,017 households.	53% of all Cook County (City of Chicago + suburban municipalities) residential households (1-4-unit structures) are in suburban Cook County.
Programs for Recycling and Organics	92% of municipalities offer curbside recycling services to their residents.	92% of municipalities have a yard waste composting program for their residents.	14% of municipalities have a comingled yard waste and food scrap composting program for their residents.	5% of municipalities have a standalone food scrap program for their residents.
Generation and Diversion	72% of municipalities have a diversion rate <u>below</u> the national diversion rate of 32%.	The overall suburban Cook County diversion rate is 5% less than the national diversion rate.	73% of suburban Cook County waste gets landfilled.	5.96 pounds of waste is sent to the landfill per household each day
	<u>Northern suburbs:</u> have a combined 30% diversion rate; 70% of materials go to the landfill.	<u>Western suburbs:</u> have a combined 26% diversion rate; 74% of materials go to the landfill.	<u>Southern suburbs:</u> have a combined 22% diversion rate; 78% of materials go to the landfill.	1.43 pounds recycled and 0.73 pounds composted per household each day
Infrastructure and Solid Waste Agencies	45% of existing solid waste related sites and facilities are in the southern suburbs	28% of existing solid waste related sites and facilities are in the western suburbs.	27% of existing solid waste related sites and facilities are in the northern suburbs.	There are two regional solid waste agencies in Cook County: SWANCC and the WCCSWA. The southern suburbs have no solid waste agency.

## 2022 SUBURBAN COOK COUNTY RESIDENTIAL SOLID WASTE STREAM

**Figure 5:**



DES found that in 2022, 73% of materials in suburban Cook County were landfilled, 18% of materials were recycled and 9% of materials were composted. This resulted in suburban Cook County having a 27% residential waste diversion rate for 2022. Suburban Cook County's residential waste diversion rate is 5% less than the 2018 national MSW diversion rate of 32%.

Over the past five years, Cook County, its partners and local municipalities have worked in concert with one another to implement several sustainable solid waste management practices that have helped achieve the current diversion rate of 27%.

More prioritization and integration of zero waste and circular economy solutions within our region are necessary for suburban Cook County to increase the current diversion rate an additional 18%, from the 2022 baseline, to achieve the 2030 goal of a 45% overall waste diversion rate.

**Figure 6: Materials Management and Diversion Efforts Highlights (2018-2023)**

Cook County Actions	
Conducted 5,995 solid waste related inspections from 2018-2023.	
Annually inspected 92 IEPA permitted facilities in Cook County.	
Annually inspected over 50 public environmental complaints.	
Opened the <a href="#">Center for Hard to Recycle Materials</a> (CHaRM Center) at South Suburban College in South Holland, IL on Earth Day, April 2023.	
Secured funding to build the first Household Hazardous Waste (HHW) facility in southern Cook County, to open in 2025.	
Established a grant program in 2023 to provide three EJ municipalities resources to provide curbside recycling services to residents.	
Launched the <a href="#">Businesses Reducing Impact on the Environment</a> (BRITE) program in 2023. This program includes waste-related audits and recycling-related infrastructure assistance.	
Launched a comprehensive education and outreach campaign: published a <a href="#">Green Guide Library</a> webpage; published new recycling/composting/e-waste/medication-related flyers; published blog articles with the Illinois Recycling Contamination Task Force; and provided over 50 waste reduction outreach presentations.	
Directed and funded environmental assessment activities for over 53 brownfield site locations since 2018.	
Implemented a Countywide <a href="#">drug/medical take-back program</a> with community outreach events coordinated by the Cook County Sheriff's Office.	
Piloted a food composting program for downtown County administrative offices in 2023, coordinated by the Cook County Department of Facilities Management.	
Provided over 500 <a href="#">recycling collection</a> events and document destruction events around the County, coordinated by the Cook County Sheriff's Office.	



Opening of the Cook County CHaRM Center at South Suburban College in South Holland, IL on Earth Day, April 22, 2023. Cook County Board President Toni Preckwinkle, Cook County Commissioner Bridget Degnan, Cook County Commissioner Monica Gordon, Cook County DES Director Deborah Stone and representatives from the IEPA, Village of South Holland and South Suburban College.



2023 winner of the Illinois Recycling Foundation's Outstanding Public Program award acknowledging the CHaRM Center. This award recognizes a community, county, or publicly funded institution for a recycling or composting effort, program or event that successfully achieves or promotes diversion.



## Winner, Illinois Green Alliance's 2023 Emerald Award



Cook County Chief Sustainability Officer Deborah C. Stone accepts the Illinois Green Alliance's 2023 Emerald Award, along with Cook County Assistant Bureau Chief Jamie Meyers, DES Program Manager Sarah Edwards and DES Air Inspection Manager Ricardo Magallon.

Cook County was recognized in November 2023 with the Illinois Green Alliance's Emerald Award for organizational achievement. Cook County was recognized for its carbon neutrality by 2050 goal and its work in improving the health and resiliency of the County's most disadvantaged communities.

The \$130 million in American Rescue Plan Act funds to help make Cook County, especially under-resourced communities, more sustainable and resilient in the face of climate change was praised. "They aren't just setting climate goals and a net zero pledge – they have a plan for how to get there – and for how to bring communities in the county along with them," said John Mlade, Illinois Green Alliance's 2023 board chair. "Cook County is measuring their progress not just in carbon reductions, but in the community impacts that result from those reductions, like jobs created and the health improvements of residents."

Projects recognized included green infrastructure for community flood mitigation, assistance with municipal climate resiliency planning, assistance for moderate income households to go solar, the RCCES initiatives, [CHaRM Center](#) and other recycling services in the south suburbs, providing electric vehicle infrastructure in south and west suburban areas where it's lacking, brownfield cleanup, pollution prevention assistance for businesses and many others.

## 1.8 SUMMARY OF CRITICAL RECOMMENDATIONS

Based on available data, to move suburban Cook County's current 27% residential diversion rate to 45% by 2030, Cook County must address the need for new and improved recycling and organics related infrastructure, programs, practices and consistent education. This plan update proposes 43 ambitious, but achievable, actions Cook County will work to implement over the next five years. The recommendations include actions that will: support municipalities (17 recommendations); educate and engage suburban Cook County residents (seven recommendations); support Industrial, Commercial and Institutional entities (five recommendations); allow the County to secure new data to inform its plans and programs (three recommendations); require new or amended ordinances (four recommendations); involve legislation (three recommendations); and allow the County to develop new partnerships and fundraising strategies to help advance the recommendations in this plan (four recommendations). Section 9 of this document lists the complete list of recommendations for this plan.

Some of the most significant recommendations highlighted in this plan update include:

- 1) Encourage and support efforts for south suburban municipalities to develop a collective approach through an existing organization or a new sub-regional solid waste agency to provide needed technical assistance and staffing capabilities for municipalities to individually or jointly manage their solid waste, recycling and organics related programs and services and serve as a regional provider of education and outreach to support sustainable material management.
- 2) Support municipalities in implementing new sustainable material diversion programs (i.e., (a) residential curbside recycling services; (b) yard waste composting programs; (c) food scrap composting programs; (d) food donation programs; (e) recycling collection events; and (f) creating new permanent recycling drop-off stations). Prioritization of this support will be targeted to municipalities that are not members of a solid waste agency, have diversion rates below the national average and/or have been designated environmental justice communities.
- 3) Expand infrastructure projects and programs around the County (i.e., single and multi-family residential recycling infrastructure, organics infrastructure, non-traditional infrastructure and alternative and new technology infrastructure).
- 4) Support municipalities to provide and/or improve multi-family and high-density residential building recycling and diversion programs.
- 5) Explore new options to regulate and provide incentives, tax breaks, financial support and/or other assistance to Industrial, Commercial and Institutional (ICI) entities, that would help these entities implement new or improved sustainable material diversion programs (i.e., recycling programs, organic composting programs, food donation programs, construction and demolition recycling and re-use programs, etc.).
- 6) Support efforts to adopt compost procurement ordinances or policies, which should include considerations for certain landscape, construction and postconstruction, erosion prevention, stormwater runoff filtration, plant growth and transportation related projects.
- 7) Encourage and explore options to incentivize all Cook County municipalities to have robust recycling and organic composting programs for residents.

## **Section 2: CURRENT PLAN IMPLEMENTATION STATUS**

### **2.1 KEY ACCOMPLISHMENTS SINCE 2012 PLAN**

Cook County has implemented numerous solid waste-related best practices and policies since the 2012 plan update to advance zero waste and circularity-related principles. The list below highlights some of the major accomplishments the County has achieved since the adoption of the 2012 plan update.

- 1) 2012 Cook County Demolition Debris Diversion Ordinance:** All demolition permit must divert 70% of their debris. In addition, all residential demolition projects must show that 5% of this debris is being diverted for reuse. Waste management plan must be submitted with permit application before work begins and a material tracking form must be submitted when work is completed to close out a permit. In addition, Cook County required all related data and documentation be submitted in the [Green Halo](#) platform, reducing paper intake by over 99%.
- 2) 2014 Cook County Solid Waste and Recycling Ordinance:** Gives Cook County tools and information to increase recycling and prosecute illegal dumping.
- 3) 2014 Delegation Agreement with the Illinois EPA:** Cook County entered into an agreement with the IEPA to inspect more than 100 IEPA permitted facilities in suburban Cook County, including landfills, transfer stations and compost facilities, open dumps and remediated brownfields.
- 4) 2016 Cook County Liquid Hazardous Waste Ordinance:** Requires suburban Cook County facilities to report their annual liquid hazardous waste generation and submit the corresponding fee to DES. This ordinance aims to reduce the amount of liquid hazardous waste generated, transported and disposed of in suburban Cook County.
- 5) 2016 Cook County Safe Disposal of Pharmaceuticals Ordinance:** Creates a plan for the safe collection, transportation and disposal of unwanted pharmaceuticals.
- 6) 2014 and 2018:** Awarded \$600,000 brownfield assessment grants from the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (U.S. EPA).
- 7) 2018:** Awarded \$750,000 brownfield Revolving Loan Fund grant from the U.S. EPA.
- 8) 2018-2020:** Cook County secured new software (i.e., OnBase content services platform) to streamline business processes and create efficiencies by eliminating paper-based systems. In addition, Cook County eliminated paper submissions and supporting documentation for DES related permits, impacting over 10,000 permit holders annually.



## 2.2 PROGRESS MADE SINCE THE 2018 PLAN

The recommendations below are grouped based on their implementation status, specifically recommendations in which Cook County has made progress since 2018. The complete and comprehensive progress report can be found in Appendix C.

<b>GOAL # 1: Increase access to and participation in municipal solid waste curbside recycling programs.</b>			
<b><u>I.D. #</u></b>	<b><u>Status</u></b>	<b><u>2018 Recommendation</u></b>	<b><u>Description of Progress</u></b>
1.1	Implemented	Help small or underperforming communities to increase curbside recycling through joint contracting, or other procurement assistance.	Secured funding to provide three municipalities curbside recycling services in 2023.
1.7		Fund recycling extravaganzas and promote specialty recycling programs for products that often are incorrectly placed in recycling bins (e.g., electronic waste, HHW, textiles, laundry baskets, hangers).	Hosted and/or participated in over 600 recycling related events.
1.10		Develop partnerships with the business community, waste haulers, institutions, service and professional organizations and governmental entities to expand the outreach potential for focused educational efforts.	Provided outreach and educational materials to residents and businesses, in partnership with elected officials, municipalities, public libraries, organizations, etc.

<b>GOAL # 1: Increase access to and participation in municipal solid waste curbside recycling programs.</b>			
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1.4	Partially Implemented	Implementing a pilot project at a county facility or municipality that does not currently provide recycling to demonstrate efficacy of alternative recycling models beyond single stream. This may include reducing the number of accepted materials or multi-stream recycling.	Expanded recycling program and launched a composting pilot program for County administrative buildings.
1.6		Assist local governments to contract residential, multi-family and/or commercial collection services.	Annually provides technical assistance to municipalities in waste contracting practices.
1.8		Set a benchmark for waste performance for all County facilities by requiring waste haulers to produce hauler reports containing amount of material disposed and recycled.	Expanded recycling program to more County facilities and is now able to obtain detailed hauler report data.
1.9		Improve County government diversion rate by instituting consistent availability of recycling bins in all Cook County facilities including consistent signage.	Expanded recycling program to more County facilities.

**GOAL #2: Decrease contamination of recycled materials.**

I.D. #	Status	2018 Recommendation	Description of Progress
2.1	Partially Implemented	Establish working group with haulers, material recovery facilities (MRF) and municipalities to create an accurate list of recyclable products and a simple unified message. Establish metrics, such as decreased contamination and type of materials processed as tracked by MRF operators.	Joined the Illinois Task Force on Reducing Recycling Contamination to create an accurate list of recyclable products. DES and other Illinois municipalities updated <a href="#">recycling outreach materials</a> to align with task force findings.
2.2		Develop and produce a marketing campaign, based on work with waste haulers, with a focus on one or two major recycling issues per year for effective public education (e.g., do not include plastic bags in recycling).	Launched an outreach and education campaign. This included launching a <a href="#">Green Guide Library</a> webpage in 2020 and produced updated waste related materials and flyers.
2.3		Target outreach to communities with existing curbside recycling programs that have low participation and/or high contamination rates to discuss potential mitigation measures with municipal staff.	Targeted the municipalities with the lowest recycling and diversion rates and provided them education, outreach, events, etc.
2.4		Work with municipalities on ways to increase recycling and decrease contamination. Incentives may include recycled materials rebates, reward programs like Recycle Bank, and pay-as-you-throw programs.	Launched the RCCES initiative, including opening a CHaRM recycling drop-off station for communities with the lowest recycling and diversion rates. Recycling drop-off station for communities with the lowest recycling and diversion rates.

**GOAL #3: Improve diversion rate for industry/commercial/institutional (ICI) waste generators.**

I.D. #	Status	2018 Recommendation	Description of Progress
3.1	Partially Implemented	Identify barriers to increasing diversion rates for ICI waste generators through a voluntary program which solicits waste hauling reports, request waste audits from a sample of businesses and conduct interviews with businesses.	Secured funding to create the BRITE Program in 2023. This program includes waste related audits, characterizations and recycling/composting related infrastructure assistance.
3.2		Convene nonresidential waste generators to share best practices within industry types (e.g., hospitals, schools, industrial) for waste diversion.	Partnered with the Illinois Medical District ( <a href="#">IMD</a> ) to connect Chicago hospitals to the <a href="#">CHaRM Center</a> .

<b>GOAL #4: Improve diversion of organics and food waste from landfills.</b>			
<u>I.D. #</u>	<u>Status</u>	<u>2018 Recommendation</u>	<u>Description of Progress</u>
4.3	Partially Implemented	Promote industrial, commercial, institutional food scrap collection programs.	Provided compost-related outreach and educational materials to residents and ITI entities. Secured funding to create the BRITE Program in 2023. This program includes waste related audits, characterizations and recycling/composting related infrastructure assistance.
4.5		Assess potential for food donation from public and private facilities.	Launched the GFP works to create access to good food for all by: (1) Implementing GFP in County departments and agencies, (2) advancing a racially and socially equitable food system, and (3) building a culture where good food is a right, not a privilege.
4.7		Make compost bins available and teach people to compost.	Launched a composting pilot program for County administrative buildings. Secured funding to create the <a href="#">BRITE</a> program in 2023. This program includes waste related audits and recycling related infrastructure.
4.8		Establish requirements for food waste reduction in vendor contracts for Cook County facilities.	Ensuring that the <a href="#">GFP</a> starts to become imbedded in County contracts.
4.9		Develop compost strategies for county facilities.	Launched a composting pilot program for County administrative buildings.

**GOAL #5: Increase household hazardous waste (HHW) diversion.**

I.D. #	Status	2018 Recommendation	Description of Progress
5.1	Implemented	Increase HHW collection by adding more permanent sites and encouraging local municipalities to include HHW collection in their waste hauling contracts or by other means.	Secured funding to open a HHW facility in the south suburbs, tentatively scheduled to open in 2025. Hosted IEPA sponsored HHW collection events and supported other municipalities hosting HHW-related events.
5.2		Seek IEPA funding for expanded collection of HHW for Cook County residents who do not currently have reliable and convenient access to collection.	Secured ARPA funding to open a new HHW facility. Secured funding from IEPA to host HHW events in the County.
5.3		Encourage municipalities, including the City of Chicago, to collaborate with a coordinating body such as a council of government or joint action agency (Solid Waste Agency of Northern Cook County or West Cook County Solid Waste Agency) or partner with neighboring communities for HHW collection initiatives.	Successfully coordinated efforts for the FPCC to transfer its illegally dumped HHW materials to the City of Chicago HHW Facility. Supported municipality requests to the IEPA to fund HHW collection events.
5.4		Work in tandem with other agencies to assess producer responsibility legislation for Hazardous Household Chemicals.	Participated in the development of the 2023 <a href="#">EPR Paint Bill</a> and the <a href="#">EPR Packaging Bill</a> .
5.7		Begin a dialogue with hospitals, pharmacies, police and others already dealing with sharps and medications, to explore opportunities for cost share or coordination.	Managed a comprehensive <a href="#">drug/medical take back program</a> , with funding support from the MWRD and IEPA.
5.5	Partially Implemented	Continue to educate the public about proper storage, handling and disposal of HHW and provide information on why these materials are banned from landfills, in addition to how to avoid generation of HHW, especially for residents in unincorporated or unaffiliated areas.	Launched an outreach and education campaign. This included launching a <a href="#">Green Guide Library</a> webpage in 2020 updating lists of HHW and green cleaning alternative materials/flyers.
5.6		Reduce the use of toxic chemicals in the maintenance of Cook County facilities.	Expanded efforts to reduce the use of toxic cleaning products in County administrative and public buildings.

<b>GOAL #6: Increase electronic waste (e-waste) diversion.</b>			
<u>I.D. #</u>	<u>Status</u>	<u>2018 Recommendation</u>	<u>Description of Progress</u>
6.1	Implemented	Establish permanent program collection sites for recyclable electronics in accordance with the Illinois Consumer Electronics Recycling Act.	Launched the RCCES Initiative, including opening a <a href="#">CHaRM Center</a> recycling drop-off station that has a comprehensive e-waste program.
6.2		Develop a marketing campaign to educate residents on proper e-waste disposal.	Launched an <a href="#">education and outreach campaign</a> that included e-waste recycling related materials and strategies.
6.3		Investigate opportunities for public outreach for education on e-waste recycling by participating at special events such as farmers markets, community days and open houses.	Hosted and participated in e-waste collection events at various locations around the County.
6.4	Partially Implemented	Partner with commercial and retail collection sites to increase accessibility of existing e-waste collection programs.	Secured funding to create the BRITE program in 2023. This program includes waste-related audits and offers grants to purchase new environmentally preferred equipment and divert old equipment as e-waste.
6.5		Work in tandem with IEPA to provide suburban Cook County residents an up-to-date list of registered collection sites that is reviewed and updated quarterly.	Launched an outreach and education campaign. This included launching a <a href="#">Green Guide Library</a> webpage in 2020 that includes e-waste collection sites.

<b>GOAL #7: Promote source reduction and reuse.</b>			
<u>I.D. #</u>	<u>Status</u>	<u>2018 Recommendation</u>	<u>Description of Progress</u>
7.1	Partially Implemented	Develop a green purchasing strategy for the County and develop model procurement documents for municipalities and other agencies.	Launched the <a href="#">GFP</a> . GFP works to create access to good food for all by: implementing GFP in County departments and agencies; advancing a racially and socially equitable food system that can meet the demands of GFP; and building a culture where good food is a right, not a privilege.
7.2		Educate residents and local governments on alternatives to household hazardous chemicals.	Launched an outreach and education campaign. This included launching a <a href="#">Green Guide Library</a> webpage in 2020 and produced updated HHW and green cleaning alternative materials and flyers.
7.3		Work in tandem with waste agencies or Councils of Government to identify schools serving low- to moderate-income students and encourage area businesses to donate office supplies, computers and furniture that would otherwise be thrown out.	Launched the RCCES initiative in partnership with South Suburban College (SSC). Opened the CHaRM Center in 2023 and started outreach efforts to south suburban school districts.
7.4		Adopt stronger procurement practices by the County that promote reused and reusable goods and reduce packaging/ life cycle costs. Develop further strategies to reduce operational waste at County facilities such as printing policies.	Launched the <a href="#">GFP</a> . GFP works to create access to good food for all by: implementing GFP in County departments and agencies; advancing a racially and socially equitable food system that can meet the demands of GFP; building a culture where good food is a right, not a privilege; and updating the County's salvage policy.

<b>GOAL #8: Improve construction and demolition (C&amp;D) debris diversion.</b>			
<u>I.D. #</u>	<u>Status</u>	<u>2018 Recommendation</u>	<u>Description of Progress</u>
8.2	Partially Implemented	Consider revisions to 2012 Cook County Demolition Debris Diversion Ordinance that could increase reuse, such as targeting materials with high reuse potential to be salvaged, requiring reuse in non-residential demolitions or requiring minimum requirements for hauling and drop-off tickets.	In 2022, created a data manager position that will start to analyze Green Halo data to help create strategies to improve C&D recycling efforts.
8.3		Establish outreach and public educational programs on construction and demolition debris reduction and recycling initiatives.	Participated in various C&D debris related events and training sessions.
8.4		Evaluate potential for construction and demolition contractor's registration programs through which Cook County would ensure contractors had full knowledge of the Cook County Demolition Debris Diversion Ordinance.	Developed an outreach and education C&D debris campaign to be launched in 2024.

For the complete and comprehensive 2018-2023 progress chart please view Appendix C.



## 2.3 FACTORS THAT IMPACTED THE 2018 PLAN

The implementation of the 2018 plan update was impacted by the 2020 COVID-19 global pandemic. Data from pre- and post-COVID-19 global pandemic shows:

- An increase in waste disposal for both residential and commercial sectors.
- An increase in illegal/fly dumping of various materials.
- An increase of recycling stream contamination.
- Reduced recycling events and drop-off opportunities for residents.

All these factors affected plans, programing and regulatory operations of DES tasked with implementing recommendations found in plan updates.

## 2.4 THE RCCES INITIATIVE (2022-Present)

Through the American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA), DES was able to secure over [\\$100 million in ARPA funding](#) to support a clean environment for all and fight climate change. These projects are being coordinated by numerous County bureaus and departments and are reflected in the Sustainable Communities focus area of the County [Policy Roadmap](#) 2024-2027. Many of the actions accomplished by DES in 2022-2023 and reflected in future actions listed in this plan update report will be funded by ARPA. For example, DES launched the [Businesses Reducing Impact on the Environment \(BRITE\) Program](#), and launched the [Neighborhood Revitalization Brownfield Remediation Program](#) with ARPA funds.

One of the other initiatives created in the fall of 2022, funded largely by the ARPA, is the Recycling, Composting and Circular Economy Solutions (RCCES) Initiative. The mission of the RCCES initiative is to build municipal capacity to implement “reduction, reassembly, remanufacture, repair, reuse, repurpose, recycle, compost and circularity” related initiatives within suburban Cook County. The RCCES initiative will help expand zero waste and circularity related programs and opportunity within Cook County to help successfully reach 45% diversion rate by 2030.

While this plan update provides data and a high-level overview of waste and recycling practices in suburban Cook County, the RCCES initiative will address specific goals that will help the County achieve 45% waste diversion by 2030.

### RCCES Initiative Goals (**All municipalities will**):

- 1) Offer curbside recycling services by 2030.
- 2) Have an organics (yard waste and food scraps) composting program by 2030.
- 3) Increase diversion rates annually from a 2022 baseline.
- 4) Recognize a decrease in illegal dumping annually.
- 5) Promote zero waste and circularity events, programs and opportunities for their constituents (residential, industrial, commercial and institutional) annually.

RCCES Initiative Funding Limitations: To fully implement the RCCES initiative and the recommendations in this updated plan, additional funding of a significant amount (e.g. the \$100 million ARPA allocation to DES) will need to be secured. Cook County will continue to leverage resources, create new partnerships and explore funding opportunities from federal and state governmental agencies, foundations, corporations and the philanthropic community. As more resources and staffing become available, Cook County will be able to implement the objectives described in this section.

RCCES Initiative Action Plan:

Since fall of 2022, Cook County has worked to start the implementation of the RCCES initiative. Cook County views the RCCES initiative as a project that will continue to grow and develop as implementation activities are launched, progress is measured annually, new technologies emerge, new funding sources become available and as new partners become engaged. Cook County has designated DES to lead the implementation of the RCCES initiative. DES solid waste division will ensure that the RCCES initiative incorporates the recommendations of the updated Solid Waste Management Plan. DES solid waste division will also collect relevant data and annually measure the progress municipalities make in working to achieve the goals of the RCCES initiative and the other recommendations described in the Solid Waste Management Plan.

**RCCES Initiative Strategic Objectives:** The objectives listed below are designed to help achieve the goals of the RCCES initiative.

- 1) Fund Municipal Curbside Recycling Programs** – Cook County will help fund municipal curbside recycling programs for municipalities in the County that currently do not offer curbside recycling services to their residents due to municipal financial limitations, being a municipality that has cumulative impacts and/or are U.S. EPA and/or IEPA designated EJ communities.
- 2) Fund Municipal Organics Composting Collection Programs** – Cook County will help fund organics (yard waste and food scraps) composting programs in areas around suburban Cook County. Priority locations for these new organics composting drop-off sites or programs are in areas of the County with the lowest diversion rates and/or those currently lacking access to convenient composting services. Additional considerations should include areas of the County that are designated EJ areas. The County will also support and encourage other countywide entities creating new food composting sites or programs. The County will also connect food scrap collectors to various entities, institutions and special events looking to compost their food scraps.
- 3) Fund New Recycling Drop-Off Stations & Programs** – Cook County will help fund new countywide recycling drop-off stations and programs. Priority locations for these new recycling drop-off stations are in areas of the County with the lowest recycling and diversion rates and/or those currently lacking access to convenient recycling services. Additional considerations should include areas that are designated EJ areas, areas where the most illegal dumping occurs and institutions that service many Cook County residents. The County will also support and encourage other entities creating new recycling drop-off stations and will connect recyclers to various entities and institutions looking to recycle certain materials.
- 4) Fund and Promote Collection Events and Programs** – Cook County will help fund and promote new material collection events and programs in areas around suburban Cook County. These collection events and programs may target materials including, but not limited to: HHW, electronics, batteries, medications, clothing and textiles, document shredding, expanded polystyrene (aka Styrofoam®), yard waste and food scraps, general recyclable materials and small furniture items. Priority locations for these new collection events and programs are in areas of the County with the lowest recycling and diversion rates and/or those currently lacking convenient access to services for these materials. Additional considerations for where these events and programs are located should include areas of the County that are designated EJ areas, and/or areas in the County where the most illegal dumping occurs. The County will also support and encourage other countywide entities creating new collection events and programs.

- 5) Open A New Household Hazardous Waste Facility** - Cook County will open a facility in the south suburbs for residents to properly dispose of HHW, which are items typically present in homes including toxic cleaners, pharmaceuticals and gasoline/oil that pose serious health and safety concerns and can cause environmental damage. There are no facilities conveniently located for residents of the south suburbs to dispose of HHW, negatively impacting a region already experiencing historically high pollution and open dumping issues. The facility will also serve as a consolidation location for satellite collection events conducted in other areas of Cook County and will be operated through an agreement with Illinois EPA, which will fund ongoing disposal costs. Additional materials that will be collected at this facility include materials illegally dumped on County property, Forest Preserves of Cook County property and property owned by the Metropolitan Water Reclamation District (MWRD) of Cook County.
- 6) Fund and Promote Circular Economy and Incentives Programs** - Cook County will help fund and promote circular economy and incentives related programs within suburban Cook County. Priority locations for these sites, programs and projects are in areas of the County with the lowest recycling and diversion rates. Additional considerations should include areas of the County that are designated EJ areas.
- 7) Fund and Implement Public Education and Outreach Efforts** - Cook County will help fund and implement public educational and outreach efforts in support of sustainable materials management, zero waste and circular economy related best practices, programs and opportunities countywide.
- 8) Provide Municipal Technical Assistance** - Cook County will support local municipal elected officials, public work directors and other sustainability and solid waste staff on various projects that align with sustainable materials management, zero waste and circular economy best practices. The technical assistance will help these municipalities set up new programs, address contamination, review contracts and troubleshoot issues with odors, pests or participation. Assistance will address gaps in resources, technical knowledge and contracting.

**Figure 7:**

<b>THE RCCES INITIATIVE</b> <b>ACTIVITIES and ACCOMPLISHMENTS REPORT (2022-Present)</b>		
Strategic Objective Number	Description of Activities or Accomplishments	Timeframe
1	In the fall of 2023, DES was able to secure funding to provide curbside recycling services to the three of 10 municipalities that currently do not offer this service. DES is working to grant this funding to three select municipalities that align with the criteria established by the RCCES initiative.	Tentative December 2023 completion
1	In the fall of 2023, DES was able to secure financial support from the <a href="#">Recycling Partnership</a> for the County's curbside recycling grant program. The Recycling Partnership will provide financial support to the County in the purchase of recycling carts and outreach educational materials to the residents of the select three municipalities that will be awarded the grant.	Tentative December 2023 completion
1	DES submitted a multimillion-dollar grant proposal to the U.S. EPA for its Solid Waste Infrastructure for Recycling (SWIFR) program in February 2023. This proposal would have funded curbside recycling services and organics composting programs for suburban municipalities with the lowest recycling and diversion rates in the region's EJ communities.	DES received notification from the U.S. EPA in fall of 2023 that it was not awarded the SWIFR grant.
3	DES opened Illinois' first <a href="#">CHaRM Center</a> in April 2023. Funded by ARPA.	Completed
3	120,000 pounds of materials collected and recycled at the CHaRM Center since April 2023.	Ongoing
3	The CHaRM Center was open 62 days from April 2023 to October 2023 and is open every Tuesday (7 a.m. - noon), every Thursday (2 p.m. - 7 p.m.) and the second Saturday of every month (9 a.m. - 3 p.m.).	Ongoing
3	DES secured \$82,000 in grants from the Recycling Partnership and the Foam Recycling Coalition in support of the CHaRM Center. Funding was used to help purchase recycling compactors, foam densifier and bins and mailers to over 7,000 EJ community households.	Completed
3	DES won the 2023 Illinois Recycling Foundation's Outstanding Public Program Award for the CHaRM Center in June 2023.	Completed

## THE RCCES INITIATIVE

### ACTIVITIES and ACCOMPLISHMENTS REPORT (2022-Present)

Strategic Objective Number	Description of Activities or Accomplishments	Timeframe
3	<p>DES strategically connected hospitals at the Illinois Medical District (IMD) with various recyclers. Activities resulted in hospitals securing their own partnership with clothing and textiles recyclers. Activities also resulted in hospitals sending their electronics and polystyrene foam to the CHaRM Center.</p> <p>IMD has transferred the following materials to the CHARM Center in 2023: 17 super sacks of polystyrene, each bag weighing an estimated 30 pounds and 485 pounds of textiles.</p>	Ongoing
3	DES strategically connected the IEPA and the City of Chicago HHW facility with the Forest Preserves of Cook County (FPCC). As a result, illegally dumped materials found in the FPCC property will now be accepted at the City of Chicago's HHW facility.	Completed
3	DES has determined suitable locations to replicate the CHaRM Center model. As new funding sources become available, DES will start the engagement process with the owners/operators of these locations. In addition, DES staff have started researching and applying for new sources of revenue in support of this objective.	To Be Determined
4	DES secured funding from the Illinois EPA to host a HHW collection event in April 2023 in the southern suburbs.	Completed
4	DES routinely promotes, through social media, the collection events occurring around the county conducted or hosted by SWA's, elected officials and other related stakeholders.	Ongoing
5	DES has made the necessary arrangements to create a new HHW facility in the southern suburbs. Partnerships have been confirmed. DES is now securing the necessary approvals and permits to move the project forward.	The new Cook County HHW facility is scheduled to open in 2025

## THE RCCES INITIATIVE

### ACTIVITIES and ACCOMPLISHMENTS REPORT (2022-Present)

Strategic Objective Number	Description of Activities or Accomplishments	Timeframe
6	DES staff have started exploring technologies that Cook County government and other related stakeholders (e.g. municipalities, special governmental entities, non-profits, etc.) can use to re-circulate various materials (e.g. furniture, supplies, etc.). This will help: (1) reduce materials going to the landfill, (2) help materials to stay in circularity, (3) provide needed materials for free or at very little cost to other governmental and non-profit entities to reduce unnecessary consumption. DES staff has also started researching opportunities to fund this sort of endeavor.	To Be Determined
7	DES established a partnership with South Suburban College (SSC). DES is funding SSC's sustainability manager, sustainability program specialist and five sustainability interns. SSC's sustainability staff will manage the CHaRM Center, implement sustainability practices within the SSC campus and conduct community outreach related programs and events for Cook County residents living in municipalities with low recycling and diversion rates. The initiative is funded by ARPA.	Ongoing
7	DES staff routinely attend, participate in and/or host various solid waste related workshops, conferences, panels, etc. DES staff also serve on the advisory boards of various environmental/sustainability/recycling related organizations. These organizations provide public education and work to implement various waste reduction activities.	Ongoing
8	DES staff routinely provide support to municipalities applying for recycling and composting related grants.	Ongoing
8	DES staff is developing an online portal for municipal sustainability/public works directors. This portal will be a platform for municipalities to share copies of their waste and recycling contracts; share recycling/circularity related events and meetings; lessons learned and more. Other components of the portal will be developed as sustainability/public work directors engage with the platform.	Tentative January 2024
8	DES staff has started developing a tool kit for municipalities which will include model ordinances, model waste/recycling/organics composting contracts, public education flyers, current environmental laws and regulations, staff contacts for County services, etc.	Tentative April 2025





Tour of the CHaRM Center with members of the Chicago Sustainability Task Force and SSC staff and interns, September 2023.



Cook County DES staff at the CHaRM Center at South Suburban College, opened on Earth Day 2023.



Hosted and participated in nearly a dozen internal and external workshops, conferences and other public events.



Implemented a plastic reduction campaign at SSC which included installation of new water fillins stations.



Installed new internal waste and recycling bins at SSC.

## Section 3: EXISTING INFRASTRUCTURE REPORT

### 3.1 EXISTING SITES AND FACILITIES IN SUBURBAN COOK COUNTY

The movement of waste and materials throughout suburban Cook County is supported by a complex network of waste and recycling haulers, transfer stations, material recovery facilities (MRFs) and composting facilities. The sites and facilities listed below represent locations where certain waste materials are transported.

- A. Existing Landfills Utilized for Waste Generated in Cook County:** Modern landfills are well-engineered facilities designed to receive specific kinds of waste, including MSW, construction and demolition debris and hazardous waste. They are designed to protect the environment from contaminants which may be present in the waste stream.
- 1. Active Cook County Landfills:** There is one active landfill in Cook County, the River Bend Prairie Landfill in the Village of Dolton. This landfill is at capacity and no longer accepts materials.
  - 2. Closed Cook County Landfills:** There are eight closed landfill sites in Cook County.
  - 3. Landfills Outside of Cook County:** It is important to note that while Cook County has landfills (most of which are closed), most materials from Cook County are disposed of in landfills primarily located in central and northeastern Illinois and northwest Indiana.

**Landfill Capacity:** Based on current disposal rates, Illinois' Region 2 has less than five years of landfill capacity available. Region 2 includes landfills in nine northeast and north central counties: Cook, DuPage, Grundy, Kane, Kankakee, Kendall, Lake, McHenry and Will.

**B. Other Sites and Facilities in Suburban Cook County:**

- 1. Material Recovery Facilities (MRFs):** Occasionally co-located with transfer stations, MRFs are essential components of the recycling process where materials such as metal, plastic or wood are received, sorted and prepared for market, depending on the technology and capacity of the facility. There are currently 12 MRFs operating in Cook County.
- 2. Transfer Stations:** Transfer stations are processing sites for the temporary disposition of waste material, and they are an integral part of the waste management system in Cook County. As of the beginning of 2023, there were 48 suburban Cook County transfer stations, of which 23 are MSW transfer stations; 18 are landscape transfer stations; and seven are special waste transfer stations. Two transfer stations are publicly owned: Solid Waste Agency of Northern Cook County (SWANCC) operated by Groot and the City of Rolling Meadows operated by LRS.
- 3. Construction and Demolition Facilities (C&D):** Construction and demolition (C&D) debris is the waste material generated during construction, renovation and demolition projects. It typically comprises 25% to 40% percent of the national solid waste stream. While most C&D material goes to specialized sites that keep such items out of the landfill, C&D material is generated by several activities at different scales. Small home repairs and larger renovations are a significant source of C&D debris. Anecdotal evidence suggests waste generated from smaller projects is typically bagged and discarded in the MSW stream.



**C&D materials are brought to the following sites/facilities:**

- A. General Construction and Demolition Debris Facilities (GCCD):** These facilities receive and transfer materials such as asphalt, concrete, brick, wood, drywall and steel. There are 17 GCCD facilities in suburban Cook County
- B. Clean Construction Demolition Debris (CCDD) Fill Operation:** Clean construction or demolition debris or CCDD means non-putrescible construction and demolition materials and as otherwise defined in Section 3.160(b) of the Illinois Environmental Protection Act. Clean construction or demolition debris fill operation or "CCDD fill operation" means a current or former quarry, mine or other excavation where clean construction or demolition debris is used as fill material. There are currently 11 CCDD fill operation sites in suburban Cook County. Five of these sites are active, one is not active and five are closed.
- C. Recycling Facilities (Class V):** Class V-Recycling Facilities are recycling facilities for the collection of Type D recyclable materials only. Processing and temporary storage only of Type D recyclable material shall be permitted at a Class V facility. Type D recyclable material(s) are construction and demolition debris that does not contain lead, asbestos or any other hazardous material in such a way as to render recycling of such material illegal or impossible and that has been rendered reusable and is reused, or that would otherwise be disposed of or discarded but is collected or separated and returned to the economic mainstream in the form of raw materials or product. There are 50 Class V Recyclers currently permitted in suburban Cook County.
- 4. Household Hazardous Waste Facilities (HHW):** Residents of Cook County have two primary options for proper disposal of their HHW, permanent collection facilities and temporary collection events. Additionally, commercial and retail stores offer residents limited opportunities for collection of some special materials, usually limited to batteries, compact fluorescent lamps (CFLs) and automotive fluids. There are currently five permanent I EPA permitted HHW facilities in Illinois, located in Naperville, Rockford, Chicago, Lake County and Madison County). The Chicago HHW Facility is located on Goose Island and is called the Household Chemical and Computer Recycling Facility (HCCRF).
- 5. Composting Facilities:** Composting facility means any building, portion of a building or area in which organic waste and/or livestock waste is collected, stored or processed, which is permitted or required to be permitted by the IEPA. Suburban Cook County currently has four composting facilities. In addition, the Green Era Campus has installed an anerobic digester at its facility in Chicago.
- 6. Recycling Facilities:** Recycling facility means any building, portion of a building or area in which recyclable material is collected, stored or processed for the purpose of marketing the material for use as raw material in the manufacturing process of new, reused, composted or reconstituted products. There are currently 160 DES permitted recycling facilities in suburban Cook County, of which 56 are DES permitted scrap metal facilities.
- 7. Beneficial Use Determination Facilities:** A Beneficial Use Determination (BUD) facility is a facility which processes certain materials (ex. asphalt shingles), if that material is used beneficially and in a manner that is protective of human health and the environment and is determined as a BUD facility by the Illinois EPA. There are currently six such facilities in Cook County

**C. Other Waste Generating Entities in Suburban Cook County:**

- 1. Liquid Hazardous Waste Generators:** Liquid Hazardous Waste Generator means any person or entity that generates liquid waste, provided that the liquid waste is designated pursuant to Section 5/3.475 of the IEPA as "special waste" and is containerized and transported off-site under manifest according to federal Resource Conservation and Recovery Act (RCRA) regulations. In 2022, there were 400 Liquid Waste Generators in suburban Cook County. Liquid waste generators are required to submit an annual liquid hazardous waste generation report to DES
- 2. Temporary Rock Crushers (TRC):** Entities engaged in temporary rock crushing operations are required to obtain three permits from DES. The first is the Equipment Registration Permit, the second is obtaining a Certificate of Operation and the third is the Temporary Rock Crusher permit. These permits are designed to prevent the improper reprocessing, storage, transport and/or final usage of construction/demolition material. Since 2018, 47 TRC permits have been issued by DES.
- 3. Illegal Open Dump Sites:** To reduce dumping of general and hazardous waste, Cook County has made the following activities illegal: causing or allowing the open dumping of any waste; abandoning or disposing of any waste upon public property, except in a sanitary landfill approved by the IEPA; and disposing, treating, abandoning or transporting any waste, except at a site or facility which meets the requirements of the IEPA. DES has closed 33 illegal open dump sites since 2019. Through the DES complaint system and referrals from IEPA, DES is currently tracking and investigating an estimated 41 other illegal open dumping sites.

## 3.2 REGIONAL ANALYSIS OF EXISTING SITES AND FACILITIES

**Figure 8:**

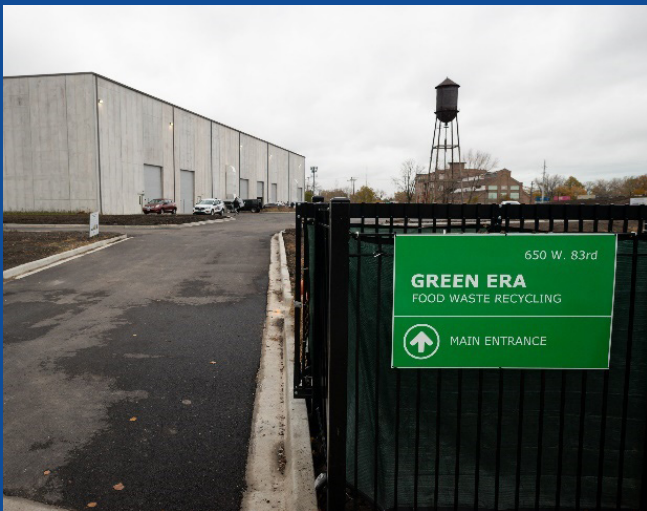
Sites and Facility Types	Regional Totals			Grand Totals
	NORTH	WEST	SOUTH	
Landfills	2	2	5	9
Compost Sites	1	2	1	4
Transfer Stations	19	12	17	48
Uncontaminated Soil Fill Operations Facility (USFO)	2	0	0	2
Clean Construction or Demolition Debris Site (CCDD)	1	2	3	6
General Construction or Demolition Debris Site (GCDD)	1	5	11	17
Beneficial Use Determination Facilities (BUD)	3	2	1	6
Material Recovery Facility (MRF)	3	5	4	12
Recycling Facilities	40	43	77	160
GRAND TOTALS	72 Sites	73 Sites	119 Sites	264 Sites
	27% of existing sites and facilities are in the northern suburbs	28% of existing sites and facilities are in the western suburbs	45% of existing sites and facilities are in the southern suburbs	

### Important Facts:

- This list does not include sites/facilities not currently regulated by DES.
- Data is current as of December 2023.
- Site/facility categories and sub type [definitions](#).

### 3.3 NEW SITES AND FACILITIES

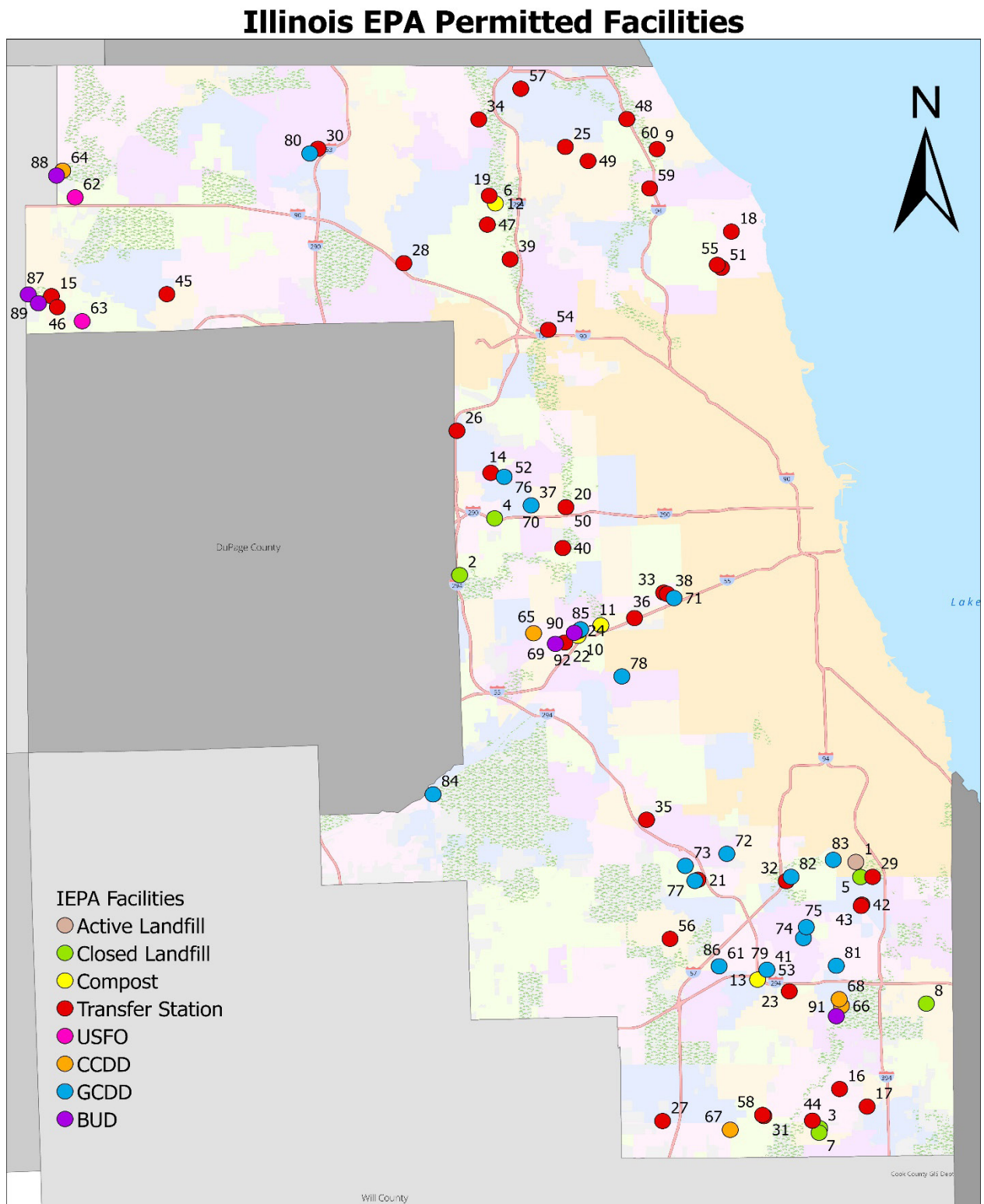
Many different options exist to reduce solid waste materials being sent to landfills. While educational initiatives are important and necessary, Cook County can potentially have greater impact through enabling and/or funding new and/or expanded infrastructure developments including compost facilities, anaerobic digesters, drop-off stations and other infrastructure related programs and projects. Enabling infrastructure development is crucial for increasing the capacity within Cook County to achieve its 45% diversion goals, especially for the composting of organic materials. Currently, solid waste businesses wanting to build and/or operate new facilities within the County must first receive necessary permits from the municipal government where those facilities will be located. This is followed by receiving permits from the IEPA. In some cases, DES permits are also required. Prior to locating new solid waste related facilities in Cook County, businesses should meet all requirements specified by the IEPA for local siting review, 415 ILCS 5/39.2, and comply with the requirements found in Part II, Land Development Ordinances, Appendix A, Articles 8 and 13 of the Cook County Code. In addition to new infrastructure, in Cook County, there is a network of transfer stations available to transport waste that is not diverted through recycling or composting. Transfer stations may also support the consolidation and management of diverted materials. Facility developers (existing and new) are encouraged to consider incorporation of waste diversion options into the design and operation of such facilities, where feasible.



Cook County and Forest Preserves of Cook County environmental and sustainability staff tour the 35,000-square-foot [Green Era Campus](#) in the winter of 2022. Located in the Greater Auburn Gresham neighborhood of Chicago, the Green Era Campus is the only anaerobic digester system in Cook County. Anaerobic digesters help divert millions of pounds of food waste from landfills to produce clean energy and nutrient-rich compost. It officially opened in winter of 2023.<sup>3.4</sup>

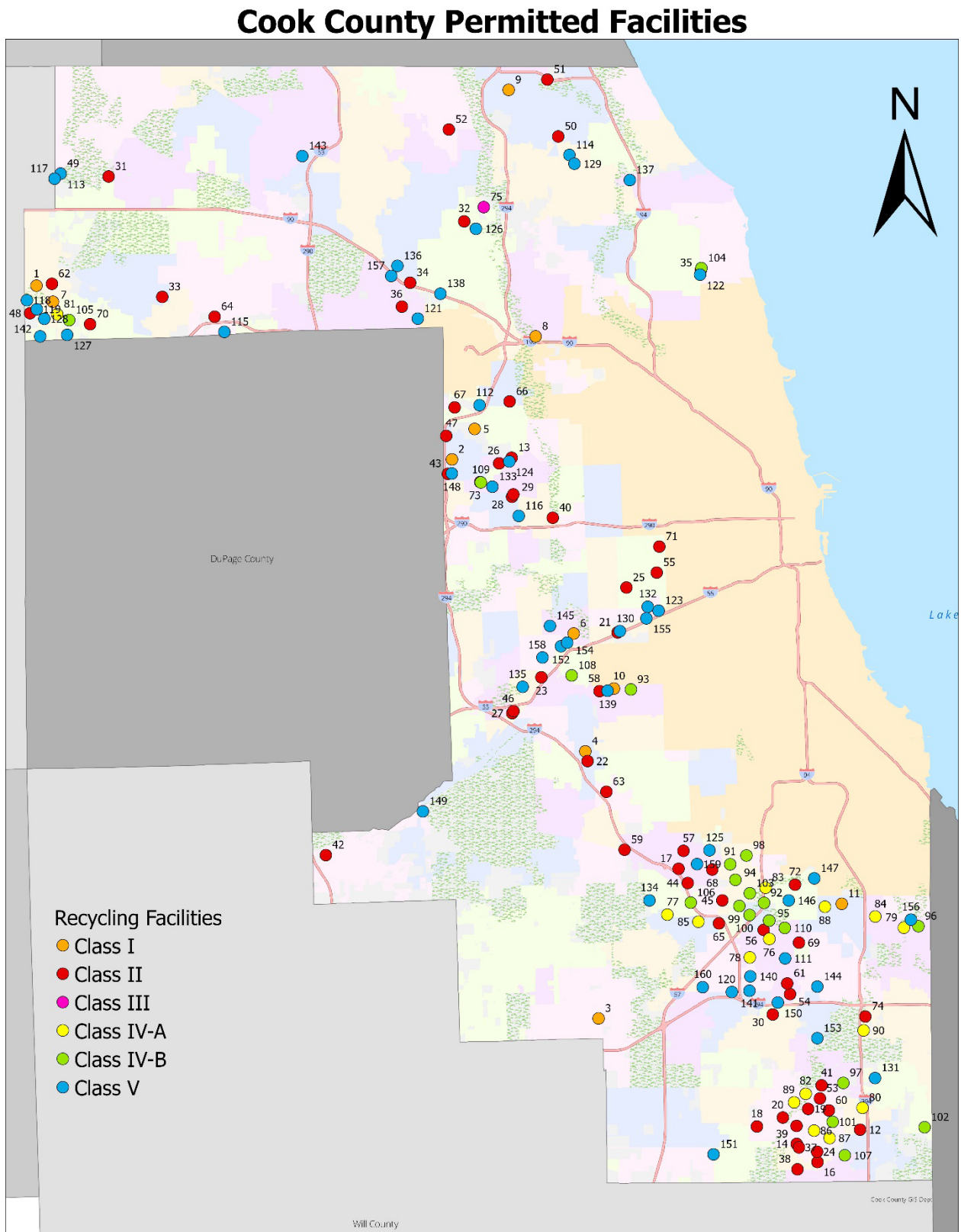
### 3.4 MAPS OF EXISTING SITES AND FACILITIES

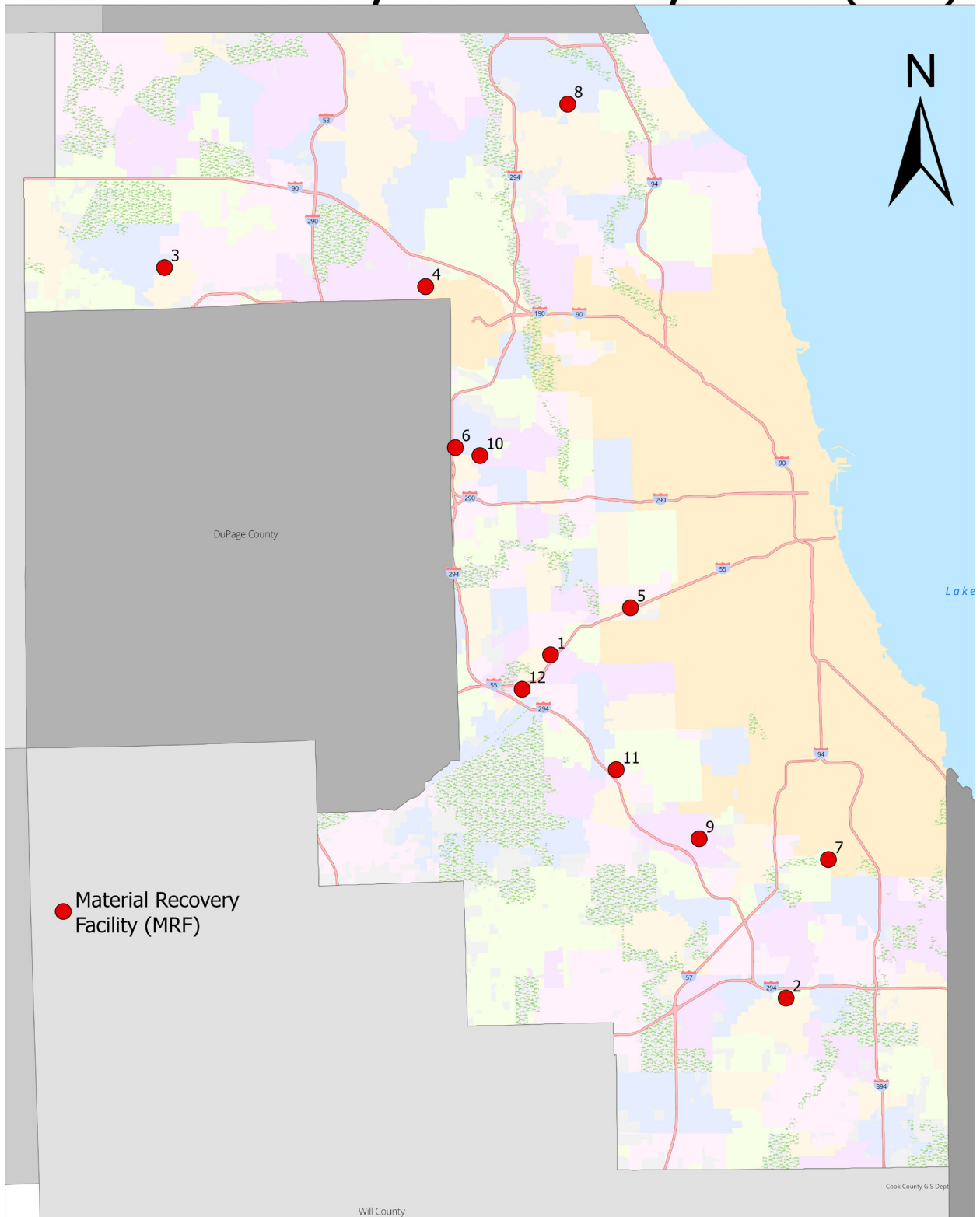
**Figure 9:**





**Figure 10:**



**Figure 11:****Suburban Cook County Material Recovery Facilities (MRFs)**

## Section 4: WASTE GENERATION

### 4.1 WASTE IN SUBURBAN COOK COUNTY

The movement of waste and materials throughout suburban Cook County is supported by a complex network of waste and recycling haulers, transfer stations, material recovery facilities (MRFs) and composting facilities.

**Material Types:** Some of the primary types of waste generated in Cook County are detailed below.

- A. Residential Municipal Solid Waste:** Includes household trash, recyclables and compostables generated by Cook County residents.
- B. Industrial-Commercial-Institutional (ICI) Municipal Solid Waste:** Includes all recyclables, compostables and trash generated by the private sector in Cook County.
- C. Organic Waste:** Includes material that comes from a plant or animal and is biodegradable. Examples of organic waste include leftover food, coffee grounds and yard waste.
- D. Mixed Municipal Solid Waste:** A mixture of residential and ICI municipal solid waste (MSW).
- E. Industrial Non-Hazardous Waste:** Solids, liquids and sludge generated by manufacturing or industrial processes.
- F. Land-Clearing Debris:** Refuse generated from clearing sites to prepare them for new construction, rehabilitation, street improvements, utility installation, natural disaster debris, etc.
- G. Construction and Demolition Debris:** Refuse generated from demolishing buildings, streets and other improvements and clearing sites to prepare them for new construction, rehabilitation, street improvements or utility installation. This refuse is primarily inorganic, consisting of concrete, brick, paving material, lumber, drywall, plaster, roofing material and insulation.
- H. Electronics:** Includes screens, monitors, mobile phones and other electrical/electronic devices.
- I. Commingled Recyclables:** Includes cardboard, paper, plastic bottles, glass bottles, tin/steel cans and aluminum cans collected in one location. Commingled recyclables are collected curbside and at residential drop-off centers. Commingled recyclables are also collected by the private sector.
- J. Controlled Hazardous Substances:** Waste materials whose disposal is regulated under the Resource Conservation and Recovery Act (RCRA).

The majority of disposal of materials takes place outside of the County, primarily in Northeast Illinois and Northwest Indiana. Additional information about where waste generated in Cook County may ultimately go is in the Cook County Green Guide Library-[Story Map](#).



## 4.2 BARRIERS TO DIVERSION IN SUBURBAN COOK COUNTY

Through conversations with municipalities, solid waste agencies, feedback from Solid Waste Advisory Committee Members, waste haulers, recyclers, community groups, residents and insights gained from DES programming, etc., Cook County has identified some of the barriers, listed below, to improving the waste diversion rates in suburban Cook County. A dedicated funding source in support of the RCCES initiative is necessary to address many of the barriers listed below.

- 1) **Collection Schedule:** (1) Many municipalities have weekly collection of waste materials, while only providing bi-weekly recycling collection service. This increases the likelihood of contamination in the recycling stream; (2) Due to staffing issues during the COVID-19 pandemic, it was reported that some haulers reduced their normal collection services. This may have discouraged some residents from participating in curbside recycling collection programs.
- 2) **Lack of Incentives:** Many single-use materials are extremely cheap to produce. As such, there is little incentive for businesses and consumers in the County to stop using them.
- 3) **Lack of Access to Reusable Materials:** Some Cook County residents may not have easy or affordable access to reusable bottles or bags, leaving them dependent on single-use materials.
- 4) **Lack of Education and Communication:** Education and communication around recycling is difficult because the materials accepted at municipal contracted MRFs change with time. Further, many materials that contain recycling symbols or which contain wording like “fully recyclable” on the packaging are not accepted by some MRFs. As such, it can be confusing for people to determine which materials are recyclable and which are not acceptable. Due to this confusion, some residents choose not to recycle at all, and others place non-recyclable items into their recycling carts, contributing to contamination.
- 5) **Social and Cultural Barriers to Recycling:** In some neighborhoods, recycling is seen as something that other people do. As such, some Cook County residents are not interested in participating in recycling.
- 6) **Lack of Trust in the Recycling Process:** When the recycling markets collapsed in 2017 due to China’s National Sword policy, news reports showed truckloads of recyclables being dumped at landfills or waste incinerators. This caused many residents to lose faith in the recycling system. A similar phenomenon occurred during the COVID-19 pandemic, when supply chain issues and equipment shortages caused many MRFs to stop accepting recyclables.
- 7) **Contamination:** Some residents, especially in multi-family units, have begun using their recycling bin or dumpster as a second trash bin or dumpster neglecting to separate recyclables from trash. This has led to serious contamination issues. Contamination leads many residents to not want to participate in recycling programs and impacts the value and recoverability of recyclables that were otherwise correctly segregated for collection.
- 8) **Lack of School Recycling:** Many schools districts in Cook County have no recycling or composting program due to funding constraints. Many schools have a limited budget and choose to allocate funds to other priorities.

- 9) **Inconsistent Collection from Apartments and Condominiums:** Not all apartment buildings and condominiums in Cook County choose to pay for private haulers to provide recycling collection services at their properties. In addition, when such buildings do offer a recycling program, contamination in the recycling stream has caused many private haulers to terminate recycling collection from these locations.
- 10) **Lack of Enforcement:** There is a general lack of enforcement of existing state-county-municipal mandated recycling programs for apartments, condominiums and office buildings.
- 11) **Lack of Public Recycling Bins:** There are limited or no public recycling bins in many neighborhoods or business districts, providing little access to recycling outside of at-home curbside collection.
- 12) **Lack of Reporting:** Currently, many recyclers are not required to report their recycled tonnages to Cook County (i.e., entities that do not legally require a permit from IEPA or DES). As such, these tonnages often do not appear in the County's official recycling data reports.

### 4.3 OPPORTUNITIES FOR IMPROVEMENT

This section details several [best practices](#) local governments, recyclers, composters and other key stakeholders should consider implementing as opportunities to improve diversion in Cook County.

- 1) **Improve and Standardize Education and Outreach:** By improving and standardizing [education and outreach](#), residents will be more likely to adopt or support reduction/recycling/composting programs and reduce contamination levels in the waste stream. Education and outreach could be designed to teach residents what is and is not recyclable, encourage people to overcome social and cultural barriers to recycling and teach residents about the benefits of recycling.
- 2) **Improve Recycling in Public Spaces:** Some stakeholders requested that more public trash and recycling cans be provided on streets, in parks, and in other public areas. In this regard, rather than simply provide a larger number of cans in more places, all of which would require additional emptying by collection crews, local governmental entities could look for ways to [embrace the smart transformation](#) of waste operations in public spaces that many other U.S. cities have implemented (e.g., by using smart cans that weigh recyclables and alert staff when they need to be emptied). This keeps streets noticeably cleaner and streets are calmer because fewer collection events mean less trash truck congestion and vehicle emissions.
- 3) **Implement Special Event Recycling:** Municipalities and other key stakeholders can [provide advice](#) on setting up a recycling plan, providing bins and containers or developing self-assessment guides to help organizers manage and minimize waste generated at events.
- 4) **Expand Recycling Services to the Non-Residential Sector:** Additional [opportunities for improving diversion](#) include increasing enforcement of existing recycling programs (e.g., for apartment buildings and condominiums), supporting local ordinances or state legislation requiring ICI sectors to report recycling tonnages, expanding staff capacity to perform more community work to recruit and train residents in recycling best practices and providing additional funding for school recycling programs

## 4.4 RECYCLING AND DIVERSION RATE CALCULATIONS

DES collects data to help suburban Cook County municipalities assess their waste, recycling and diversion programs. The data provided in this section allows DES to determine suburban Cook County's municipal recycling and diversion rates and to help assess the County's progress in diverting materials away from landfills. The Cook County Environmental Control Ordinance requires waste haulers operating in suburban Cook County to report quarterly to DES their collected waste and recycling tonnage by municipality. The data is used to determine a residential recycling rate for each municipality and an overall residential diversion rate for suburban Cook County.

Recycling is a process where materials, which would otherwise be disposed of or discarded, are separated and then made into usable materials or products that can be reused, repurposed and returned to the economy. Diversion refers to materials segregated from the disposal waste stream and captured through collection programs for both recycling and composting purposes. The diversion rate in this section is the rate at which materials are diverted from landfills reported to DES and includes waste, recyclable materials and yard waste.

**Recycling Rate Formula:** Shows the proportion of total waste generated that is recycled: **Total Recycled** divided by **Total Disposed plus Total Recycled plus Total Yard Waste Composted**.

**Diversion Rate Formula:** Shows the proportion of total waste generated that is diverted from the landfill. This includes recycling and yard waste (compost) collected: **Total Recycled plus Total Yard Waste Composted** divided by **Total Disposed plus Total Recycled plus Total Yard Waste Composted**.

Based on these formulas, the suburban Cook County recycling rate in 2022 was 18%. When yard waste is included, the suburban Cook County diversion rate in 2022 was 27%. Additional detail is provided in the charts and maps within this section.

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### LIMITATIONS:

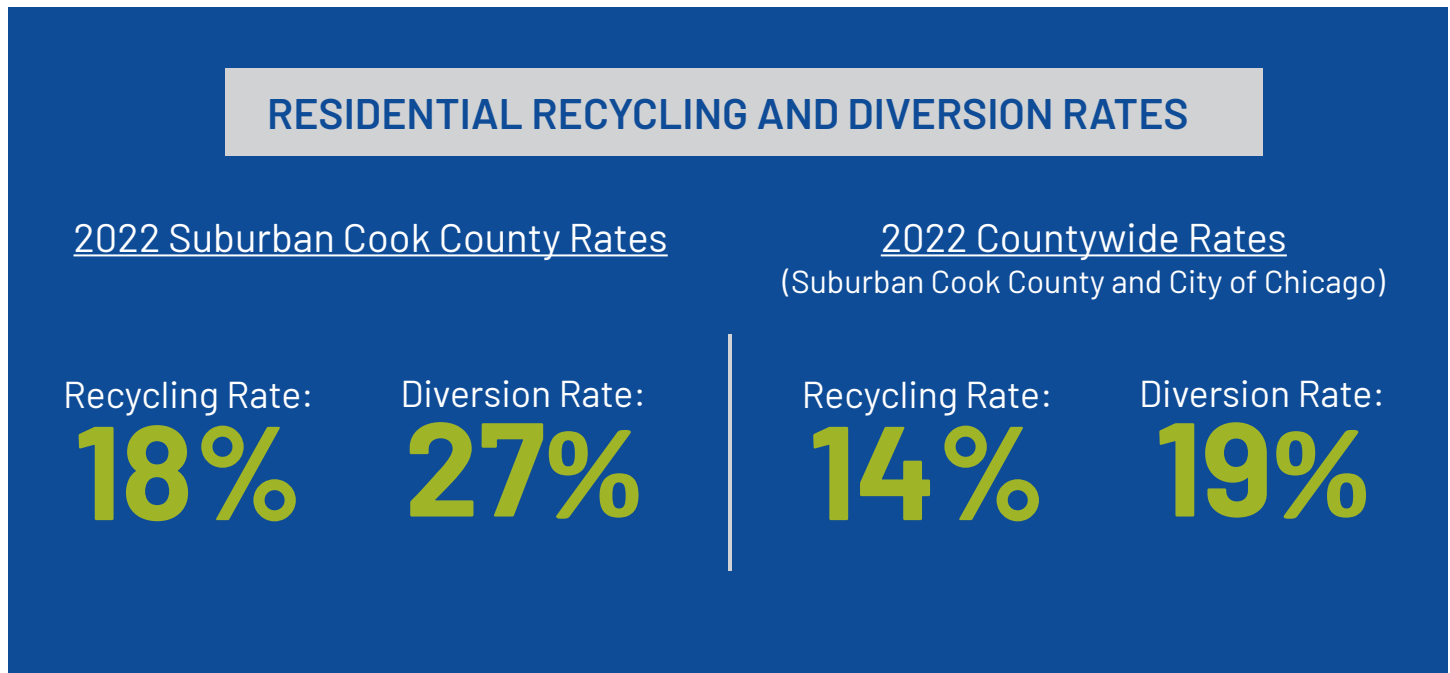
1. The data provided in this section represents information for 1 - 4-unit suburban residential properties.
2. The data from this section does include curbside waste, recycling and yard waste collection from single family residential properties, provided through municipal hauler contracts.
3. This section does not include data from the City of Chicago. The City of Chicago's solid waste management functions fall outside the jurisdiction of DES. For more information on the City of Chicago's recycling and diversion rates, click [here](#).
4. Residents who live in multi-family housing structures that do not fall under a municipal hauling contract, as well as unincorporated areas of the County, are not captured in this section.
5. This section does not include commercial, construction or other industrial waste streams. These waste streams are not reported in the same format, timeframe and consistency as the residential waste hauler reports that are provided to DES quarterly.

6. The data provided in this section for the year 2022 does not include data from the Town of Cicero and the Village of Lyons. The Town of Cicero and the Village of Lyons self-haul waste collection services for their residents. Both municipalities did not provide DES their 2022 waste, recycling and yard waste metrics.

#### **Countywide (Suburban Cook County and City of Chicago) Recycling and Diversion Rate:**

Cook County government has regulatory jurisdiction for suburban Cook County solid waste planning efforts. This does not include plans or activities within the City of Chicago. As such, Cook County will only describe the diversion and recycling rates for suburban Cook County in this plan. In order to be transparent on available data and to provide context to our region's diversion efforts, Countywide data is shown below:

**Figure 12:**



The countywide residential diversion rate is 13% less than the national average MSW residential rate of 32%.

**Figure 13: Benchmark of County Waste Diversion Rates**

<u>Year</u>	<u>County</u>	<u>Diversion Rate*</u>
2016	Ramsey County, MN	87 %
2015	Clark County, WA	65.2%
2021	Los Angeles County, CA	65%
2022	Montgomery County, MD	63.94%
2015	San Diego County, CA	62%
2017	Prince Georges County, MD	61%
2014	Frederick County, MD	55%
2021	Howard County, MD	49%
2018	Lake County, IL	39%
2019	Kane County, IL	36.5%
2009	Boulder County, CO	35%
2021	DuPage County, IL	32%

\* Diversion Rates are clickable hyperlinks

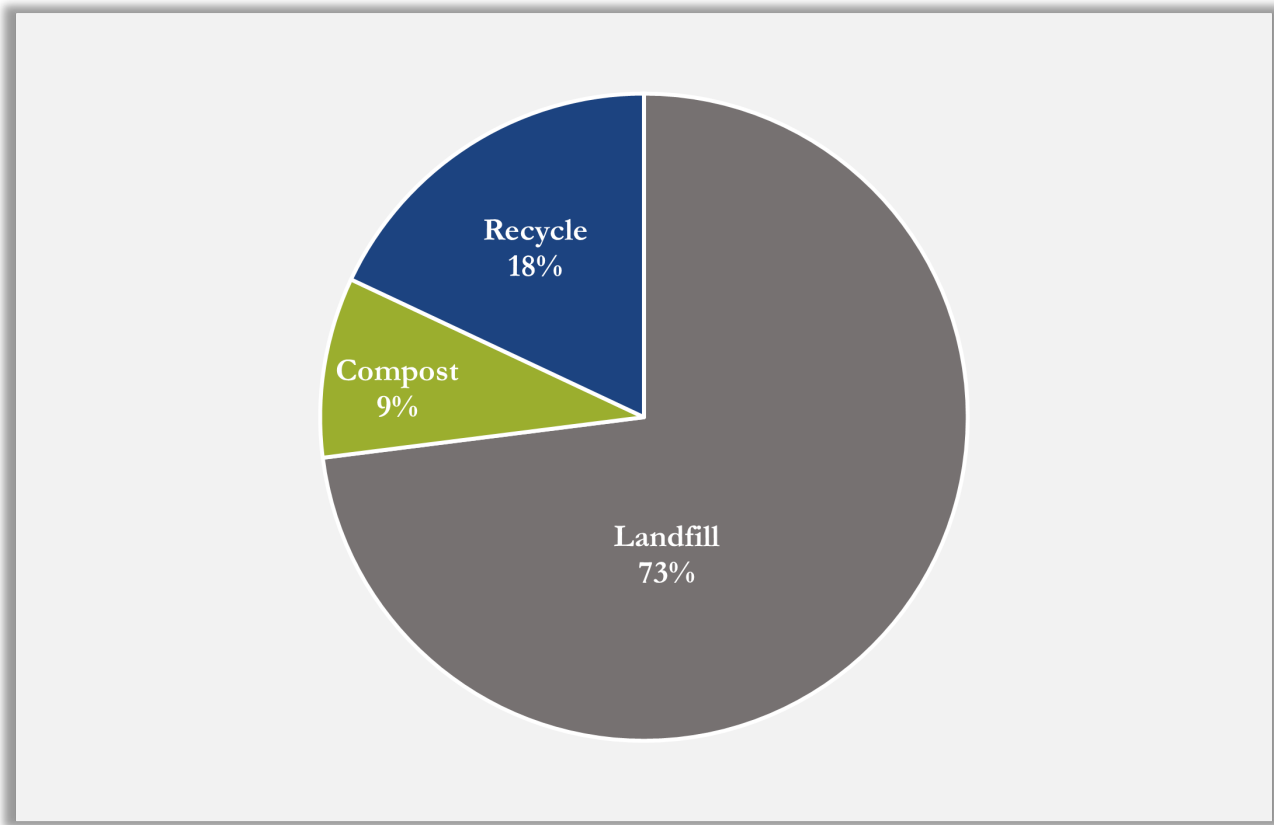
**Figure 14: Details**

<u>Region</u>	<u>Households Served</u> (1-4 Unit Residential Structures)	<u>Waste Sent to the Landfill</u> (Tons) 2022	<u>Waste That Was Recycled</u> (Tons) 2022	<u>Yard Waste That Was Composted</u> (Tons) 2022	<u>Total Collected</u> (Tons) 2022	<u>Recycling Rate</u> 2022	<u>Diversion Rate</u> 2022	<u>Waste Generated Per Household Per Day</u> (Pounds)
Chicago	625,000	792,576	84,261	219	877,056	10%	10%	7.68
Suburban-County	702,697	764,354	183,353	93,455	1,041,162	18%	27%	8.11
<b>GRAND TOTALS</b>	<b>1,327,697</b>	<b>1,556,930</b>	<b>267,614</b>	<b>93,674</b>	<b>1,918,218</b>	<b>14%</b>	<b>19%</b>	<b>7.91</b>

\*City of Chicago residential data was provided to DES from the City of Chicago Department of Streets and Sanitation.

## 2022 COUNTYWIDE RESIDENTIAL SOLID WASTE STREAM

**Figure 15:**



**National and State Diversion Rate Comparison:** Cook County challenges all local municipal governments to implement new, aggressive and innovative actions to achieve the [national recycling rate goal](#) of 50% by 2030 and the state diversion rate goal of 45% by 2030. For this reason, Cook County will compare its current municipal rates to the 2018 national average MSW diversion rate of 32% and the [state](#) and national goals in subsequent charts in this section.



## 4.5 2022 SUBURBAN WASTE GENERATION RATES

**Figure 16: 2022 OVERALL SUBURBAN COOK COUNTY FINDINGS**

KEY FINDINGS	
Population Size of Suburban Cook County	2,698,064
Residential Households Serviced in Suburban Cook County (1-4 Unit Structures)	702,697
Waste Haulers in Suburban Cook County	9
Municipalities that Self-Haul Waste	4
Total Waste Collected in 2022 (Tons)	1,041,162
Total Waste Sent to the Landfill in 2022 (Tons)	764,354
Total Materials Recycled in 2022 (Tons)	183,353
Total Yard Waste Collected and Composted in 2022 (Tons)	93,455
Suburban Cook County Recycling Rate in 2022	18%
Suburban Cook County Diversion Rate in 2022	27%
Municipalities with Diversion Rates at/or Above <a href="#">The National Diversion Rate</a> of 32%	35
Municipalities with Diversion Rates Below <a href="#">The National Diversion Rate</a> of 32%	96
DAILY PER HOUSEHOLD ANALYSIS	
Pounds of Waste Generated	8.11
Pounds of Waste Sent to the Landfill	5.96
Pounds of Materials Recycled	1.43
Pounds of Yard Waste Collected and Composted	0.73
ADDITIONAL MUNICIPAL FINDINGS	
Municipalities that are a Member of a Solid Waste Agency	48
Municipalities that are not a Member of a Solid Waste Agency	83
Municipalities that Provide Curbside Recycling Services to Residents	121
Municipalities that Do Not Provide Curbside Recycling Services	10
Municipalities with a Yard Waste Composting Program	121
Municipalities with No Yard Waste Composting Program	10
Municipalities with a Comingled Yard and Food Waste Composting Program	18
Municipalities with a Standalone Food Scrap Composting Program	7
Municipalities with No Food Scrap Composting Related Program * Represents municipalities without any form of food scrap program (comingled or standalone).	111

**Note:** These findings represent residential data collected in 2022 for 131 of the 133 suburban Cook County Municipalities. For more information about the data collected in this report please refer to the data collection and data limitations sections of this report.

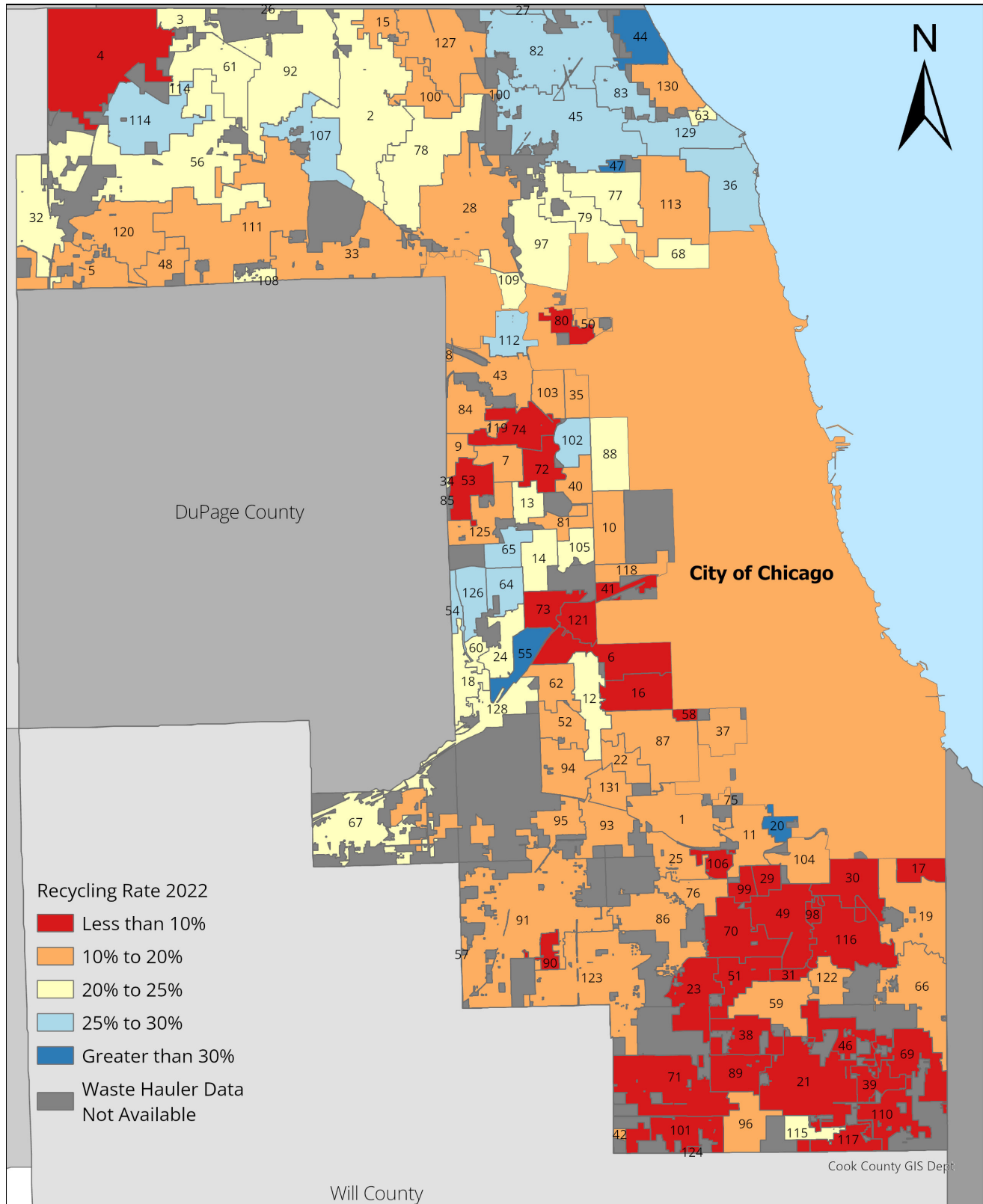
**Figure 17: 2022 SUBURBAN COOK COUNTY REGIONAL FINDINGS**

KEY FINDINGS			
	NORTH Cook County	WEST Cook County	SOUTH Cook County
Population size (2022)	1,251,766	636,666	809,632
Households serviced (1-4 unit structures)	301,116	171,564	230,017
Number of municipalities	36	44	51
Municipalities with a median household income above the average Cook County median household income	34	18	15
Municipalities with a median household income below the average Cook County median household income	2	26	36
Waste haulers with municipal contracts	5	7	6
Waste collected in 2022 (tons)	434,223	239,500	367,438
Waste sent to the landfill in 2022 (tons)	302,097	177,335	284,922
Materials recycled in 2022 (tons)	95,512	42,379	45,462
Yard waste collected and composted in 2022 (tons)	36,615	19,786	37,054
Total regional recycling rate	22%	18%	12%
Total regional diversion rate	30%	26%	22%
Municipalities with diversion rates at/or above the national diversion rate of 32%	18	11	6
Municipalities with diversion rates below the national diversion rate of 32%	18	33	45
Solid Waste Agency (SWA)	Solid Waste Agency of Northern Cook County	West Cook County Solid Waste Agency	Has no solid waste agency
Municipalities that are SWA member	23	25	0
Municipalities that are not SWA member	13	19	51
Municipalities that Offer Curbside Recycling Services to Residents	36	43	42
Municipalities that do not offer curbside recycling services to residents	0	1	9
Municipalities with a standalone yard waste composting program	35	43	43
Municipalities with no standalone yard waste composting program	1	1	8
Municipalities with a comingled yard and food waste composting program	11	6	1
Municipalities with a standalone food composting program	6	1	0
Municipalities with no food scrap/composting related program	23	38	50

## 4.6 2022 SUBURBAN RECYCLING and DIVERSION MAPS

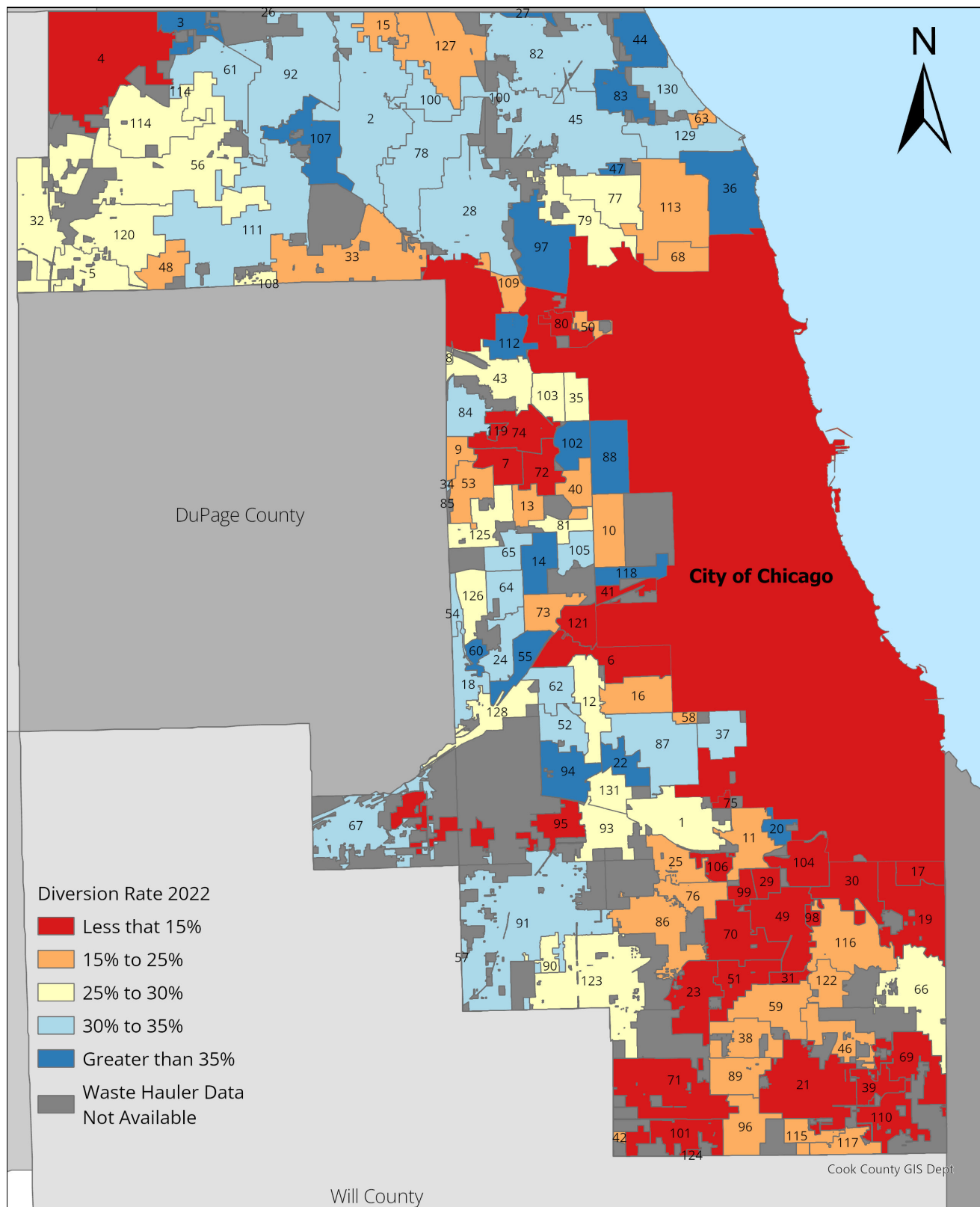
**Figure 18:**

### 2022 Municipality Recycling Rates



**Figure 19:**

## 2022 Municipality Diversion Rates



## 4.7 2024-2029 DIVERSION GOALS AND TIMELINES

As of 2018, 37% of waste generated in Illinois is estimated to be diverted from landfills, but as discussed prior in the [IL MMAC Report](#), this diversion rate is likely overstated for Illinois, possibly quite substantially. As of 2022, only 27% of waste generated in suburban Cook County is estimated to be diverted from landfills. Based on the information compiled and reviewed by DES, the following landfill diversion goals are recommended:

<u>Calendar Year</u>	<u>Diversion Goal</u>
2025	40%
2030	45%
2035	50%

While ambitious, these goals are achievable if the section 9 recommendations set forth in this report are implemented. There are numerous environmental and economic benefits to undertaking the necessary efforts to meet these diversion targets.

These benefits include:

- ✓ Creating green jobs.
- ✓ Improving public health.
- ✓ Protecting the environment and conserving natural resources.
- ✓ Reducing dependency on landfilling.
- ✓ Reduction of greenhouse gas emissions.

**The Green Economy:** [Studies](#) have quantified the job creation, added economic output and tax revenue generated from waste diversion activities. A [statewide economic evaluation](#) of the recycling industry in Illinois found the following contributions: 111,500 jobs; \$3.6 billion in payroll; \$30.3 billion in additional gross receipts; and over \$1 billion in state and local taxes. Development of a green economy must engage a large and diverse group of stakeholders to be successful. Cook County will continue to participate in this emerging model of materials management.

## Section 5: MATERIALS MANAGEMENT OVERVIEW

### 5.1 GREENHOUSE GAS EMISSIONS

Waste breaks down in landfills and creates landfill gas (LFG) which contains harmful greenhouse gases. LFG is a natural byproduct of the decomposition of organic material in landfills. It is composed of roughly 50% methane (the primary component of natural gas), 50% carbon dioxide (CO<sub>2</sub>) and a small amount of non-methane organic compounds. Methane is a potent greenhouse gas 28 to 36 times more effective than CO<sub>2</sub> at trapping heat in the atmosphere over a 100-year period. MSW landfills alone are the third-largest source of methane emissions generated by human activity, accounting for approximately 15.1% of these emissions in 2019.

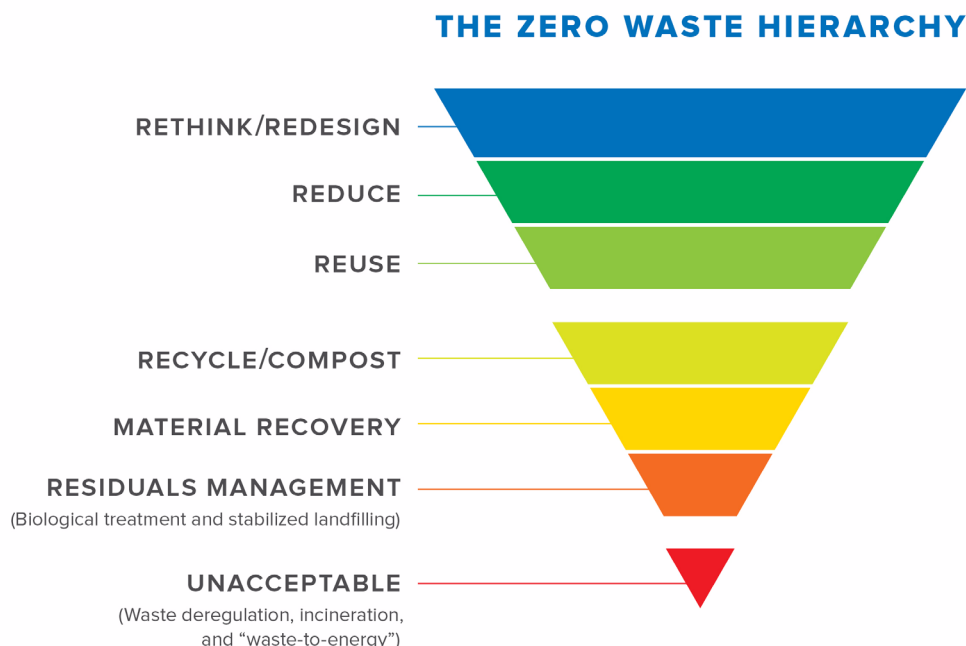
The 2021 IL MMAC Report ([Table 17](#) /Appendix H) shows the GHG reduction potential of numerous materials in the waste stream if they were minimized or recycled versus landfilled therefore indicating which materials, if targeted by diversion programs, would have the greatest impact on reducing GHGs. GHG reductions could come from local reductions in waste transport and minimizing the volume of GHG producing wastes being placed in landfills. There are numerous environmental and economic benefits to undertaking the necessary efforts to meet diversion targets including a reduction of GHG emissions from landfilling.

Cook County needs a clearer understanding of the total amounts of materials landfilled that were generated in suburban Cook County (MSW, ICI, C&D, etc.). Cook County also needs a better understanding of what materials make up its waste streams. Based on this data Cook County can set and track GHG emission reduction goals from diversion.

### 5.2 ZERO WASTE

The waste management hierarchy developed for this plan update is a combination of the [EPA](#) and [Zero Waste International Alliances](#) waste hierarchies and includes:

**Figure 20:**





- 1) **Rethink/Redesign:** Systemic change to move towards a closed loop model; redesign of systems to avoid needless and/or wasteful consumption. Actions that address the root causes of the current linear use of materials.
- 2) **Reduce:** Measures taken to reduce the quantity and toxicity of resources, products, packaging and materials as well as the adverse impacts on the environment and human health (while reduction is noted here it is acknowledged that people's basic needs should be met; not everybody needs to reduce).
- 3) **Reuse:** Actions by which products or components are used again for the same or similar purpose for which they were conceived. Actions that support the continued use of products in ways that retain the value, usefulness and function.
- 4) **Recycling and Composting:** Recycling includes collecting used, reused or unused items that would otherwise be considered waste; sorting and processing the recyclable products into raw materials; and remanufacturing the recycled raw materials into new products. Composting is the controlled aerobic, biological decomposition of biodegradable materials, including food scraps and yard trimmings, to produce finished compost. Compost is a stabilized product beneficial to plant growth that has undergone mesophilic and thermophilic temperatures, which significantly reduces the viability of pathogens and weed seeds.
- 5) **Material Recovery:** Any operation to salvage additional materials after the actions above. Does not include energy recovery or reprocessing into materials that are to be used as fuels.
- 6) **Residual Management:** Handling of discards that were wasted in a way that does not threaten the environment or human health. Analyze what was wasted and why.
- 7) **Unacceptable:** Systems and policies that encourage waste and threaten the environment or human health.

**Figure 21:**

ZERO WASTE SOLUTIONS					
MATERIAL CATEGORIES	Food Scraps	Yard Trimmings	Durable Goods	Non-Durable Goods	Containers and Packaging
PROGRAMS	Waste reduction	Compost	Repair centers	Recycling	Recycling
	Food donations	Mulching	Reuse and donations	Product bans	Reuse
	Anerobic digestion		Consumption Reduction	Extended producer responsibility	Product bans
	Composting		Extended producer responsibility	Redesign	Extended producer responsibility

Achieving zero waste requires reducing consumer demand, along with significantly increasing reassembly, remanufacturing, repair, reuse, repurposing, recycling, composting and other circularity related activities. Figure 21 lists some programs that will help achieve those goals.

### 5.3 THE CIRCULAR ECONOMY

The terms “zero waste” and “circular economy” are often used interchangeably. While both concepts have similar goals, they are two different models that take different approaches toward sustainability, the reduction of GHG emissions and climate change. Zero waste is guided by the zero waste hierarchy listed above. The [circular economy](#) is guided by three principles: (1) eliminate waste and pollution; (2) circulate products and materials; and (3) regenerate nature. Zero waste to the landfill is a principal goal of Cook County. A circular economy is a means to achieve that goal. This is defined further in the [EPA’s waste management hierarchy](#) and the [zero waste hierarchy](#) which rank waste management strategies from most favorable to least favorable.

**Figure 22:**



Cook County is uniquely positioned in the transition to a circular economy to enable, lead and involve key stakeholders from across the public and private sectors. Instead of throwing materials away to landfills, an improved distributed system of resource management, nutrient flows, recycling and reverse logistics makes the return, sorting and reuse of products possible, while valuable materials stay in use. By implementing these circular economy practices, Cook County could realize measurable benefits that include waste and carbon emission reduction, job creation and more sustainable land use practices that conserve landfill space for those materials that don’t have recovery options.

**Zero Waste and Circular Economy Commitment:** Cook County is committed to achieving a circular economy, and to that end, Cook County will implement this zero waste hierarchy and the definitions outlined above, to prioritize reduction, reassembly, remanufacturing, repair, reuse, repurposing, recycling, composting and other circularity related options wherever possible.

## 5.4 LIST OF MATERIALS TO TARGET FOR DIVERSION

To further understand waste streams and waste management efforts in suburban Cook County, additional data collection is required. While DES does have some data on traditional recycling and organics residential services (see *Section 4.2 Key Findings*), there is limited data available from the ICI sector as well as data on non-traditional recycling efforts. Outside of the data that DES has collected, some of the data sources relied upon include U.S. EPA Sustainable Materials Management, the [2015 Illinois Commodity/Waste Generation and Characterization Study](#), and the [2021 Illinois MMAC Report to the General Assembly](#). The list of diversion programs below includes those under the operation of Cook County. It does not include programs managed by SWAs, municipalities, elected officials or any other groups.

**Figure 23:**

Category	Opportunities
Residential recycling	123 municipalities in suburban Cook County provide curbside recycling services; drop-off stations; etc.
ICI recycling	Drop-off stations; C&D processing facilities; material reuse and repair facilities, etc.
Electronics	Single-day events; drop-off stations; local recycling facilities
Yard waste	121 municipalities in suburban Cook County provide yard waste collection services
Food scraps	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 18 municipalities in suburban Cook County have a comingled yard and food waste composting program</li> <li>• 7 municipalities in suburban Cook County have a standalone food scrap and composting program</li> <li>• Local anaerobic digester</li> <li>• Local community groups</li> <li>• Food composting entities</li> </ul>
Clothing and textiles	Donation bins; resale shops; drop-off stations; single-day events
Plastic bags	Grocery stores; other take-back bins; single-day events
Polystyrene (Styrofoam)	Drop-off stations
Scrap metal	Metal recycling facilities
Tires	Local automotive stores; repair shops

Category	Opportunities
Automotive fluids	HHW facilities; single-day events
Batteries (household and lithium)	Retail stores; single-day events; HHW facilities
Fluorescent light bulbs	Local retailers; single-day events; HHW facilities
Paint (oil and latex)	Local retailers; single-day events; HHW facilities
White goods	Scrap metal facilities; transfer stations; ReStore stores
Construction and demolition debris	C&D processing facilities
Asphalt shingles	C&D processing facilities; BUD facilities
Pharmaceuticals	Drop-off stations; mail-in opportunities; police stations; local grocery stores

Please visit the IEPA [Beyond the Bin Map](#), [Earth911](#) or the Cook County [Green Guide Library](#) for locations that accept these and other materials.

## 5.5 TRADITIONAL RECYCLING EFFORTS

**Residential recycling:** means a program targeted for collection of recyclable materials from a single-family home or a multi-unit dwelling. There are two main ways that residential recyclable items reach a recycling point. One is through curbside collection and the other is through drop-off points which require the generator to collect and self-transport the recyclable materials. Curbside recycling means any materials that are collected by waste haulers at residences and sent to recycling centers. These services vary widely depending on where people live within the County and the accepted materials depend on accessible markets. There are four main materials in residential recycling streams commonly served by curbside commingled and segregated collection systems. They include glass, paper, metal and plastic (#1 and #2) and represent [44.6 %](#)<sup>ii</sup> of the residential MSW stream in Cook County. The most common everyday items that cannot be recycled through traditional residential collection programs are things like batteries, light bulbs, mattresses, #3 through #7 plastics (including polystyrene and film), tires, textiles and electronics.

Due to lack of education and awareness, oftentimes consumers place recyclables in the trash and trash in recycling bins. [Overarching challenges](#)<sup>iii</sup> to residential recycling include understanding of: (1) which materials can be recycled; (2) how materials can be recycled; and (3) where to recycle specific items, particularly HHW. So, while 123 municipalities in Cook County provide curbside recycling services to their residents, 96 have recycling rates which are still lower than the national diversion rate of 32%. In addition, there are 10 municipalities that currently do not offer curbside recycling services to their residents.

**Industrial, Commercial and Institutional (ICI) Recycling:** Non-residential recycling and MSW are generated by commercial spaces such as retail and office spaces, industrial facilities and manufacturers and institutional entities such as schools or healthcare facilities. The [Solid Waste Planning and Recycling Act](#)<sup>iv</sup> requires counties in Illinois to develop and implement a county waste management plan that includes a recycling plan for these non-residential entities. This act specifically mentions that provisions may be made for commercial and institutional establishments that implement their own recycling programs provided that proper documentation and data are provided annually. This gives ICI

entities the freedom to implement recycling and waste diversion programs tailored specifically to their needs, though does not require that they do so. There is currently no law requiring privately-owned ICI facilities to recycle. Non-residential entities can solicit bids and employ a waste hauler of their choice for the material streams that are applicable to their functions. Due to this, material is being moved and collected by many different haulers across the county which can often make data difficult to obtain and consolidate.

According to the [2015 Illinois Commodity/Waste Characterization and Study Update](#) the top four categories of divertible material found in the ICI streams from most to least common were (1) organics, (2) paper, (3) construction and demolition (C&D) debris and (4) plastics<sup>v</sup>. Entities such as schools or manufacturers of food generate large quantities of compostables and have the potential to divert that material through composting. According to the IEPA, there are [42 permitted composting facilities](#) across the state that allow commercial drop-off of organic material, four of which are under the jurisdiction of Cook County indicating that there is infrastructure present to assist in management of this stream of material and increase diversion of organics from the landfill stream<sup>vi</sup>.

## 5.6 ORGANICS RECYCLING EFFORTS

The [Illinois Materials Management Advisory Committee](#) (MMAC) defined organics as any material that is biodegradable and comes from either a plant or animal.<sup>vii</sup> Cook County defines organics as inclusive of food scraps and landscape waste. In 2019, the [U.S. EPA](#)<sup>viii</sup> estimated that 60% of food scraps generated in the food retail, food service and residential sectors was sent to landfills. When organics decay in a landfill, they break down in anaerobic conditions emitting methane, a greenhouse gas estimated to be [25 times more potent](#) than carbon dioxide.<sup>ix</sup> According to the IEPA, food scraps comprised about [20%](#) of municipal solid waste in Illinois landfills.<sup>x</sup> This would mean that based on 2022 Cook County landfill tonnage data and using the [EPA WARM](#) tool to estimate GHG emissions, suburban Cook County and City of Chicago transferred an estimated 311,386 tons of food scraps to landfills in 2022. This landfilled, wasted food generated 156,148.32 MTCO<sub>2</sub>E.<sup>xi</sup>

**Figure 24:**

	Total Tons of Waste Being Landfilled	GHG Emissions Generated from Total Tons of Waste Being Landfilled	Projected 20% of Food Scraps Being Transferred to Landfills	Daily Amount of Food Projected Going to Landfills	Projected GHG Emissions Generated from Food Scraps Being Landfilled
Suburban Cook County	764,354 tons	236,356.59 MTCO <sub>2</sub> E	152,870.8 tons	418.8 tons	76,658.93 MTCO <sub>2</sub> E
City of Chicago	792,576 tons	245,083.51 MTCO <sub>2</sub> E	158,515.2 tons	434.3 tons	79,489.39 MTCO <sub>2</sub> E
COUNTYWIDE TOTALS	1,556,930 tons	481,440.10 MTCO <sub>2</sub> E	311,386 tons	853.1 tons	156,148.32 MTCO <sub>2</sub> E

**Figure 25:**

Cook County should promote and advance the [EPA Wasted Food Scale](#) recommendations. These recommendations provide alternatives to landfilling, such as: (1) preventing wasted food, (2) feeding people through donations or upcycle activities, (3) feeding animals, (4) composting and (5) anaerobic digestion.

By redirecting unspoiled food to people in need, individuals and businesses can support their local communities and reduce environmental impacts. Non-perishable and unspoiled perishable food can also be donated. Donated food can include leftovers from events and surplus food inventory. Composting is using organic material to create nutrient rich soil, or compost. Anaerobic digestion is a natural process that uses an oxygen deficient environment to separate organic material, such as wastewater, agricultural waste and food waste into methane gas and a liquid or solid by-product. Methane gas can be captured and refined for use on the power grid, while the liquid and solid by-product is used as a nutrient-rich fertilizer. These methods recycle methane and restore nutrients to the soil.

**Emissions Impact of Composting:** Should suburban Cook County and City of Chicago divert 50% of food scraps away from landfills, a reduction of 101,760.50 MTCO<sub>2</sub>E would occur (49,957.96 MTCO<sub>2</sub>E from suburban Cook County + 51,802.54 MTCO<sub>2</sub>E from City of Chicago). Should suburban Cook County and City of Chicago divert all its food scraps away from landfills a reduction of 203,521 MTCO<sub>2</sub>E would occur (99,915.92 MTCO<sub>2</sub>E from suburban Cook County + 103,605.08 MTCO<sub>2</sub>E from City of Chicago).<sup>xii</sup>

Currently, 121 suburban Cook County municipalities reported to DES that they have a standalone yard waste composting program, 18 reported that they have a comingled yard waste and food scrap composting program and only seven reported having a standalone food scrap composting program.



A total of 92,994 tons of total yard waste was collected and composted in 2022. Although there has been a [ban on landscape waste](#) (grass, leaves, brush, branches) from entering landfills in Illinois since 1990, it continues to make its way to landfills.<sup>xiii</sup> Illinois diverted an estimated [1% of food scraps and an estimated 59% of landscape waste](#) in 2018, leaving ample room for improvement.<sup>xiv</sup> ReFED estimates that the residential sector accounted for 61.4% of food waste tons generated in Illinois in 2022, while 18.8%, 11.1% and 4.3% are attributed to foodservice, manufacturing and retail, respectively.<sup>xv</sup> While much of this food goes to the landfill, Cook County has [483,790](#) food insecure residents (representing 9.2% of the overall population) and one in four children are at risk of hunger.<sup>xvi</sup> Entities like the [Greater Chicago Food Depository](#) (GCFD) have partnered with Cook County and have distributed, donated and purchased food through a network of 700 food pantries, soup kitchens, shelters and community programs, serving more than 800,000 adults and children every year.<sup>xvii</sup>

## 5.7 NON-TRADITIONAL RECYCLING EFFORTS

**Household Hazardous Waste:** The IEPA defines Household Hazardous Waste (HHW) as “materials that are residentially generated but potentially have the dangerous properties of hazardous waste when they are no longer used for their intended purpose.”<sup>xviii</sup> In other words, these are potentially detrimental to human or environmental health due to their flammability, reactivity, risk of explosion, corrosivity or toxicity.<sup>xix</sup> Common examples of HHW include pesticides and herbicides, oil-based paints and cleaning products. A full list of materials acceptable at HHW collection events in Illinois is available on the IEPA website.<sup>xx</sup> According to the U.S. EPA, four pounds of HHW are generated by each person in the United States each year. Based on this estimate, approximately 20,437,000 pounds of HHW are generated in Cook County each year.<sup>xxi</sup> Illinois does not prohibit the disposal of HHW in residential landfill-bound waste, but residents are encouraged to instead dispose of HHW either at one of the state’s permanent collection facilities or during one-day collection events coordinated by the IEPA. There are only [three permanent](#) HHW collection facilities in Northern Illinois and zero in suburban Cook County.<sup>xxii</sup> In 2023, IEPA hosted three one-day HHW collection events in suburban Cook County. To improve the availability of opportunities to responsibly dispose of HHW in the long term, Cook County is planning to open a permanent HHW facility in the south suburbs. This facility is tentatively scheduled to open in 2025.

**Electronic Waste:** Electronic waste, or e-waste, describes a wide variety of end-of-life or discarded electrical and electronic equipment. This includes items such as household appliances, lighting equipment, office equipment and machinery, consumer electronic equipment, etc. E-waste requires special processing to assist in recovery of valuable materials within, and proper disposal of harmful hazardous materials that it may contain. [E-waste can contain](#) lead, mercury and other hazardous materials that can negatively impact human and environmental health if not properly disposed of.<sup>xxiii</sup> The [Illinois Consumer Electronics Recycling Act](#) (CERA) (415 ILCS 151) made it illegal to landfill a specific set of covered electronic devices including computers, monitors, televisions, printers, etc., and helped establish a statewide system for recycling and reusing these electronic materials.<sup>xxiv</sup> Most recycling infrastructure for disposing of e-waste is in the form of drop-off facilities and special recycling collection events. The [City of Chicago](#) operates a permanent collection site.<sup>xxv</sup> [SWANCC](#) hosts a permanent year-round collection site and three permanent seasonal collection sites, April to November.<sup>xxvi</sup> The [CHaRM Center](#) is also a permanent collection site that accepts e-waste.<sup>xxvii</sup> Beyond disposal or recycling, there are also opportunities and facilities throughout Cook County for residents to bring electronics to be repaired, refurbished or reused.

**Medical Waste and Pharmaceuticals:** Pharmaceuticals and medical waste<sup>xxviii</sup> that get into water sources impact wildlife and can impact humans as it accumulates in our fresh water. All medical waste has the potential to carry transmittable infectious agents. Used needles, which are biohazards, can lead

to injuries and spread disease if not properly handled. The IEPA provides [guidance](#)<sup>xxxix</sup> on medication disposal. The [Illinois Drug Take-Back Act](#) provides for every Illinois county to be entitled to at least one medication collection location per 50,000 residents, financed by pharmaceutical manufacturers. Cook County residents can safely dispose of their unwanted medicines by taking them to collection boxes located throughout Cook County or to designated community prescription drug take back events.<sup>xxx</sup> The [Cook County Sheriff's Department](#)<sup>xxxi</sup> has established 129 permanent collection sites within the county and supports collection at community events. Some pharmacies, including Walgreens and CVS, also accept prescription drugs for safe disposal at certain locations.

**Construction and Demolition Debris (C&D):** Construction and Demolition (C&D) debris includes steel, wood products, drywall and plaster, brick and clay tile, asphalt shingles, concrete and asphalt concrete.<sup>xxxii</sup> Illinois further defines C&D debris as general construction or demolition debris (GCDD) and clean construction or demolition debris (CCDD). GCDD is defined as non-hazardous, uncontaminated material resulting from the construction, remodeling, repair and demolition of utilities, structures and roads. CCDD is defined as uncontaminated broken concrete without protruding metal bars, bricks, rock, stone, reclaimed or asphalt pavement or soil generated from construction and demolition activities.<sup>xxxiii</sup> C&D waste is produced by the construction and demolition industry as well as residents during home improvement projects. The [US EPA](#)<sup>xxxiv</sup>, Illinois diverted an estimated 3,317,128 tons from the landfill, 56% of the total 5,871,750 tons generated.<sup>xxxv</sup> [In 2018](#), Illinois diverted an estimated 3,317,128 tons from the landfill, 56% of the total 5,871,750 tons generated.<sup>xxxvi</sup>

Further diverting C&D materials from landfills has many benefits to Cook County including saving space in landfills, reducing GHG emissions by reusing/remanufacturing products and avoiding the extraction of raw materials and directly supporting job creation. The Cook County [Demolition and Debris Diversion Ordinance](#) requires all demolition permits to divert 70% C&D debris and all residential projects must additionally show that 5% of C&D debris is being diverted for reuse.<sup>xxxvii</sup> It requires all permit holders to collect and submit waste tickets from each reuse/recycling/waste facility used to the Green Halo tracking software that also assists in the process of generating diversion plans and tracking compliance. In 2021, Green Halo recorded 96,531 tons of materials were recycled, 15,212 tons of materials were reused and 6,618 tons of materials were landfilled. This shows a 94% diversion rate of C&D materials in 2021.

## 5.8 OTHER WASTE MANAGEMENT STRATEGIES

**Preventing Illegally Dumped Materials:** Illegal or "open" dumping<sup>xxxviii</sup> is described as a land disposal site where solid waste is disposed of in a manner that does not protect the environment, is susceptible to open burning and is exposed to the elements, vectors and scavengers. Illegal dumping is typically differentiated from "littering" in that littering is characterized as the careless discard of materials, such as dropping a food wrapper on the ground. Illegal dumping is more intentional and generally consists of larger volumes of material. Examples of common areas where illegal dumping occurs include roadsides, ditches, riverbeds, creek beds, gullies and secluded areas like parks and forest preserve land. The Illinois Environmental Protection Act<sup>xxxix</sup> and the Cook County Code Ordinance<sup>xl</sup> prohibit the open dumping of waste.

**General Legislative Initiatives:** Several legislative initiatives could be enacted by Cook County or the State Legislature as a means of helping Cook County meet the goals of this plan update. These legislative initiatives should focus on reducing waste generation and banning/restricting the use of low value, hard-to-recycle materials. Legislative engagement should include focus on improving the quality (i.e., reduce contamination) of residential curbside and other recycling and composting streams or increasing the quantity of material diverted in conjunction with other actions. In 2023, the Illinois General Assembly

passed critical legislation that advanced zero waste and a circular economy in Cook County.

These bills included:

- [Consumer Owned Containers-HB 2086](#): Provides restaurants and retailers with health and safety standards for the use of personal containers for takeout.
- [The Water Fountain-SB 1715](#): Requires bottle filling stations for the construction of buildings with 5,000 square feet of gross public area or with occupancies of 100 or more.
- [The Incidental Sales of Compost-HB 3277](#): Clarifies that farmers can sell small amounts of compost from farm composting operations.
- [The Compost Awareness Week-SR62](#): Declares May 7-13, 2023, as Compost Awareness Week in Illinois, coinciding with the dates and theme of International Compost Awareness Week.

**Extended Producer Responsibility and Product Stewardship:** Extended Producer Responsibility (EPR) and Product Stewardship (PS) are strategies to place a shared responsibility for managing products at the end of their useful life. This helps ensure local jurisdictions are not solely financially responsible for managing these products. EPR provides incentives to producers to incorporate environmental considerations into the design of their products and packaging. For Cook County to reach its 45% diversion by 2030 goal, materials must be targeted for reduction, reassembly, remanufacturing, repair, reuse, repurposing, recycling and composting. Cook County advocates for and supports the implementation of statewide EPR legislation. Products are prioritized based on characteristics, such as toxicity, impacts to quality of life and cost to manage. Current EPR policies and regulations are continuously being reviewed and feedback is provided on their implementation.

Cook County is exploring options for local policies to address packaging and products that are not presently recycled. In 2023, the Illinois General Assembly passed critical legislation advancing zero waste and a circular economy in Cook County.

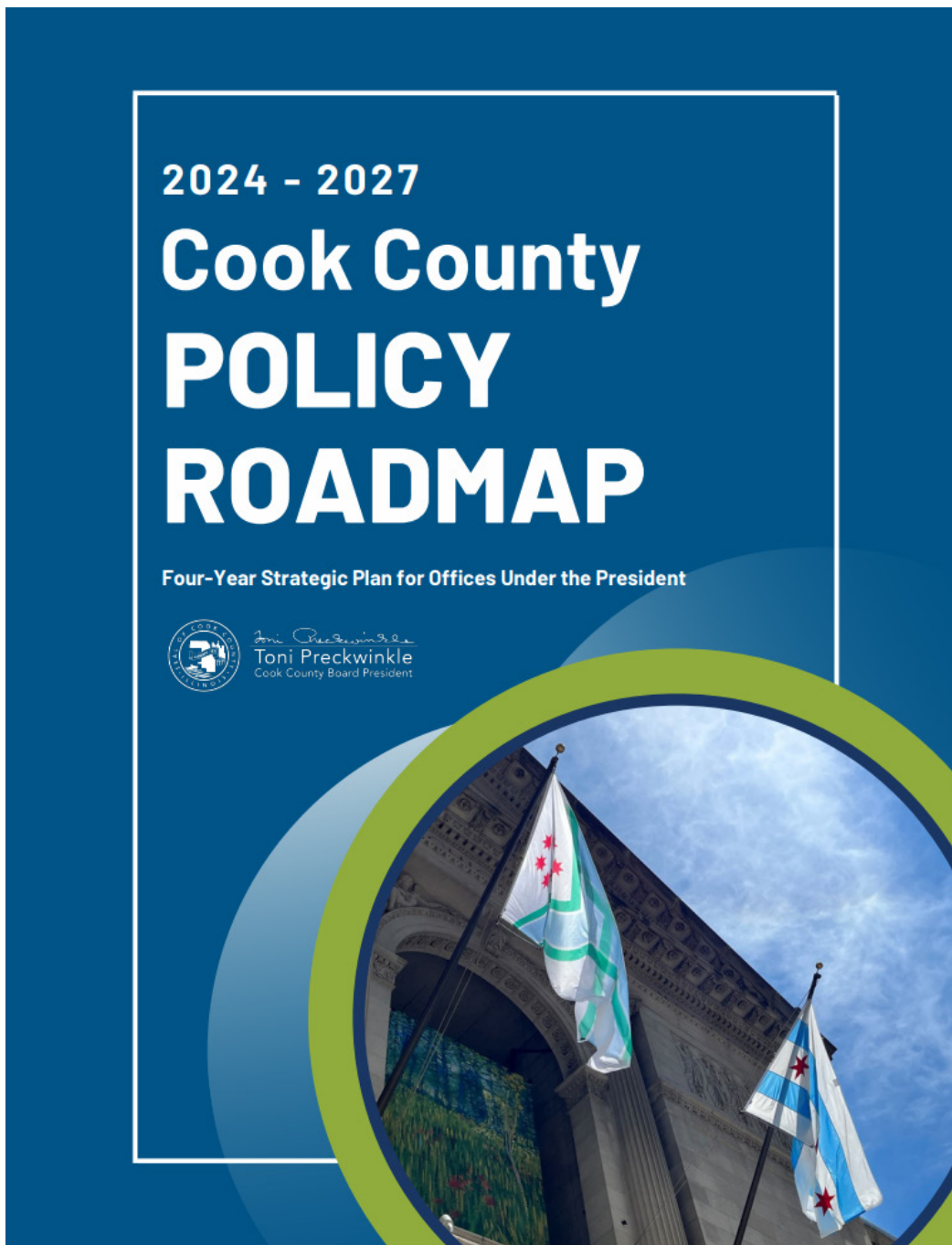
These bills included:

- [The Paint Stewardship Program-SB 836](#): Creates an extended producer responsibility model for the proper disposal of paint.
- [The Recycling Needs Assessment-SB 1555](#): Requires an assessment of current statewide recycling and materials management practices and lays the foundation for sound PS and EPR policy for packaging and paper products. The Cook County solid waste coordinator has been selected to join the Statewide Recycling Needs Assessment Advisory Council. This Advisory Council will help inform the creation of future PS and EPR legislation for packaging and paper products.

**Alternative and New Technologies:** Alternative disposal methods that reduce the volume of waste disposed in landfills include those that convert waste-to-energy (WTE) or waste-to-fuel (WTF). These alternative technologies typically convert waste materials into usable heat, electricity or fuel through a variety of processes, including combustion, gasification, pyrolysis, anaerobic digestion and landfill gas recovery. If alternative or new disposal technologies are considered for future waste management and are classified as pollution-control facilities under state regulations with a requirement to secure local siting approval, such facilities must meet the applicable federal and state requirements and be consistent with the Cook County Ordinance and related environmental rules and regulations.

## Section 6: ENVIRONMENTAL JUSTICE

Environmental equity is a right for everyone so it is essential for all Cook County residents and communities to have clean air and water and to feel safe and secure in their daily lives. Cook County is working towards minimizing the exposure of vulnerable populations to pollution to create and sustain resilient and healthy community environments where residents have equal opportunities to thrive. This Plan Update and the RCCES Initiative will be implemented in a way that protects the most vulnerable communities from pollution generated by solid waste related materials and activities as described in the [Cook County Policy Roadmap](#)<sup>xlii</sup> objective of ensuring environmental justice and a healthy environment for all people and places.





## Section 7: PUBLIC EDUCATION AND OUTREACH



Achieving a 45% waste diversion rate by 2030 relies heavily on municipal and community engagement, public outreach and education. Key to implementing this goal is combating the urgent issue of increased contamination of recycling content in Cook County. Recycling systems continue to evolve as new programs are adopted, material composition changes and processing technologies improve. Cook County residents need regular information delivered in a variety of ways to ensure material recovery facilities, organics processors and end markets receive good quality material while continuing to decrease the number of disposed materials. To reach zero waste, engagement must also address consumption and encourage behaviors that reduce waste, increase reuse and minimize litter and pollution. Cook County residents and ICIs need to be supported in practical ways in their efforts to learn new behaviors. Robust, effective and adequately funded education and outreach campaigns are critical for behavioral change campaigns to succeed and to maximize participation rates.

Cook County offers a wide range of services and public engagement activities, some of which have high visibility and are well-known to residents. Cook County provides outreach in various forms, such as site visits to businesses, community events, town halls, online workshops and print materials in multiple languages. Cook County continues to conduct outreach and education to encourage residents to practice “Rethink, Reduce, Reuse, Recycle and Compost” activities. Over the next five years, Cook County will develop a more inclusive zero waste and circularity education and outreach program intended to positively impact the entire community. This plan update includes appropriate innovative approaches and technologies that will be used to expand communication and education around these efforts.

## Section 8: PARTNERSHIPS AND FUNDING



Pursuing the goal of zero waste will make Cook County and its residents, businesses and institutions more efficient, resilient and sustainable. It will make the County healthier for its residents and improve the local economy and will contribute to its goals for climate and environmental protection. Phased in over time, the waste-reduction strategies will require changes in behaviors at home, work, play and school, and financial and intellectual investment. The framework provided in this plan update is a guide for County staff and community partners to follow.

Through active engagement in regional and state solid waste and recycling efforts, Cook County maintains a broad understanding of current issues and opportunities in solid waste management. The County is positioned to serve as a resource to its municipalities to further drive diversion and responsible management of waste and resources. Cook County, primarily through the work of its DES staff, regularly participates in regional, state and local level planning and programming around solid waste management. This occurs through participation in organizations such as the Illinois Counties Solid Waste Management Association ([ILCSWMA](#)), Illinois Recycling Foundation ([IRF](#)), Illinois Chapter of the Solid Waste Association of North America ([IL-SWANA](#)), the Illinois Food Scrap & Composting Coalition ([IFSCC](#)), the Chicago Sustainability Task Force ([CSTF](#)) and others. In addition, DES staff served as members of the Illinois Recycling Contamination Task Force and the Illinois Materials Management Advisory Committee. Cook County will continue to work in cooperation with other regional planning agencies where appropriate.

It is important to note that implementing the strategies in this plan update will require new funding sources, as described in Section 2: RCCES Initiative. Expansion of existing, or implementation of new, zero waste and circularity programs will result in increased costs. Cook County will continue to leverage resources, create new partnerships and explore funding opportunities from federal and state governmental agencies, foundations, corporations and the philanthropic community. As more resources and staffing become available, Cook County will be able to implement the recommendations in this plan update.



## Section 9: RECOMMENDATIONS

This section summarizes the recommendations for the 2024-2029 Plan Update. The recommendations are based on the data reviewed and presented in this report and the feedback received from members of the Cook County Solid Waste Advisory Committee, local and state partners, environmental advocacy organizations and members of the public. The recommendations represent programs and actions the County can reasonably implement over the next five years that will help push the County towards achieving the 45% diversion rate by 2030:

### Greenhouse Gas (GHG) Emissions:

- 1) Secure new data from waste haulers, solid waste related facilities, municipalities, industrial commercial and institutional (ICI) entities and other related stakeholders to assist in the evaluation of Cook County's solid waste related programs and practices and to include a calculation of solid waste related GHG emissions for future plan updates.

### Zero Waste and the Circular Economy:

- 2) Further assess, re-align or modify necessary solid waste, recycling and diversion systems and practices using the zero waste and circular economy framework in suburban Cook County.

### Municipal Recycling and Organics Initiatives:

- 3) Support municipalities in implementing new sustainable material diversion programs such as residential curbside recycling services; yard waste composting programs; food scrap composting programs; food donations programs; recycling collection events; and creating new permanent recycling drop-off stations. Prioritization of this support will be targeted to municipalities that are not members of a solid waste agency (SWA), have diversion rates below the national average and/or have been designated environmental justice/cumulative impacted communities.
- 4) Support municipalities to provide and/or improve multi-family and high-density residential building recycling and diversion programs, for example enacting and/or enforcing local municipal ordinances that require property owners of multi-unit or high-density residential buildings to provide source-separated carts/bins/dumpsters, single-stream recycling, food scrap composting programs, an ongoing educational program that includes posting signage about recycling and/or composting, etc.; and including recycling and/or food scrap composting in residential hauling contracts for multi-unit or high-density residential buildings, etc.
- 5) Provide municipalities with a toolkit that includes information about local recyclers, locations of recycling drop-off stations, location of re-use facilities, on-line circularity platforms, relevant solid waste data, model ordinances and construction and demolition debris (C&DD) related rules and resources, funding and partnership opportunities and model contracts.
- 6) Encourage and support efforts for south suburban municipalities to develop a collective approach through an existing organization such as the South Suburban Mayors and Managers Association, or a new sub-regional solid waste agency to provide needed technical assistance and staffing capabilities for municipalities to individually or jointly manage their solid waste, recycling and organics related programs and services and serve as a regional provider of education and outreach to support sustainable material management.
- 7) Encourage and support efforts for all northern and western municipalities to become a member of

an existing solid waste agency if they are not already one.

- 8) Encourage and support current local solid waste agencies to collaborate/provide support to non-member municipalities within their regions on waste reduction practices, strategies and events.
- 9) Encourage and explore options to incentivize all municipalities in Cook County to have robust recycling and organic composting programs for their residents.
- 10) Encourage municipalities to inform and promote relevant opportunities and locations for residents and industrial-commercial and institutional entities to recycle, compost, donate food, re-use materials, etc., by including information on their websites, social media accounts, newsletters, etc.
- 11) Expand residential recycling and diversion infrastructure projects and programs around the County.

#### **Industrial-Commercial and Institutional Recycling and Organics Initiatives:**

- 12) Explore new options to regulate and provide incentives, tax breaks, financial support and/or other assistance to ICI entities that would help these entities implement new or improved sustainable material diversion programs including recycling programs, organic composting programs, food donation programs, construction and demolition diversion programs, etc.
- 13) Provide recognition to ICI entities that can document substantial material diversion successes, including reduction, reassembly, remanufacture, repair, reuse, repurpose, recycle, compost and other circularity related activities.
- 14) Connect and engage national and state environmental-related corporate affiliates, local recyclers, composting entities and re-use facilities to local ICI entities.
- 15) Expand ICI recycling and diversion infrastructure projects and programs around the County through the [BRITE program](#), RCCES program and [CHaRM Center](#), the [Neighborhood Revitalization & Brownfield Remediation program](#), the [Good Food Purchasing Initiative](#), etc.

#### **General Organic Diversion Initiatives:**

- 16) Support efforts for Cook County Government and suburban municipalities to adopt compost procurement ordinances or policies, which should include considerations for certain landscape, construction and post-construction, erosion prevention, stormwater runoff filtration, plant growth and transportation-related projects.
- 17) Expand organics-related infrastructure projects and programs around the County.

#### **Household Hazardous Waste Initiatives:**

- 18) Open a household hazardous waste facility no later than the end of 2025.
- 19) Support the IEPA and local municipalities in hosting household hazardous waste collection events in suburban Cook County.

#### **Electronic Waste Initiatives:**

- 20) Support the IEPA and local municipalities in hosting or providing electronic recycling collection events and programs in suburban Cook County.

**Medical Waste and Pharmaceutical Initiatives:**

- 21)** Support the IEPA, the Metropolitan Water Reclamation District of Cook County, and local municipalities in hosting medication take back collection sites, events and programs in suburban Cook County.

**Construction and Demolition Debris (C&DD) Recycling and Re-Use Initiatives:**

- 22)** Better integrate data from demolition contractors to report planned and actual amounts of material recycled, reused and disposed of into Cook County's online demolition permitting portal.
- 23)** Collaborate with municipal governments to ensure C&DD activities occurring in their jurisdictions comply with Cook County Construction and Demolition Debris permit requirements and the Cook County Demolition Debris Diversion Plan (3D) Ordinance.
- 24)** Expand recycling and non-traditional infrastructure-related projects and programs around the County, including repair cafes, tool libraries, material exchange, new reuse centers/sites, etc.

**Illegal Dumping Initiatives:**

- 25)** Develop a coordinated strategy with municipalities, large land managers and related stakeholders to reduce illegal dumping in Cook County.
- 26)** Develop a public campaign and awards program to help identify and prosecute individuals/entities that illegally dump material.

**General Legislative Initiatives:**

- 27)** Support statewide and local legislative efforts that would require recycling and food composting opportunities for certain public/large events.
- 28)** Monitor and inform legislative actions in the Illinois General Assembly that would advance zero waste and circular economy related practices in Cook County and throughout the state.

**Extended Producer Responsibility (EPR) and Product Stewardship Initiatives:**

- 29)** Monitor and inform EPR and product stewardship legislation in the Illinois General Assembly that would help reduce materials being landfilled in the region.
- 30)** Support and/or collaborate with the IEPA and other national and state entities working to implement newly adopted EPR and product stewardship-related legislation.

**Alternative and New Technology Initiatives:**

- 31)** Monitor the status of emerging and alternative technologies that could help advance the County's diversion goals.
- 32)** Support the expansion of appropriate infrastructure projects and programs around the County.

**Environmental Justice Strategies:**

- 33)** Help develop and implement an environmental justice policy.

**Public Education and Outreach Strategies:**

- 34)** Ensure that the implementation of this plan update and other solid waste management-related projects consider environmental justice implications and considerations.
- 35)** Identify and promote entities (preferably nonprofit mission driven) that reduce the waste stream by recycling, repurposing, repairing, reassembling, remanufacturing and donating waste materials including electronics, clothing and textiles and more to vulnerable and/or environmental justice communities.
- 36)** Develop a communications plan and education and outreach campaign focused on building circularity and zero waste behaviors.
- 37)** Communicate waste reduction messages in a culturally sensitive manner to County residents, businesses, environmental organizations and other stakeholder groups.
- 38)** Develop and implement a targeted multifamily outreach and engagement strategy.
- 39)** Incorporate incentives, awards, contests, etc. to encourage all stakeholders to participate in sustainability programs.

**Partnerships and Funding Strategies:**

- 40)** Partner with economic development entities and other related stakeholders to support the growing movement that is working to attract “green” businesses and jobs to Cook County by growing the local circular economy.
  - 41)** Partner with local solid waste agencies, maintain existing partnerships and identify new partners to advance and promote zero waste and circularity programs and projects in Cook County.
  - 42)** Develop and implement a fundraising and partnership strategy to help fund the recommendations in this plan update.
  - 43)** Consider modifications to current Cook County solid waste-related fees and fines to fund the recommendations in this plan update.
-

**Figure 26:**

Examples of actions accomplished by other governmental entities in Cook County and around the United States as they relate to the recommendations in this section are listed below. This list is intended to showcase how the recommendations in this section reflect some of the current programs, practices and activities conducted by other governmental entities.

Related Recommendation Number	Examples and Resources
1	Solid Waste Agency of Lake County: <a href="#">2019 Management Plan Update</a> City of Seattle: <a href="#">2022 Solid Waste Plan Update</a>
2	San Diego County: <a href="#">Strategic Plan to Reduce Waste</a> Los Angeles County: <a href="#">Zero Waste Plan</a> King County: <a href="#">2019 Solid Waste Management Plan</a> Tompkins County: <a href="#">Fostering a Local Circular Economy Report</a> Hennepin County: <a href="#">Zero Waste Plan</a>
3	Village of Orland Park: <a href="#">Recycling Program</a> City of Chicago: <a href="#">Food Scrap Drop-Off Program</a> San Francisco: <a href="#">Mandatory Recycling and Composting Ordinance</a>
4	City of Chicago: <a href="#">Mandatory Multi-Unit Residential Recycling Ordinance</a> City of Evanston: <a href="#">Recycling Program for Multi-Unit Properties</a> Village of LaGrange: <a href="#">Multi-family Property Mandatory Recycling Ordinance</a> Village of Skokie: <a href="#">Condominium &amp; Multi-Family Recycling Program</a> North Carolina: <a href="#">Multifamily Recycling Grant Program</a> City of Dallas: <a href="#">2022 Solid Waste Mgt. Plan Update</a> San Diego County: <a href="#">Multi-Family and Commercial Mandatory Recycling Requirements</a>
5	U.S. EPA: <a href="#">Model Recycling Program Toolkit</a> Massachusetts DEP: <a href="#">Municipal Waste Reduction Toolkit</a> Prince George's County: <a href="#">Waste &amp; Recycling Toolkit</a>
7	Solid Waste Agency of Northern Cook County: <a href="#">About</a> West Cook County Solid Waste Agency: <a href="#">About</a>
9	City of Evanston: <a href="#">Comingled Yard &amp; Food Scrap Composting Program</a> Village of Winnetka: <a href="#">Food Scrap &amp; Organics Composting Program</a> Prince George County: <a href="#">Expanding Compost Program to Curbside Pickup</a> New York City: <a href="#">Citywide Curbside Compost Collection Program</a> Burlington County: <a href="#">Mandatory Food Scrap Programs</a>
10	Village of Skokie: <a href="#">Recycling &amp; Composting</a> Village of Glencoe: <a href="#">Recycling &amp; Composting Programs</a>
11	Boonslick, MO: <a href="#">20 staffed Recycling Drop-off Locations</a> Nassau County: <a href="#">Recycling Process Enrichment Program</a> Chemung County: <a href="#">Construction of the Elmira Lake Street Composting Facility</a> Village of Morton Grove: <a href="#">New Curbside Compost Collection Program</a>

Related Recommendation Number	Examples and Resources
12	North Carolina: <a href="#">Recycling Business Development Grants</a> North Carolina: <a href="#">Food Waste Reduction Grant</a> Luzerne County: <a href="#">Recycling Performance Grants</a> U.S. EPA: <a href="#">A Guide to Recycling at Sports Venues</a> Hennepin County: <a href="#">Business Recycling Grants</a> Victorian Government: <a href="#">Circular Economy Innovation Fund</a> Vermont: <a href="#">Universal Recycling Guidance for Businesses &amp; Institutions</a>
13	MLB-Baltimore Orioles: <a href="#">Recycled nearly 40,000 pounds of materials</a> MLB-Minnesota Twins: <a href="#">3,642 tons of organic materials have been composted</a> Green Sports Alliance: <a href="#">Zero Waste Programs</a> National Association of Realtors: <a href="#">Circular Design &amp; Sustainable Design</a> City of Tacoma: <a href="#">Green Living Guide</a> Illinois Food Scrap & Composting Coalition: <a href="#">Recognition</a>
14	Rebuilding Exchange (Evanston & Chicago): <a href="#">Partners</a> Habitat for Humanity of Chicago: <a href="#">Collaborations</a> Creative Chicago Reuse Exchange: <a href="#">Supporters</a>
15	Dakota County: <a href="#">Business Recycling Incentive Program</a> West Virginia: <a href="#">Recycling Assistance Grant Program</a> BizRecycling: <a href="#">Funding Opportunities</a>
16	Boulder County: <a href="#">Internal Zero Waste Purchasing Policies</a> U.S. EPA: <a href="#">Sustainable Purchasing Program Guidance</a> Washington State: <a href="#">Counties required to adopt a compost procurement ordinance</a> City of Seattle: <a href="#">Sustainable Purchasing Policy</a> Allegheny County: <a href="#">Sustainable and Socially Responsible Procurement Ordinance</a>
17	Ramsey & Washington Counties: <a href="#">Free Food Scrap Composting Program</a> Arlington County: <a href="#">Weekly Food Scrap Collection Program</a>
18	IEPA: <a href="#">HHW Programs</a> U.S. EPA: <a href="#">HHW</a>
19	IEPA: <a href="#">Collection Events</a> SWANCC: <a href="#">Calendar of Events</a> SWALCO: <a href="#">HCW Program</a>



Related Recommendation Number	Examples and Resources
20	SWANCC: <a href="#">Electronic Recycling Opportunities</a> City of Chicago: <a href="#">Electronic Recycling Opportunities</a>
21	Cook County Sheriff's Office: <a href="#">Medical Take Back Calendar of Events</a> MWRD of Cook County: <a href="#">Medication Tack Back Program</a>
22	U.S. EPA: <a href="#">Construction and Demolition Debris-Material-Specific Data</a> San Diego County: <a href="#">C&amp;D Recycling Program</a> & <a href="#">Application Process</a> Los Angeles County: <a href="#">C&amp;D Recycling Program</a>
23	San Francisco: <a href="#">C&amp;D Ordinances</a> City of Chicago: <a href="#">C&amp;D Debris Recycling Program</a> City of Oakland: <a href="#">C&amp;D Debris Recycling Program</a>
24	King County: <a href="#">Grant Award to Build Tool Library</a> San Francisco: <a href="#">Develops Online Resource Exchange Program</a>
25	New Jersey: <a href="#">Illegal Dumping Program</a> West Virginia: <a href="#">Illegal Dumping Program Flyer</a> IEPA: <a href="#">Illegal Dumping Program</a>
26	New York City: <a href="#">Illegal Dumping Rewards Program</a> City of Chicago: <a href="#">Illegal Dumping Rewards Program</a> City of Flint: <a href="#">Illegal Dumping Rewards Program</a>
27	California: <a href="#">Large Venue Recycling</a> Lane County: <a href="#">Sustainable Event Resources</a> Minneapolis: <a href="#">Mandatory Garbage &amp; Recycling Requirements for Permitted Events</a> City of Palo Alto: <a href="#">Special Events Waste Reduction, Reuse, Recycling, &amp; Composting Requirements</a>
28	Illinois Environmental Council: <a href="#">Waste Reduction Strategy</a> Illinois Recycling Foundation: <a href="#">Legislation</a> Illinois Food Scrap & Composting Coalition: <a href="#">Policy Committee</a> Illinois Sierra Club: <a href="#">Legislation</a>
29	San Francisco: <a href="#">Producer Responsibility Resolution</a> Illinois Extended Producer Responsibility for Packaging and Paper Products <a href="#">Update</a> Illinois Product Stewardship Council: <a href="#">Legislation</a> Illinois Beverage Association Articulates <a href="#">Key Principles on Recycling</a>
30	IEPA: <a href="#">Land Pollution &amp; Waste Disposal</a> SWANA of Illinois: <a href="#">Mission</a>

Related Recommendation Number	Examples and Resources
31	6 Smart Waste Management Technologies <a href="#">Emerging In 2023 New Innovations</a> in Garbage & Waste Management Technology
32	Miami partners with Compology to become first U.S. City to <a href="#">meter waste</a> Kent County: <a href="#">Provides Funding for Digester Project</a>
33	San Diego County: <a href="#">Environmental Justice Policy</a> Mecklenburg County: <a href="#">Environmental Justice Framework</a>
34	U.S. cities increasingly <a href="#">integrate justice</a> into climate planning How prepared are U.S. cities to implement the <a href="#">Justice40 Initiative</a>
35	Cuyahoga County: <a href="#">Recycling Education Program</a> Continues to <a href="#">Expand</a> Solid Waste Authority of Central Ohio ( <a href="#">SWACO</a> ): Education <a href="#">Initiative</a>
36	The Recycling Partnership: <a href="#">Equitable &amp; Inclusive Recycling Education and Outreach Program</a>
37	The Recycling Partnership: <a href="#">Multi-Family Recycling Program</a>
38	NJ: <a href="#">Honors Businesses for Outstanding Recycling Efforts</a> City of Palm Springs: <a href="#">Green Citizen Award Program</a>
39	Cook County: <a href="#">Bureau of Economic Development</a> City of Chicago: <a href="#">Economic Development</a> CMAP: <a href="#">Programs</a> Metropolitan Planning Council: <a href="#">Equitable Planning</a>
41	United States Conference of Mayors: <a href="#">Climate Protection Center</a> Keep America Beautiful: <a href="#">Recycling Program</a>

# APPENDIX A:

## SOLID WASTE ADVISORY COMMITTEE MEMBERS

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## APPENDIX B:

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## APPENDIX C:

### COMPREHENSIVE PROGRESS REPORT (2018-2023)

GOAL #1: Increase access to and participation in municipal solid waste curbside recycling programs.				
Rec ID	Category	Recommendation	Status	Accomplishments
1.1	Recycling	Help small or underperforming communities to increase curbside recycling through joint contracting or other procurement assistance.	Implemented	DES secured funding to provide three municipalities curbside recycling services in 2023.
1.2	Recycling	Conduct outreach to unaffiliated or unincorporated areas to encourage affiliation with a waste agency or partnership with other municipalities/townships to improve bargaining for disposal services.	Not Implemented	
1.3	Recycling	Increase recycling in multi-family buildings by providing technical assistance and providing model ordinances to municipalities to help them to include multi-unit buildings in waste and recycling collection contracts and by conducting a public awareness campaign for landlords and property managers.	Not Implemented	
1.4	Recycling	Implementing a pilot project at a county facility or municipality that does not currently provide recycling to demonstrate efficacy of alternative recycling models beyond single stream. This may include reducing the number of accepted materials or multi-stream recycling.	Partially Implemented	<p>Cook County Department of Facilities Management expanded its recycling program to other County locations.</p> <p>Cook County Department of Facilities Management launched a composting pilot program for County administrative buildings.</p> <p><a href="#">Forest Preserves of Cook County</a> expanded recycling programs around County.</p>
1.5	Recycling	Host annual waste and recycling procurement workshops for municipal stakeholders to build capacity at the municipal level.	Not Implemented	

**GOAL #1:** Increase access to and participation in municipal solid waste curbside recycling programs.

<u>Rec ID</u>	Category	Recommendation	Status	Accomplishments
1.6	Recycling	Assist local governments to contract residential, multifamily and/or commercial collection services as a means to control costs, increase recycling, reduce the amount of greenhouse gases associated with collection services and enhance community sustainability efforts.	Partially Implemented	DES annually provides technical assistance to municipalities in waste contracting practices.
1.7	Recycling	Fund recycling extravaganzas and promote specialty recycling programs for products that often are incorrectly placed in recycling bins (e.g., electronic waste, HHW, textiles, laundry baskets, hangers).	Implemented	DES, <a href="#">Cook County Sheriff's Office</a> and <a href="#">Forest Preserves of Cook County</a> hosted and/or participated in over 600 recycling-related events.
1.8	Recycling	Set a benchmark for waste performance for all County facilities by requiring waste haulers to produce hauler reports containing amount of material disposed and recycled.	Partially Implemented	Cook County Department of Facilities Management expanded its recycling program to more County owned and operated facilities and is now able to obtain detailed hauler report data.
1.9	Recycling	Improve County government diversion rate by instituting consistent availability of recycling bins in all Cook County facilities including consistent signage.	Partially Implemented	Cook County Department of Facilities Management expanded its recycling program to more County owned and operated facilities.
1.10	Recycling	Develop partnerships with the business community, waste haulers, institutions, service and professional organizations and governmental entities to expand the outreach potential for focused educational efforts.	Implemented	<a href="#">DES</a> , <a href="#">Cook County Sheriff's Office</a> and <a href="#">Forest Preserves of Cook County</a> collaborated to provide outreach and educational materials to residents and businesses in partnership with elected officials, municipalities, public libraries, environmental organizations and academic institutions.



**GOAL #2:** Decrease contamination of recycled materials.

Rec ID	Category	Recommendation	Status	Accomplishments
2.1	Recycling	Establish working group with haulers, material recovery facilities (MRF) and municipalities to create an accurate list of recyclable products and a simple unified message. Establish metrics, such as decreased contamination and type of materials processed as tracked by MRF operators.	Partially Implemented	DES joined the Illinois Task Force on Reducing Recycling Contamination to create an accurate list of recyclable products. DES and other Illinois municipalities updated <a href="#">recycling outreach materials</a> to align with Task Force findings.
2.2	Recycling	Develop and produce a marketing campaign, based on work with waste haulers, with a focus on one or two major recycling issues per year for effective public education (e.g., do not include plastic bags in recycling).	Partially Implemented	DES, in partnership with other stakeholders, launched an outreach and education campaign. This included launching a <a href="#">Green Guide Library</a> webpage in 2020 and produced updated waste-related materials: (1) HHW disposal flyer in English and Spanish; (2) Sharps and medication disposal in English and Spanish; (3) E-waste recycling flyer in English and Spanish; (4) Recycling guidelines flyer in English, Spanish and Polish; (5) Composting services tool flyer; (6) Food waste reduction flyer in English and Spanish; and, (7) Indoor and outdoor composting.  DES published 2020-2021 online blog articles with the Illinois Recycling Contamination Task Force and provided over 50 waste reduction outreach presentations.
2.3	Recycling	Target outreach to communities with existing curbside recycling programs that have low participation and/or high contamination rates to discuss potential mitigation measures with municipal staff.	Partially Implemented	DES targeted 53 municipalities with the lowest recycling and diversion rates and provided them education/outreach/ events, etc.
2.4	Recycling	Work with municipalities to increase recycling and decrease contamination. Incentives may include recycled materials rebates, reward programs like Recycle Bank and pay-as-you-throw programs.	Partially Implemented	DES launched the RCCES Initiative, including opening a CHaRM recycling drop-off station for communities with the lowest recycling/diversion rates.

GOAL #3: Improve diversion rate for industry,commercial and institutional (ICI) waste generators.				
Rec ID	Category	Recommendation	Status	Accomplishments
3.1	Recycling	Identify barriers to increasing diversion rates for ICI waste generators through a voluntary program that solicits waste hauling reports, request waste audits from a sample of businesses and conduct interviews with businesses.	Partially Implemented	DES secured funding to create the BRITE program in 2023. This program includes waste-related audits, characterizations and recycling/composting-related infrastructure assistance.
3.2	Recycling	Convene nonresidential waste generators to share best practices within industry types (e.g., hospitals, schools, industrial) for waste diversion.	Partially Implemented	DES partnered with the <a href="#">Illinois Medical District (IMD)</a> to connect Chicago hospitals to the <a href="#">CHaRM Center</a> . In 2023 several IMD hospitals started to provide the CHaRM Center with their Styrofoam and clothing and textiles to be recycled.
3.3	E-Waste	Develop targeted educational programming about proper e-waste disposal for businesses. Work in collaboration with partners such as Illinois Science & Technology Coalition (ISTC) and IEPA to develop a campaign to inform businesses. Develop programming to encourage compliance with state law.	Not Implemented	

GOAL #4: Increase diversion of organics and food waste from landfills.				
Rec ID	Category	Recommendation	Status	Accomplishments
4.1	Food Scraps/ Organics	Encourage Cook County municipalities to implement residential food scrap programs as part of hauling contracts or licensing requirements.	Not Implemented	
4.2	Food Scraps/ Organics	Use Cook County projects to demonstrate the end market use of compost and establish guidelines for finished compost in county road/landscape projects where applicable. Look for closed loop opportunities at Cook County facilities.	Not Implemented	
4.3	Food Scraps/ Organics	Promote industrial, commercial and institutional food scrap collection programs.	Partially Implemented	DES provides compost-related outreach and educational materials to residents.  DES secured funding to create the BRITE program in 2023. This program includes waste related audits, characterizations and recycling/composting related infrastructure assistance.
4.4	Food Scraps/ Organics	Establish sites for public organic waste drop off.	Not Implemented	
4.5	Food Scraps/ Organics	Assess potential for food donation from public and private facilities.	Partially Implemented	Cook County Dept. of Public Health launched the <a href="#">GFP</a> , which works to create access to good food for all by implementing GFP in County departments and agencies, advancing a racially and socially equitable food system that can meet the demands of GFP and building a culture where good food is a right, not a privilege.
4.6	Food Scraps/ Organics	Use organics collection events to educate residents about best practices and the benefits of composting and food waste reduction.	Not Implemented	

**GOAL #4:** Increase diversion of organics and food waste from landfills.

<u>Rec ID</u>	Category	Recommendation	Status	Accomplishments
4.7	Food Scraps/ Organics	Make compost bins available and teach people to compost.	Partially Implemented	Cook County Department of Facilities Management launched a composting pilot program for County administrative buildings.  DES secured funding to create the BRITE program in 2023. This program includes waste related audits, characterizations and recycling/composting-related infrastructure assistance.
4.8	Food Scraps/ Organics	Establish requirements for food waste reduction in vendor contracts for Cook County facilities.	Partially Implemented	Cook County Department of Public Health and DES partnered to ensure the <a href="#">GFP</a> is becoming imbedded in County contracts.
4.9	Food Scraps/ Organics	Develop compost strategies for County facilities.	Partially Implemented	Cook County Department of Facilities Management launched a composting pilot program for County administrative buildings.

GOAL #5: Increase household hazardous waste (HHW) diversion.				
Rec ID	Category	Recommendation	Status	Accomplishments
5.1	HHW	Increase HHW collection by adding more permanent sites and encouraging local municipalities to include HHW collection in waste hauling contracts or by other means.	Implemented	DES secured funding to open an HHW facility in the south suburbs, tentatively scheduled to open in 2025.  DES hosted IEPA sponsored HHW collection events and supported other municipalities hosting HHW-related events.
5.2	HHW	Seek IEPA funding for expanded collection of HHW for Cook County residents who do not currently have reliable/ convenient access to collection.	Implemented	DES secured ARPA funding to open a new HHW facility.  DES secured funding from IEPA to host HHW events in the County.
5.3	HHW	Encourage municipalities, including the City of Chicago, to collaborate with a coordinating body such as a council of government or joint action agency (Solid Waste Agency of Northern Cook County or West Cook County Solid Waste Agency) or partner with neighboring communities for HHW collection initiatives.	Implemented	DES successfully coordinated efforts for the Forest Preserves of Cook County to transfer its illegally dumped HHW materials to the City of Chicago HHW facility.  DES supported municipality requests to the Illinois EPA to fund HHW collection events.
5.4	HHW	Work in tandem with other agencies to assess producer responsibility legislation for hazardous household chemicals.	Implemented	DES, in concert with other environmental stakeholders, participated in the development of the 2023 <a href="#">EPR Paint Bill</a> and the <a href="#">EPR Packaging Bill</a> .
5.5	HHW	Continue to educate the public about proper storage, handling and disposal of HHW and provide information on why these materials are banned from landfills, in addition to how to avoid generation of HHW, especially for residents in unincorporated or unaffiliated areas.	Partially Implemented	DES, in partnership with other stakeholders launched an outreach and education campaign. This included launching a <a href="#">Green Guide Library</a> webpage in 2020 updating lists of HHW and green cleaning alternative materials.
5.6	HHW	Reduce the use of toxic chemicals in the maintenance of Cook County facilities.	Partially Implemented	Cook County Department of Facilities Management and Forest Preserves of Cook County expanded efforts to reduce the use of toxic cleaning products in County administrative and public buildings.
5.7	HHW	Begin a dialogue with hospitals, pharmacies, police and others already dealing with sharps and medications, to explore opportunities for cost-share or coordination.	Implemented	Cook County Sheriff's Office managed a comprehensive <a href="#">drug/medical take back program</a> , with funding support from the MWRD of Cook County and IEPA.

GOAL #6: Increase electronic waste (E-Waste) diversion.				
Rec ID	Category	Recommendation	Status	Accomplishments
6.1	E-Waste	Establish permanent program collection sites for recyclable electronics in accordance with the Illinois Consumer Electronics Recycling Act.	Implemented	DES launched the RCCES initiative, including opening a <a href="#">CHaRM</a> recycling drop-off station that has a comprehensive e-waste program.
6.2	E-Waste	Develop a marketing campaign to educate residents on proper e-waste disposal.	Implemented	DES launched an <a href="#">education and outreach campaign</a> that included e-waste recycling-related materials and strategies.
6.3	E-Waste	Investigate opportunities for public outreach for education on e-waste recycling by participating at special events such as farmers markets, community days and open houses.	Implemented	DES and <a href="#">Cook County Sheriff's Office</a> hosted and participated in e-waste collection events at various locations around the County.
6.4	E-Waste	Partner with commercial and retail collection sites to increase accessibility of existing e-waste collection programs.	Partially Implemented	DES secured funding to create the BRITE program in 2023. This program includes waste-related audits and offers grants to purchase new environmentally preferred equipment and divert old equipment as e-waste.
6.5	E-Waste	Work in tandem with IEPA to provide suburban Cook County residents an up-to-date list of registered collection sites that is reviewed and updated quarterly.	Partially Implemented	DES, in partnership with other stakeholders launched an outreach and education campaign. This included launching a <a href="#">Green Guide Library</a> webpage in 2020 that includes e-waste collection sites.
6.6	E-Waste	Encourage sub-regional partnership and coordination to increase access to e-waste collection opportunities.	Not Implemented	



GOAL #7: Promote source reduction and reuse.				
Rec ID	Category	Recommendation	Status	Accomplishments
7.1	Recycling	Develop a green purchasing strategy for the County and develop model procurement documents for municipalities and other agencies.	Partially Implemented	<p>Cook County Department of Public Health launched the GFP works to create access to good food for all by implementing a transparent and equitable food system in County departments and agencies, advancing a racially and socially equitable food system that can meet the demands of GFP and building a culture where good food is a right, not a privilege. in County departments and agencies, (2) advancing a racially and socially equitable food system that can meet the demands of GFP and (3) building a culture where good food is a right, not a privilege.</p> <p>DES staff have been assigned to support development of a sustainable procurement policy and leading a sustainable procurement working group.</p>
7.2	HHW	Educate residents and local governments on alternatives to household hazardous chemicals.	Partially Implemented	DES launched an outreach and education campaign. This included launching a <a href="#">Green Guide Library</a> webpage in 2020 and produced updated HHW and green cleaning alternative materials.
7.3	Recycling	Work in tandem with waste agencies or councils of government to identify schools serving low- to moderate-income students and encourage area businesses to donate office supplies, computers and furniture that would otherwise be thrown out.	Partially Implemented	DES launched the RCCES initiative in partnership with South Suburban College (SSC). DES and SSC opened the <a href="#">CHaRM</a> Center in 2023 and started outreach efforts to south suburban school districts.
7.4	Recycling	Adopt stronger procurement practices by the County that promote reused and reusable goods and reduce packaging/ life cycle costs. Develop further strategies to reduce operational waste at County facilities such as printing policies.	Partially Implemented	Cook County Department of Public Health launched the GFP.. GFP works to create access to good food for all by: (1) Implementing GFP in County departments and agencies, (2) advancing a racially and socially equitable food system that can meet the demands of GFP and (3) building a culture where good food is a right, not a privilege.
7.5	Recycling	Update County code to require amounts of waste and recycling from County facilities to be reported annually and develop a diversion plan to reduce waste annually.	Not Implemented	

GOAL #8: Improve construction and demolition debris (C&DD) diversion.				
Rec ID	Category	Recommendation	Status	Accomplishments
8.1	C&DD	Create and consistently use clear definitions of recycling and reuse through all communication channels with demolition contractors.	Not Implemented	
8.2	C&DD	Consider revisions to 2012 Cook County Demolition Debris Diversion ordinance that could increase reuse, such as targeting materials with high reuse potential to be salvaged, requiring reuse in non-residential demolitions or implementing minimum requirements for hauling and drop-off tickets.	Partially Implemented	In 2022, DES created a data manager position that will start to analyze Green Halo data to help create strategies to improve C&DD recycling efforts.
8.3	C&DD	Establish outreach and public educational programs on construction and demolition debris reduction and recycling initiatives.	Partially Implemented	DES participated in various C&DD-related events and training sessions.
8.4	C&DD	Evaluate potential for construction and demolition contractor's registration programs through which Cook County would ensure contractors had full knowledge of Cook County Demolition Debris Diversion Ordinance	Partially Implemented	DES has developed an outreach and education C&DD campaign to be launched in 2024.
8.5	C&DD	Conduct gap assessment of demolition activity in Cook County and reported activity in Cook County.	Not Implemented	
8.6	C&DD	Explore ways to increase the market for reused and recycled C&DD materials, such as incorporating them into projects at County facilities, or partnering with other entities to increase awareness of the value and utility of these materials.	Not Implemented	

## APPENDIX D:

### LIST OF SUBURBAN MUNICIPALITY 2022 RATES

TABLE 3:

- This table is organized by region (*North, South, West*) in alphabetical order by municipality.
- **Red**= Municipality does not provide recycling services to their residents.
- **Orange**= Municipality did not provide data to DES.
- **Grey**= Municipality median income amount below the Cook County median income amount.
- **Yellow**= Municipal diversion rate is below the [2018 national](#) MSW diversion rate of 32%.

DES Map #	Municipality Name	Region of the County	Above or Below County Median Household Income Amount of \$72,121	Member of a Solid Waste Agency?	Pounds of Waste Generated Per Household Per Day	2022 Recycling Rate %	2022 Diversion Rate %
2	Arlington Heights	North	Above	Yes	8.61	24%	35%
3	Barrington	North	Above	Yes	9.18	21%	41%
4	Barrington Hills	North	Above	No	14.17	7%	7%
5	Bartlett	North	Above	No	8.87	20%	30%
15	Buffalo Grove	North	Above	Yes	9.37	17%	18%
26	Deer Park	North	Above	No	10.36	19%	29%
27	Deerfield	North	Above	No	7.39	26%	37%
28	Des Plaines	North	Above	No	7.86	19%	31%
32	Elgin	North	Above	No	6.68	23%	30%
33	Elk Grove Village	North	Above	Yes	5.83	19%	24%
36	Evanston	North	Above	Yes	9.17	29%	42%
44	Glencoe	North	Above	Yes	7.33	33%	37%
45	Glenview	North	Above	Yes	8.85	27%	34%
47	Golf	North	Above	No	6.12	31%	53%
48	Hanover Park	North	Above	No	8.81	18%	24%
56	Hoffman Estates	North	Above	Yes	8.46	23%	28%
61	Inverness	North	Above	Yes	8.11	25%	32%
63	Kenilworth	North	Above	Yes	7.94	25%	25%
68	Lincolnwood	North	Above	Yes	9.27	21%	25%
77	Morton Grove	North	Above	Yes	8.30	23%	27%
78	Mount Prospect	North	Above	Yes	8.44	21%	34%

DES Map #	Municipality Name	Region of the County	Above or Below County Median Household Income Amount of \$72,121	Member of a Solid Waste Agency?	Pounds of Waste Generated Per Household Per Day	2022 Recycling Rate %	2022 Diversion Rate %
79	Niles	North	Below	Yes	8.32	21%	26%
82	Northbrook	North	Above	No	5.65	26%	32%
83	Northfield	North	Above	No	6.29	26%	36%
92	Palatine	North	Above	Yes	8.10	24%	34%
97	Park Ridge	North	Above	Yes	9.49	22%	36%
100	Prospect Heights	North	Above	Yes	10.13	18%	35%
107	Rolling Meadows	North	Above	Yes	7.57	26%	37%
108	Roselle	North	Above	No	9.60	25%	27%
111	Schaumburg	North	Above	No	3.94	19%	34%
113	Skokie	North	Above	Yes	7.08	18%	21%
114	South Barrington	North	Above	Yes	8.41	26%	29%
120	Streamwood	North	Above	No	10.97	18%	28%
127	Wheeling	North	Below	Yes	8.18	17%	20%
129	Wilmette	North	Above	Yes	7.49	27%	32%
130	Winnetka	North	Above	Yes	11.42	20%	35%
1	Alsip	South	Below	No	6.97	18%	30%
11	Blue Island	South	Below	No	9.16	18%	19%
17	Burnham	South	Below	No	5.98	0%	0%
19	Calumet City	South	Below	No	6.84	12%	13%
20	Calumet Park	South	Below	No	6.15	40%	40%
21	Chicago Heights	South	Below	No	7.60	3%	11%
22	Chicago Ridge	South	Below	No	8.13	17%	36%
23	Country Club Hills	South	Below	No	6.45	7%	12%
25	Crestwood	South	Below	No	4.44	12%	20%
29	Dixmoor	South	Below	No	9.35	0%	0%
30	Dolton	South	Below	No	8.70	5%	6%
31	East Hazel Crest	South	Below	No	7.35	5%	11%
37	Evergreen Park	South	Above	No	8.38	16%	31%
38	Flossmoor	South	Above	No	11.82	10%	19%
39	Ford Heights	South	Below	No	13.71	2%	4%
42	Frankfort	South	Above	No	10.11	15%	24%

DES Map #	Municipality Name	Region of the County	Above or Below County Median Household Income Amount of \$72,121	Member of a Solid Waste Agency?	Pounds of Waste Generated Per Household Per Day	2022 Recycling Rate %	2022 Diversion Rate %
46	Glenwood	South	Below	No	8.66	10%	18%
49	Harvey	South	Below	No	8.82	0%	3%
51	Hazel Crest	South	Below	No	7.53	7%	11%
52	Hickory Hills	South	Below	No	9.75	16%	34%
57	Homer Glen	South	Above	No	11.62	15%	28%
59	Homewood	South	Above	No	8.13	13%	24%
66	Lansing	South	Below	No	9.18	16%	30%
67	Lemont	South	Above	No	8.48	21%	34%
69	Lynwood	South	Above	No	12.21	5%	8%
70	Markham	South	Below	No	8.56	0%	0%
71	Matteson	South	Above	No	7.18	9%	14%
75	Merrionette Park	South	Below	No	6.42	13%	13%
76	Midlothian	South	Below	No	9.43	11%	22%
86	Oak Forest	South	Above	No	10.80	12%	23%
87	Oak Lawn	South	Below	No	10.01	17%	31%
89	Olympia Fields	South	Above	No	10.20	10%	20%
90	Orland Hills	South	Above	No	8.09	10%	26%
91	Orland Park	South	Above	No	8.08	18%	35%
93	Palos Heights	South	Above	No	9.70	15%	30%
94	Palos Hills	South	Below	No	10.88	18%	36%
95	Palos Park	South	Above	No	19.99	11%	15%
96	Park Forest	South	Below	No	9.07	11%	18%
98	Phoenix	South	Below	No	8.39	0%	0%
99	Posen	South	Below	No	10.29	0%	0%
101	Richton Park	South	Below	No	8.51	8%	12%
104	Riverdale	South	Below	No	6.74	14%	14%
106	Robbins	South	Below	No	7.18	0%	0%
110	Sauk Village	South	Below	No	7.59	0%	2%
115	South Chicago Heights	South	Below	No	3.35	22%	24%
116	South Holland	South	Below	No	8.89	9%	22%

DES Map #	Municipality Name	Region of the County	Above or Below County Median Household Income Amount of \$72,121	Member of a Solid Waste Agency?	Pounds of Waste Generated Per Household Per Day	2022 Recycling Rate %	2022 Diversion Rate %
117	Steger	South	Below	No	9.29	10%	17%
122	Thornton	South	Below	No	3.16	16%	16%
123	Tinley Park	South	Above	No	11.41	14%	27%
124	University Park	South	Below	No	5.47	2%	4%
131	Worth	South	Below	No	4.79	11%	26%
6	Bedford Park	West	Above	No	10.46	9%	9%
7	Bellwood	West	Below	Yes	8.00	12%	12%
8	Bensenville	West	Below	No	8.88	16%	27%
9	Berkeley	West	Below	No	8.11	13%	25%
10	Berwyn	West	Below	Yes	7.34	14%	22%
12	Bridgeview	West	Below	No	8.24	24%	30%
13	Broadview	West	Below	Yes	9.80	22%	25%
14	Brookfield	West	Above	Yes	7.89	21%	37%
16	Burbank	West	Below	No	10.36	10%	24%
18	Burr Ridge	West	Above	No	7.94	25%	31%
N/A	Cicero	West	Below	Yes	N/A	N/A	N/A
24	Countryside	West	Below	No	7.87	24%	31%
34	Elmhurst	West	Above	No	7.74	25%	33%
35	Elmwood Park	West	Below	Yes	11.59	20%	26%
40	Forest Park	West	Below	Yes	5.75	19%	23%
41	Forest View	West	Above	No	7.48	0%	14%
43	Franklin Park	West	Below	Yes	9.31	17%	27%
50	Harwood Heights	West	Below	Yes	6.45	14%	20%
53	Hillside	West	Below	Yes	8.54	10%	20%
54	Hinsdale	West	Above	No	4.77	27%	31%
55	Hodgkins	West	Below	No	16.70	38%	38%
58	Hometown	West	Below	No	11.50	10%	16%
60	Indian Head Park	West	Above	No	6.68	22%	36%
62	Justice	West	Below	No	11.48	17%	31%
64	La Grange	West	Above	Yes	6.90	29%	31%
65	La Grange Park	West	Above	Yes	6.87	27%	32%



DES Map #	Municipality Name	Region of the County	Above or Below County Median Household Income Amount of \$72,121	Member of a Solid Waste Agency?	Pounds of Waste Generated Per Household Per Day	2022 Recycling Rate %	2022 Diversion Rate %
N/A	Lyons	West	Below	Yes	N/A	N/A	N/A
72	Maywood	West	Below	Yes	4.59	7%	11%
73	Mc Cook	West	Above	No	24.49	3%	23%
74	Melrose Park	West	Below	Yes	7.93	6%	10%
80	Norridge	West	Above	Yes	10.11	2%	11%
81	North Riverside	West	Below	Yes	7.05	18%	26%
84	Northlake	West	Below	Yes	9.79	19%	32%
85	Oak Brook	West	Above	No	7.69	27%	27%
88	Oak Park	West	Above	Yes	6.02	23%	38%
102	River Forest	West	Above	Yes	7.14	30%	39%
103	River Grove	West	Below	Yes	8.67	18%	26%
105	Riverside	West	Above	Yes	4.07	21%	34%
109	Rosemont	West	Below	Yes	9.09	22%	25%
112	Schiller Park	West	Below	Yes	6.91	30%	36%
118	Stickney	West	Below	No	9.33	19%	36%
119	Stone Park	West	Below	No	8.85	15%	15%
121	Summit	West	Below	No	9.00	3%	10%
125	Westchester	West	Above	Yes	4.79	18%	30%
126	Western Springs	West	Above	Yes	7.03	26%	30%
128	Willow Springs	West	Above	Yes	7.74	23%	30%

## APPENDIX E:

### MUNICIPAL YARD AND FOOD WASTE PROGRAM FINDINGS

DES researched suburban Cook County municipal websites to determine the availability of organics (yard and food waste) collection services for residents. Currently, organics collection data is not submitted to DES by waste haulers or municipal governments. Information is current as of October 2023. Note: The table below is organized by region.

DES Map #	Municipality Name	Region of the County	Does the Municipality Have a Yard Waste Program?	Does the Municipality Have a Food Scrap Program?	Does the Municipality Have a Co-Mingled Organics Program? (Food and Yard waste)	Does the Municipality Have a Single Source Food Scrap Program?
2	Arlington Heights	North	Yes	Yes	Yes	No
3	Barrington	North	Yes	Yes	Yes	No
4	Barrington Hills	North	No	No	No	No
5	Bartlett	North	Yes	No	No	No
15	Buffalo Grove	North	Yes	No	No	No
26	Deer Park	North	Yes	No	No	No
27	Deerfield	North	Yes	No	No	No
28	Des Plaines	North	Yes	No	No	No
32	Elgin	North	Yes	Yes	Yes	No
33	Elk Grove Village	North	Yes	No	No	No
36	Evanston	North	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
44	Glencoe	North	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
45	Glenview	North	Yes	Yes	Yes	No
47	Golf	North	Yes	No	No	No
48	Hanover Park	North	Yes	No	No	No
56	Hoffman Estates	North	Yes	No	No	No
61	Inverness	North	Yes	No	No	No
63	Kenilworth	North	Yes	No	No	No
68	Lincolnwood	North	Yes	No	No	No
77	Morton Grove	North	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
78	Mount Prospect	North	Yes	Yes	Yes	No
79	Niles	North	Yes	No	No	No
82	Northbrook	North	Yes	Yes	Yes	No

DES Map #	Municipality Name	Region of the County	Does the Municipality Have a Yard Waste Program?	Does the Municipality Have a Food Scrap Program?	Does the Municipality Have a Co-Mingled Organics Program? (Food and Yard waste)	Does the Municipality Have a Single Source Food Scrap Program?
83	Northfield	North	Yes	No	No	No
92	Palatine	North	Yes	No	No	No
97	Park Ridge	North	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
100	Prospect Heights	North	Yes	No	No	No
107	Rolling Meadows	North	Yes	No	No	No
108	Roselle	North	Yes	No	No	No
111	Schaumburg	North	Yes	No	No	No
113	Skokie	North	Yes	Yes	No	Yes
114	South Barrington	North	Yes	No	No	No
120	Streamwood	North	Yes	No	No	No
127	Wheeling	North	Yes	No	No	No
129	Wilmette	North	Yes	Yes	Yes	No
130	Winnetka	North	Yes	Yes	No	Yes
1	Alsip	South	Yes	No	No	No
11	Blue Island	South	Yes	No	No	No
17	Burnham	South	No	No	No	No
19	Calumet City	South	Yes	No	No	No
20	Calumet Park	South	No	No	No	No
21	Chicago Heights	South	Yes	No	No	No
22	Chicago Ridge	South	Yes	No	No	No
23	Country Club Hills	South	Yes	No	No	No
25	Crestwood	South	Yes	No	No	No
29	Dixmoor	South	No	No	No	No
30	Dolton	South	Yes	No	No	No
31	East Hazel Crest	South	Yes	No	No	No
37	Evergreen Park	South	Yes	No	No	No
38	Flossmoor	South	Yes	No	No	No
39	Ford Heights	South	Yes	No	No	No
42	Frankfort	South	Yes	No	No	No
46	Glenwood	South	Yes	No	No	No
49	Harvey	South	Yes	No	No	No
51	Hazel Crest	South	Yes	No	No	No

DES Map #	Municipality Name	Region of the County	Does the Municipality Have a Yard Waste Program?	Does the Municipality Have a Food Scrap Program?	Does the Municipality Have a Co-Mingled Organics Program? (Food and Yard waste)	Does the Municipality Have a Single Source Food Scrap Program?
52	Hickory Hills	South	Yes	No	No	No
57	Homer Glen	South	Yes	No	No	No
59	Homewood	South	Yes	No	No	No
66	Lansing	South	Yes	No	No	No
67	Lemont	South	Yes	No	No	No
69	Lynwood	South	Yes	No	No	No
70	Markham	South	No	No	No	No
71	Matteson	South	Yes	No	No	No
75	Merrionette Park	South	No	No	No	No
76	Midlothian	South	Yes	No	No	No
86	Oak Forest	South	Yes	No	No	No
87	Oak Lawn	South	Yes	No	No	No
89	Olympia Fields	South	Yes	No	No	No
90	Orland Hills	South	Yes	No	No	No
91	Orland Park	South	Yes	No	No	No
93	Palos Heights	South	Yes	No	No	No
94	Palos Hills	South	Yes	No	No	No
95	Palos Park	South	Yes	No	No	No
96	Park Forest	South	Yes	No	No	No
98	Phoenix	South	No	No	No	No
99	Posen	South	No	No	No	No
101	Richton Park	South	Yes	No	No	No
104	Riverdale	South	Yes	No	No	No
106	Robbins	South	No	No	No	No
110	Sauk Village	South	Yes	No	No	No
115	South Chicago Heights	South	Yes	No	No	No
116	South Holland	South	Yes	No	No	No
117	Steger	South	Yes	No	No	No
122	Thornton	South	Yes	No	No	No
123	Tinley Park	South	Yes	No	No	No
124	University Park	South	Yes	No	No	No

DES Map #	Municipality Name	Region of the County	Does the Municipality Have a Yard Waste Program?	Does the Municipality Have a Food Scrap Program?	Does the Municipality Have a Co-Mingled Organics Program? (Food and Yard waste)	Does the Municipality Have a Single Source Food Scrap Program?
131	Worth	South	Yes	Yes	Yes	No
6	Bedford Park	West	No	No	No	No
7	Bellwood	West	Yes	No	No	No
8	Bensenville	West	Yes	No	No	No
9	Berkeley	West	Yes	No	No	No
10	Berwyn	West	Yes	No	No	No
12	Bridgeview	West	Yes	No	No	No
13	Broadview	West	Yes	No	No	No
14	Brookfield	West	Yes	No	No	No
16	Burbank	West	Yes	No	No	No
18	Burr Ridge	West	Yes	No	No	No
N/A	Cicero	West	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A
24	Countryside	West	Yes	No	No	No
34	Elmhurst	West	Yes	No	No	No
35	Elmwood Park	West	Yes	Yes	Yes	No
40	Forest Park	West	Yes	No	No	No
41	Forest View	West	Yes	No	No	No
43	Franklin Park	West	Yes	No	No	No
50	Harwood Heights	West	Yes	No	No	No
53	Hillside	West	Yes	No	No	No
54	Hinsdale	West	Yes	Yes	Yes	No
55	Hodgkins	West	Yes	No	No	No
58	Hometown	West	Yes	No	No	No
60	Indian Head Park	West	Yes	No	No	No
62	Justice	West	Yes	No	No	No
64	La Grange	West	Yes	Yes	Yes	No
65	La Grange Park	West	Yes	No	No	No
N/A	Lyons	West	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A
72	Maywood	West	Yes	No	No	No
73	Mc Cook	West	Yes	No	No	No
74	Melrose Park	West	Yes	No	No	No
80	Norridge	West	Yes	No	No	No

DES Map #	Municipality Name	Region of the County	Does the Municipality Have a Yard Waste Program?	Does the Municipality Have a Food Scrap Program?	Does the Municipality Have a Co-Mingled Organics Program? (Food and Yard waste)	Does the Municipality Have a Single Source Food Scrap Program?
81	North Riverside	West	Yes	No	No	No
84	Northlake	West	Yes	No	No	No
85	Oak Brook	West	Yes	No	No	No
88	Oak Park	West	Yes	Yes	Yes	No
102	River Forest	West	Yes	Yes	Yes	No
103	River Grove	West	Yes	No	No	No
105	Riverside	West	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
109	Rosemont	West	Yes	No	No	No
112	Schiller Park	West	Yes	No	No	No
118	Stickney	West	Yes	No	No	No
119	Stone Park	West	Yes	No	No	No
121	Summit	West	Yes	No	No	No
125	Westchester	West	Yes	No	No	No
126	Western Springs	West	Yes	No	No	No
128	Willow Springs	West	Yes	No	No	No



# APPENDIX F:

## PUBLIC EDUCATION AND OUTREACH RESOURCES

### Illinois Environmental Protection Agency:

- [Land Pollution and Waste Disposal \(illinois.gov\)](https://www.epa.gov/land-pollution)
- [Bureau of Land \(illinois.gov\)](https://www.epa.gov/land-pollution)
- [Materials Management \(illinois.gov\)](https://www.epa.gov/land-pollution)
- [Recycling \(illinois.gov\)](https://www.epa.gov/land-pollution)
- [Electronics Recycling \(illinois.gov\)](https://www.epa.gov/land-pollution)
- [Illinois EPA Beyond the Bin Map \(arcgis.com\)](https://www.epa.gov/land-pollution)
- [Medication Disposal \(illinois.gov\)](https://www.epa.gov/land-pollution)
- [Sharps \(illinois.gov\)](https://www.epa.gov/land-pollution)

Organizations Specializing in Sustainable Materials Management: The following list is not exhaustive and does not endorse any organization; it is meant to be illustrative of groups with additional resources on waste, recycling and composting activities in the State of Illinois:

- [Illinois Sustainable Technology Center \(ISTC\)](#)
- [Illinois Food Scrap & Composting Coalition \(IFSCC\)](#)
- [Illinois Recycling Foundation \(IRF\)](#)
- [Illinois Product Stewardship Council \(ILPSC\)](#)
- [Illinois Counties Solid Waste Management Association \(ILCSWMA\)](#)
- [Illinois Chapter of the Solid Waste Association of North America \(SWANA-IL\)](#)
- [Seven Generation Ahead \(SGA\)](#)
- [SCARCE](#) (School & Community Assistance for Recycling and Composting Education)
- [Wasted Food Action Alliance \(WFAA\)](#)
- [Chicago Sustainability Task Force \(CSTF\)](#)
- Greater Food Chicago Depository

### Cook County Department of Environment and Sustainability:

- [Waste Reduction & Recycling Page](#)
- [Green Guide Library Page](#)
- Solid Waste Division Email Address: [wasteandrecycling@cookcountyil.gov](mailto:wasteandrecycling@cookcountyil.gov)
- Solid Waste Coordinator: Anthony Tindall, [anthony.tindall@cookcountyil.gov](mailto:anthony.tindall@cookcountyil.gov)

# APPENDIX G:

## ACRONYMS

ARPA: The American Rescue Plan Act

BRITE: Businesses Reducing Impact on the Environment Program

BUD: Beneficial Use Determination Facility/Site

CCDD: Clean Construction Demolition Debris Facility/Site

CHaRM Center: The Center for Hard to Recycle Materials

C&DD: Construction & Demolition Debris

CO<sub>2</sub>: Carbon Dioxide

COGs: Council of Governments

COMs: Council of Mayors

CSTF: Chicago Sustainability Task Force

DES: Cook County Department of Environment & Sustainability

EJ: Environmental Justice

EPR: Extended Produce Responsibility

GFP: Good Food Purchasing

GHG: Greenhouse Gas Emissions

HHW: Household Hazardous Waste

ICI: Industrial, Commercial & Institutional

IEPA: The Illinois Environmental Protection Agency

ILFSCC: The Illinois Food Scrap & Composition Coalition

IL MMAC: The Illinois Materials Management Advisory Committee

IL SWANA: The Illinois Chapter of the Solid Waste Association of North America

IMD: Illinois Medical District

IRF: The Illinois Recycling Foundation

ISTC: The Illinois Sustainable Technology Center

LFG: landfill gas

LHW: Liquid Hazardous Waste

MMC: Metropolitan Mayors Caucus

MRF: Material Recovery Facility

MSW: Municipal Solid Waste

PS: Product Stewardship

RCCES: The Recycling, Composting & Circular Economy Solutions Initiative

RCRA: The Resource Conservation and Recovery Act

SWA: Solid Waste Agency

SWANCC: The Solid Waste Agency of Northern Cook County

US EPA: The United States Environmental Protection Agency

USFO: Uncontaminated Soil Fill Operations Facility (USFO)

WCCSWA: The West Cook County Solid Waste Agency

## APPENDIX H:

### WASTE INFRASTRUCTURE IN SUBURBAN COOK COUNTY DETAILS

IEPA Permitted Sites and Facilities					
Number	Facility Name	Owner	City	Region	IEPA Site Type
1	River Bend Prairie	Land and Lakes Company	Dolton	South	Active Landfill
2	31st Street Landfill	Catholic Bishop of Chicago/ Catholic Cemeteries	Westchester	West	Closed Landfill
3	Chicago Heights Refuse Depot	City of Chicago Heights	Chicago Heights	South	Closed Landfill
4	Congress Development	Congress Development Company	Hillside	West	Closed Landfill
5	Cottage Grove Landfill	Beverly Bank Trust	Dolton	South	Closed Landfill
6	Des Plaines Landfill	Catholic Bishop of Chicago/ Catholic Cemeteries	Des Plaines	North	Closed Landfill
7	Fitzmar Landfill Inc.	City of Chicago Heights	Chicago Heights	South	Closed Landfill
8	Prairie Lansing Landfill	Prairie Preservation Properties, Inc.	Lansing	South	Closed Landfill
9	Winnetka Municipal Landfill	Village of Winnetka	Winnetka	North	Closed Landfill
10	American Grading	American Grading Company	McCook	West	Compost
11	Harlem Ave Solid Waste Mgmt	MWRD Chicago	Forest View	West	Compost
12	Patriot Acres	Catholic Bishop of Chicago/ Catholic Cemeteries	Des Plaines	North	Compost
13	Hazel Crest Composting	Village of Hazel Crest	Hazel Crest	South	Compost
14	Advanced Disposal Services Transfer Station	Advanced Disposal Services Solid Waste Midwest LLC	Melrose Park	West	Transfer Station (MSW)
15	Bluff City Transfer Station	Waste Management of Illinois, Inc.	Elgin	North	Transfer Station (MSW)
16	Chicago Heights Transfer Facility	Republic Services	Chicago Heights	South	Transfer Station (MSW)
17	Cottage Grove Street Transfer	GMI Services LLC	Ford Heights	South	Transfer Station (MSW)

IEPA Permitted Sites and Facilities					
Number	Facility Name	Owner	City	Region	IEPA Site Type
18	Evanston Transfer Station	Waste Management of Illinois, Inc.	Evanston	North	Transfer Station (MSW)
19	Glenview Transfer Station	Solid Waste Agency of Northern Cook County	Glenview	North	Transfer Station (MSW)
20	Greenwood Transfer Facility	Lakeshore Recycling Systems, LLC	Maywood	West	Transfer Station (MSW)
21	Groen Waste Services Crestwood Transfer Station	Republic Services	Crestwood	South	Transfer Station (MSW)
22	Groot Inc.	Groot Inc.	McCook	West	Transfer Station (MSW)
23	Homewood Disposal Service Inc.	Homewood Disposal Service Inc.	East Hazel Crest	South	Transfer Station (MSW)
24	Liberty McCook Transfer Station	Republic Services	McCook	West	Transfer Station (MSW)
25	Northbrook Transfer Station	Lakeshore Recycling Systems, LLC	Northbrook	North	Transfer Station (MSW)
26	Northlake Transfer Station	Republic Services	Northlake	West	Transfer Station (MSW)
27	Prairie Lakes Recycling & Transfer	Waste Management of Illinois, Inc.	Matteson	South	Transfer Station (MSW)
28	Republic Services of Mount Prospect	Republic Services	Mount Prospect	North	Transfer Station (MSW)
29	River Bend Prairie Transfer Station	Lakeshore Recycling Systems, LLC	Dolton	South	Transfer Station (MSW)
30	Rolling Meadows Transfer Station	City of Rolling Meadows	Rolling Meadows	North	Transfer Station (MSW)
31	Star Disposal Services	Star Investments, LLC	Park Forest	South	Transfer Station (MSW)
32	Tri State Disposal Inc	Tri State Disposal, Inc.	Riverdale	South	Transfer Station (MSW)
33	Waste Management Metro Trans	Waste Management of Illinois, Inc.	Cicero	West	Transfer Station (MSW)
34	Waste Management NW Wheeling	Waste Management of Illinois, Inc.	Wheeling	North	Transfer Station (MSW)
35	Waste Management of Illinois	Waste Management of Illinois, Inc.	Alsip	South	Transfer Station (MSW)
36	West Cook Transfer Station	Heartland Recycling, LLC	Forest View	West	Transfer Station (MSW)
37	American Waste Industries, Inc.	American Waste Industries, Inc.	Maywood	West	Transfer Station (Special Waste)

IEPA Permitted Sites and Facilities					
Number	Facility Name	Owner	City	Region	IEPA Site Type
38	At Your Door Col- lection Facility	Waste Management of Illinois, Inc.	Stickney	West	Transfer Station (Special Waste)
39	Des Plaines Trans- fer Station	City of Des Plaines	Des Plaines	North	Transfer Station (Special Waste)
40	Forest Preserve of Cook County	Forest Preserve of Cook County	Maywood	West	Transfer Station (Special Waste)
41	Markham Transfer and Recycling	Markham Transfer and Recycling	Markham	South	Transfer Station (Special Waste)
42	Water Integrated Treatment Systems LLC	Water Integrated Treat- ment Systems LLC	Dolton	South	Transfer Station (Special Waste)
43	Water Integrated Treatment Systems LLC	Water Integrated Treat- ment Systems LLC	Dolton	South	Transfer Station (Special Waste)
44	Allied Waste Trans- portation	Republic Services	Chicago Heights	South	Transfer Station (Land- scape Waste)
45	Best Lawns	Best Lawns, Inc.	Streamwood	North	Transfer Station (Land- scape Waste)
46	Cloverleaf Farms Transfer	Midwest Compost, LLC	Elgin	North	Transfer Station (Land- scape Waste)
47	Des Plaines Materi- al and Supply	Des Plaines Material and Supply Co. LLC	Des Plaines	North	Transfer Station (Land- scape Waste)
48	Glencoe Water Tower Site	Village of Glencoe	Glencoe	North	Transfer Station (Land- scape Waste)
49	Glenview Material and Supply	Glenview Material and Supply, Inc.	Glenview	North	Transfer Station (Land- scape Waste)
50	Greenwood Devel- opment	Lakeshore Recycling Sys- tems, LLC	Maywood	West	Transfer Station (Land- scape Waste)
51	James Park Land- scape Waste	City of Evanston	Evanston	North	Transfer Station (Land- scape Waste)
52	JKS Ventures, Inc.	JKS Ventures, Inc.	Melrose Park	West	Transfer Station (Land- scape Waste)
53	Markham Land- scape Transfer	2300 West 167th LLC	Markham	South	Transfer Station (Land- scape Waste)
54	Mr. K's Garden Center	Mr. K's Garden and Material Center	Park Ridge	North	Transfer Station (Land- scape Waste)
55	Mulch Center of Evanston	Contour Landscape, Inc	Evanston	North	Transfer Station (Land- scape Waste)
56	Oak Forest Public Works	City of Oak Forest	Oak Forest	South	Transfer Station (Land- scape Waste)
57	Red's Garden Cen- ter, Inc.	T&C Sisters, LLC	Northbrook	North	Transfer Station (Land- scape Waste)



IEPA Permitted Sites and Facilities					
Number	Facility Name	Owner	City	Region	IEPA Site Type
58	Star Disposal Land-scape TS	Star Investments, LLC	Park Forest	South	Transfer Station (Land-scape Waste)
59	Wilmette Village Yard	Village of Wilmette	Wilmette	North	Transfer Station (Land-scape Waste)
60	Winnetka Municipal	Village of Winnetka	Winnetka	North	Transfer Station (Land-scape Waste)
61	Wright Concrete Recycling	Wright Concrete Recycling Inc.	Markham	South	Transfer Station (Land-scape Waste)
62	Beverly Material LLC	Beverly Material LLC	Hoffman Estates	North	USFO
63	Elgin Clean Soils Fill Site	Rana Real Estate, LLC	Elgin	North	USFO
64	America Material Sales Inc.	590 Healy Rd LLC	East Dundee	North	CCDD
65	Heidelberg Materials Federal Quarry	Heidelberg Materials North America	McCook	West	CCDD
66	Heidelberg Materials Thornton Quarry	Heidelberg Materials North America	Thornton	South	CCDD
67	Richton Park CCDD	Sexton Properties R.P. LLC	Richton Park	South	CCDD
68	Ridge Road CCDD	Glenwood 157, LLC	Thornton	South	CCDD
69	Vulcan Construction Materials McCook Quarry	Vulcan Lands, Inc.	McCook	West	CCDD
70	American Waste Industries, Inc.	American Waste Industries, Inc.	Maywood	West	GCDD
71	City Wide Disposal	Riverview Recycling Inc.	Cicero	West	GCDD
72	Cook County Waste & Recycling of Chicago and Suburbs Inc.	Cook County Waste & Recycling of Chicago and Suburbs Inc.	Blue Island	South	GCDD
73	Illinois Mining Corp Crestwood Yard 28	Illinois Mining Corporation	Crestwood	South	GCDD
74	Harvey Processing (156th Commercial Ave LLC)	LB Metals LLC	Harvey	South	GCDD
75	Harvey Transfer Station	Armor Recycling Inc.	Harvey	South	GCDD
76	JKS Ventures, Inc.	JKS Ventures, Inc.	Melrose Park	West	GCDD
77	K & R Service	Joe Henninger	Crestwood	South	GCDD

## IEPA Permitted Sites and Facilities

Number	Facility Name	Owner	City	Region	IEPA Site Type
78	Maddend Group Inc C&D Recycling Facility	Maddend Group, Inc.	Bedford Park	West	GCDD
79	Markham Transfer and Recycling	Markham Transfer and Recycling	Markham	South	GCDD
80	MBL Recycling Inc.	630 Hicks LLC	Palatine	North	GCDD
81	Midway Building Supply, LLC	Midway Building Supply, LLC	South Holland	South	GCDD
82	Riverdale Materials	Brackenbox, Inc.	Riverdale	South	GCDD
83	Riverdale Recycling Facility	Frank M. Ward, Sr. Revocable Trust c/o Marquette National Bank	Riverdale	South	GCDD
84	Rte 83 C&D Recycling Svcs	Simon Bradley	Lemont	South	GCDD
85	TAZ Construction and Demolition Recycling LLC	TAZ Construction and Demolition Recycling LLC	McCook	West	GCDD
86	Wright Concrete Recycling Inc.	Wright Concrete Recycling Inc.	Markham	South	GCDD
87	Beverly Materials (Bartlett)	Beverly Materials LLC	Bartlett	North	BUD
88	Beverly Materials (East Dundee)	Beverly Materials LLC	East Dundee	North	BUD
89	Southwind RAS Bartlett	Southwind RAS, LLC	Bartlett	North	BUD
90	Southwind RAS McCook	Southwind RAS, LLC	McCook	West	BUD
91	Southwind RAS Thornton	Southwind RAS, LLC	Thornton	South	BUD
92	Vulcan Construction Materials McCook Quarry	Vulcan Lands, Inc.	McCook	West	BUD

## Cook County Permitted Sites and Facilities

Number	Facility Name	City	Region	Type
1	Bluff City Metal Recycling	Elgin	North	Recycler Class I
2	DC Foam Recycling	Melrose Park	West	Recycler Class I
3	E-Z Recycling	Tinley Park	South	Recycler Class I
4	Marr Recyclers	Bridgeview	West	Recycler Class I
5	Martinez Scrap Corp.	Melrose Park	West	Recycler Class I

Cook County Permitted Sites and Facilities				
Number	Facility Name	City	Region	Type
6	Midland Metal Resources	Lyons	West	Recycler Class I
7	Midwest Compost LLC	Elgin	North	Recycler Class I
8	Mr. K's Garden Center	Park Ridge	North	Recycler Class I
9	Red's Garden Center, Inc.	Northbrook	North	Recycler Class I
10	Regal Johnson Co.	Bedford Park	West	Recycler Class I
11	Universal Metal Uno Recycling	Dolton	South	Recycler Class I
12	All American Recycling, LLC	Ford Heights	South	Recycler Class II - 500 - 1000 tons/day
13	All Metal Recycling, LLC	Franklin Park	West	Recycler Class II - < 500 tons/day
14	Allied Waste Services of Chicago Heights	Chicago Heights	South	Recycler Class II - < 500 tons/day
15	Altar Landscape Supply LLC	McCook	West	Recycler Class II - < 500 tons/day
16	American Greentek Inc.,	South Chicago Heights	South	Recycler Class II - < 500 tons/day
17	American Scrap Metal	Alsip	South	Recycler Class II - < 500 tons/day
18	AZ Plastics, Inc	Chicago Heights	South	Recycler Class II - < 500 tons/day
19	Big Daddy Scrap, Inc.	Chicago Heights	South	Recycler Class II - < 500 tons/day
20	Big Daddy Scrap, Inc.	Chicago Heights	South	Recycler Class II - < 500 tons/day
21	BL Duke, Inc.	Forest View	West	Recycler Class II - < 500 tons/day
22	C&A Metals Inc	Bridgeview	West	Recycler Class II - < 500 tons/day
23	Chicago Area MRF	Hodgkins	West	Recycler Class II - 500 - 1000 tons/day
24	Chicago Heights Processing	Chicago Heights	South	Recycler Class II - < 500 tons/day
25	Cicero Iron Metal & Paper Inc	Cicero	West	Recycler Class II - < 500 tons/day
26	City Reclamation, Inc.	Melrose Park	West	Recycler Class II - < 500 tons/day
27	Continental Paper Grading	Hodgkins	West	Recycler Class II - < 500 tons/day
28	Cozzi Recycling	Bellwood	West	Recycler Class II - < 500 tons/day
29	Cozzi Recycling	Melrose Park	West	Recycler Class II - < 500 tons/day

Cook County Permitted Sites and Facilities				
Number	Facility Name	City	Region	Type
30	Diversified Recycling	East Hazel Crest	South	Recycler Class II - 500 - 1000 tons/day
31	Down to Earth Landscaping Inc	Barrington	North	Recycler Class II - < 500 tons/day
32	Dulin Metals Company	Des Plaines	North	Recycler Class II - < 500 tons/day
33	DuPage Paper Stock, Inc.	Streamwood	North	Recycler Class II - < 500 tons/day
34	Elgin Recycling	Arlington Heights	North	Recycler Class II - < 500 tons/day
35	Evanston Organics	Evanston	North	Recycler Class II - < 500 tons/day
36	G & M Metal Inc	Elk Grove Village	North	Recycler Class II - < 500 tons/day
37	Gaby Iron and Metal Co	Chicago Heights	South	Recycler Class II - < 500 tons/day
38	Globalink Techrecycler Ltd.	South Chicago Heights	South	Recycler Class II - < 500 tons/day
39	Got Scrap	Chicago Heights	South	Recycler Class II - < 500 tons/day
40	Greenwood Transfer, LLC	Maywood	West	Recycler Class II - < 500 tons/day
41	K & S Tire Recycling Inc.	Chicago Heights	South	Recycler Class II - < 500 tons/day
42	Lemont Scrap Processing, Ltd.	Lemont	South	Recycler Class II - < 500 tons/day
43	Loop Paper Recycling, Inc.	Northlake	West	Recycler Class II - < 500 tons/day
44	Luckman Recycling	Alsip	South	Recycler Class II - < 500 tons/day
45	Metro Recycling	Blue Island	South	Recycler Class II - 500 - 1000 tons/day
46	Metropolitan Fiber	Hodgkins	West	Recycler Class II - < 500 tons/day
47	Midwest Industrial Metals, Corp	Northlake	West	Recycler Class II - < 500 tons/day
48	Midwest Material Production Yard	Bartlett	North	Recycler Class II - < 500 tons/day
49	Mulch Depot	East Dundee	North	Recycler Class II - < 500 tons/day
50	Northbrook Material Recovery Facility	Northbrook	North	Recycler Class II - < 500 tons/day
51	Northbrook Materials	Northbrook	North	Recycler Class II - < 500 tons/day

Cook County Permitted Sites and Facilities				
Number	Facility Name	City	Region	Type
52	Northstar Trading Company	Wheeling	North	Recycler Class II - < 500 tons/day
53	Omaha Track, Inc.	Chicago Heights	South	Recycler Class II - < 500 tons/day
54	Pro Metal Recycling	Harvey	South	Recycler Class II - < 500 tons/day
55	Pro Wheels	Cicero	West	Recycler Class II - < 500 tons/day
56	Quality Metals Corporation	Harvey	South	Recycler Class II - < 500 tons/day
57	Quincy Recycle	Alsip	South	Recycler Class II - < 500 tons/day
58	R & J Trucking and Recycling	Bedford Park	West	Recycler Class II - < 500 tons/day
59	R&R Landscape Supply	Worth	South	Recycler Class II - < 500 tons/day
60	Real Alloy Recycling, Inc.	Chicago Heights	South	Recycler Class II - < 500 tons/day
61	Recovered Asset Management, Inc.	Harvey	South	Recycler Class II - < 500 tons/day
62	Redline Metals, Inc.	Elgin	North	Recycler Class II - < 500 tons/day
63	Resource Management Recycle	Chicago Ridge	South	Recycler Class II - 500 - 1000 tons/day
64	Schaumburg Recycling Company	Schaumburg	North	Recycler Class II - < 500 tons/day
65	Scrap Metal Services	Blue Island	South	Recycler Class II - < 500 tons/day
66	Shred-It	Schiller Park	West	Recycler Class II - < 500 tons/day
67	Sims Precious Metals	Franklin Park	West	Recycler Class II - < 500 tons/day
68	Smitty's Tree Service, Inc.	Alsip	South	Recycler Class II - < 500 tons/day
69	Sterling Site Access Solutions, LLC	Phoenix	South	Recycler Class II - < 500 tons/day
70	Sure Green Landscape	Bartlett	North	Recycler Class II - < 500 tons/day
71	United Scrap Metal, Inc.	Cicero	West	Recycler Class II - > 1000 tons/day
72	Universal Scrap Metals Inc.	Riverdale	South	Recycler Class II - < 500 tons/day
73	West Melrose Metal Recyclers	Melrose Park	West	Recycler Class II - < 500 tons/day

Cook County Permitted Sites and Facilities				
Number	Facility Name	City	Region	Type
74	Wood Recyclers	Lansing	South	Recycler Class II - < 500 tons/day
75	Patriot Acres LLC	Des Plaines	North	Recycler Class III
76	10 W 147th Inc	Harvey	South	Recycler Class IV-A
77	AGF Transport	Robbins	South	Recycler Class IV-A
78	All City Harvey Used Auto Parts	Harvey	South	Recycler Class IV-A
79	Aztec Trucking Inc	Calumet City	South	Recycler Class IV-A
80	Big Top Auto	Ford Heights	South	Recycler Class IV-A
81	Bluff City Metal Recycling	Elgin	North	Recycler Class IV-A
82	Brookfield Iron and Metal	Chicago Heights	South	Recycler Class IV-A
83	Circus Auto Parts Inc	Riverdale	South	Recycler Class IV-A
84	City Auto Parts and Glass	Calumet City	South	Recycler Class IV-A
85	Four Star Auto Parts Inc.	Blue Island	South	Recycler Class IV-A
86	Solares Scrap & Truck Export	Chicago Heights	South	Recycler Class IV-A
87	Solares Scrap & Truck Export	Chicago Heights	South	Recycler Class IV-A
88	T & C Towing, Inc	Dolton	South	Recycler Class IV-A
89	Wilkins Rebuilders Supply, Inc.	Chicago Heights	South	Recycler Class IV-A
90	Witvoet Auto Parts	Lansing	South	Recycler Class IV-A
91	A & A Midwest	Blue Island	South	Recycler Class IV-B
92	ABC Auto Parts & Sales Inc.	Riverdale	South	Recycler Class IV-B
93	BEDFORD RECYCLING	Bedford Park	West	Recycler Class IV-B
94	Blue Island Auto Parts, INC. DBA Broadway Auto Wreckers, Ltd	Blue Island	South	Recycler Class IV-B
95	Brothers Metal Recycling	Harvey	South	Recycler Class IV-B
96	Calumet City Auto Wreckers	Calumet City	South	Recycler Class IV-B
97	Cash For Junk Cars, LLC	Chicago Heights	South	Recycler Class IV-B
98	Fernandez Four Inc. DBA W&W Auto Parts	Blue Island	South	Recycler Class IV-B
99	LKQ Midwes LLC.	Blue Island	South	Recycler Class IV-B
100	LKQ Pick Your Part Midwest	Blue Island	South	Recycler Class IV-B
101	LKQ Pick Your Part Midwest	Chicago Heights	South	Recycler Class IV-B
102	Lynwood Recycling	Lynwood	South	Recycler Class IV-B



Cook County Permitted Sites and Facilities				
Number	Facility Name	City	Region	Type
103	New Cats Auto Parts	Blue Island	South	Recycler Class IV-B
104	North Shore Recycling	Evanston	North	Recycler Class IV-B
105	Ohare Kars Inc.	Elgin	North	Recycler Class IV-B
106	Poole's Pull a Part	Robbins	South	Recycler Class IV-B
107	S & M SCRAP METAL	Sauk Village	South	Recycler Class IV-B
108	Summit Pick-n-Pull Auto Dismantlers, Store #30	Summit	West	Recycler Class IV-B
109	TonCar Used Auto Parts	Melrose Park	West	Recycler Class IV-B
110	Universal Towing	Harvey	South	Recycler Class IV-B
111	156th Commercial Avenue LLC	Harvey	South	Recycler Class V
112	Allied Asphalt Paving Company	Franklin Park	West	Recycler Class V
113	America Material Sales, Inc.	East Dundee	North	Recycler Class V
114	America Material Sales, Inc.	Glenview	North	Recycler Class V
115	America Material Sales, Inc.	Schaumburg	North	Recycler Class V
116	American Waste Industries, Inc.	Maywood	West	Recycler Class V
117	Beverly Materials Cook County BUD	East Dundee	North	Recycler Class V
118	Beverly Materials LLC	Bartlett	North	Recycler Class V
119	Bluff City Industrial Park	Bartlett	North	Recycler Class V
120	Bridges Excavating Inc.	Markham	South	Recycler Class V
121	Builders Asphalt	Elk Grove Village	North	Recycler Class V
122	Builders Asphalt	Skokie	North	Recycler Class V
123	City Wide Disposal	Cicero	West	Recycler Class V
124	Consolidated Materials, Inc.	Melrose Park	West	Recycler Class V
125	Cook County Waste & Recycling	Blue Island	South	Recycler Class V
126	Des Plaines Material and Supply	Des Plaines	North	Recycler Class V
127	Earth Inc	Bartlett	North	Recycler Class V
128	Gifford Recycle	Elgin	North	Recycler Class V
129	Glenview Material and Supply	Glenview	North	Recycler Class V
130	Heartland Recycling LLC	Forest View	West	Recycler Class V
131	Illiana Aggregates	Chicago Heights	South	Recycler Class V

Cook County Permitted Sites and Facilities				
Number	Facility Name	City	Region	Type
132	Iwema Excavating	Cicero	West	Recycler Class V
133	JKS Ventures, Inc.	Melrose Park	West	Recycler Class V
134	K & R Service	Crestwood	South	Recycler Class V
135	K-Five Hodgkins LLC	Hodgkins	West	Recycler Class V
136	Lampignano and Son Construction Co.	Mount Prospect	North	Recycler Class V
137	Lenny Hoffman Excavating, Inc.	Wilmette	North	Recycler Class V
138	Lorig Construction Company	Des Plaines	North	Recycler Class V
139	Maddend Group, Inc C&D Recycling Facility	Bedford Park	West	Recycler Class V
140	Markham Asphalt Company	Markham	South	Recycler Class V
141	Markham Transfer and Recycling	Markham	South	Recycler Class V
142	Martam Construction	Elgin	North	Recycler Class V
143	MBL Recycling, Inc.	Palatine	North	Recycler Class V
144	Midway Building Supply, LLC	South Holland	South	Recycler Class V
145	Reliable Materials Lyons, LLC	Lyons	West	Recycler Class V
146	Riverdale Materials	Riverdale	South	Recycler Class V
147	Riverdale Recycling Facility	Riverdale	South	Recycler Class V
148	Rossi Contractors, Inc.	Northlake	West	Recycler Class V
149	Route 83 Materials	Lemont	South	Recycler Class V
150	Sandeno East	Hazel Crest	South	Recycler Class V
151	Sexton Properties R.P., LLC	Richton Park	South	Recycler Class V
152	Southwind RAS - McCook Recycling Center	McCook	West	Recycler Class V
153	Southwind RAS - Thornton Recycling Center	Thornton	South	Recycler Class V
154	TAZ Construction and Demolition Recycling	McCook	West	Recycler Class V
155	Tough Cut Concrete Services, Inc.	Forest View	West	Recycler Class V
156	V & R Materials	Calumet City	South	Recycler Class V
157	Vulcan Construction Materials, LLC - Elk Grove Recycle Facility	Elk Grove Village	North	Recycler Class V

## Cook County Permitted Sites and Facilities

Number	Facility Name	City	Region	Type
158	Vulcan Construction Materials, LLC - McCook Quarry	McCook	West	Recycler Class V
159	Wigboldy Materials, Inc.	Alsip	South	Recycler Class V
160	Wright Concrete Recycling	Markham	South	Recycler Class V

## Suburban Cook County Material Recovery Facilities (MRFs)

Number	Facility Name	City	Region
1	Chicago Area MRF (Waste Management)	Hodgkins	West
2	Diversified Recycling	East Hazel Crest	South
3	DuPage Paper Stock, Inc.	Streamwood	North
4	Groot Industries MRF	Elk Grove Village	North
5	Heartland Recycling Center (LRS)	Forest View	West
6	Loop Paper Recycling	Northlake	West
7	Loop Paper Recycling	Riverdale	South
8	Northbrook Material Recovery Facility (LRS)	Northbrook	North
9	Quincy Recycling	Alsip	South
10	Republic Services	Melrose Park	West
11	Resource Management	Chicago Ridge	South
12	The Paper Tigers	Hodgkins	West

# APPENDIX I:

## END NOTES

<sup>i</sup>Illinois EPA Household Hazardous Waste fact sheet:

<https://epa.illinois.gov/content/dam/soi/en/web/epa/topics/waste-management/waste-disposal/household-hazardous-waste/documents/HHW%20Fact%20Sheet.pdf>. Accessed 1/24/24.

<sup>ii</sup>Cook County Solid Waste Management Plan 2018 Update:

<https://www.cookcountyil.gov/sites/g/files/ymwepo161/files/service/solid-waste-management-plan-2018-update-final.pdf>. Accessed 1/24/24.

<sup>iii</sup>U.S. EPA The U.S. Recycling System:

<https://www.epa.gov/circulareconomy/us-recycling-system>. Accessed 1/24/24.

<sup>iv</sup>Illinois General Assembly—Solid Waste Planning and Recycling Act:

<https://www.ilga.gov/legislation/ilcs/ilcs3.asp?ActID=1587&ChapterID=36>. Accessed 1/24/24.

<sup>v</sup>Illinois Commodity/ Waste Generation & Characterization Update:

<https://illinoisrecycles.org/wp-content/uploads/2014/10/2015-Waste-Characterization-Update-FINAL.pdf>. Accessed 1/24/24.

<sup>vi</sup>Active Compost Facilities in Illinois:

<https://epa.illinois.gov/content/dam/soi/en/web/epa/documents/waste-management/composting/Active-Compost-List.pdf>. Accessed 1/24/24.

<sup>vii</sup>Illinois Materials Management Advisory Committee Report:

<https://epa.illinois.gov/content/dam/soi/en/web/epa/topics/waste-management/materials-management/documents/mmac-report-approved-7-1.pdf>. Accessed 1/24/24.

<sup>viii</sup>U.S. EPA—Food: Material-Specific Data:

<https://www.epa.gov/facts-and-figures-about-materials-waste-and-recycling/food-material-specific-data>. Accessed 1/24/24.

<sup>ix</sup>U.S. EPA—Global Methane Initiative, Importance of Methane:

<https://www.epa.gov/gmi/importance-methane>. Accessed 1/24/24.

<sup>x</sup>Illinois EPA—Materials Management, Food Waste:

<https://epa.illinois.gov/topics/waste-management/materials-management/food-waste.html>. Accessed 1/24/24.

<sup>xi</sup>U.S. EPA WARM Tool:

<https://www.epa.gov/warm>. Accessed 1/24/24.

<sup>xii</sup>U.S. EPA WARM Tool:

<https://www.epa.gov/warm>. Accessed 1/24/24

<sup>xiii</sup>Illinois General Assembly 415 ILCS 5/2.22—Landscape Waste:

<https://www.ilga.gov/legislation/ilcs/fulltext.asp?DocName=041500050K22.22>. Accessed 1/24/24.

<sup>xiv</sup>Illinois Materials Management Advisory Committee Report:

<https://epa.illinois.gov/content/dam/soi/en/web/epa/topics/waste-management/materials-management/documents/mmac-report-approved-7-1.pdf>. Accessed 1/24/24.

<sup>xv</sup>ReFED Food Waste Monitor, Food Waste Tons Generated Across Illinois in 2022:

[https://insights-engine.refed.org/food-waste-monitor?break\\_by=sector&indicator=tons-waste&state=IL&view=detail&year=2022](https://insights-engine.refed.org/food-waste-monitor?break_by=sector&indicator=tons-waste&state=IL&view=detail&year=2022). Accessed 1/24/24.

<sup>xvi</sup>Feeding America—Food Insecurity in Cook County:

<https://map.feedingamerica.org/county/2021/overall/illinois/county/cook>. Accessed 1/24/24.

<sup>xvii</sup>Greater Chicago Food Depository:

<https://www.chicagosfoodbank.org/>. Accessed 1/24/24.

- <sup>xviii</sup>Illinois EPA—Household Hazardous Wastes:  
<https://epa.illinois.gov/topics/waste-management/waste-disposal/household-hazardous-waste.html>. Accessed 1/22/24.
- <sup>xix</sup>US EPA—Household Hazardous Waste:  
<https://www.epa.gov/hw/household-hazardous-waste-hhw>. Accessed 1/22/24.
- <sup>xx</sup>IEPA—Acceptable Wastes at One-Day Collections:  
<https://epa.illinois.gov/topics/waste-management/waste-disposal/household-hazardous-waste/acceptable-wastes.html>. Accessed 1/22/24.
- <sup>xxiii</sup>U.S. EPA—Cleaning Up Electronic Waste:  
<https://www.epa.gov/international-cooperation/cleaning-electronic-waste-e-waste>. Accessed 1/24/24.
- <sup>xxiv</sup>Illinois General Assembly- Environmental Safety, Consumer Electronics Recycling Act:  
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