How is My City or Town Doing?
Recycling, Composting, and Waste Diversion in Rhode Island

At RIRRC, we use data to help municipalities measure their program's success in a few different ways. On the following page you will find a chart listing all of RI's 39 municipalities. Municipalities are grouped with others that are similar in program size and type. This allows for a more fair comparison of how your city or town is doing, compared to others like it.

The three categories are as follows:

1. Municipalities serving 10,000 households or more, through a curbside collection program.
2. Municipalities serving less than 10,000 households, through a curbside collection program.
3. Municipalities serving households through a transfer station, with limited or no curbside collection, and the option for residents to hire a private trash hauler.

The chart shows four different measures of success:

1. Tons of Trash Sent to Landfill per Household Served in Program: This figure expresses how much trash is generated and landfilled, on average, by each household the municipality serves. The households served figure is notoriously difficult to calculate in many of the communities that utilize a transfer station.

2. MRF Recycling Rate: This is our simplest measure of recycling, which divides the total tons of common recyclables (materials placed in your bins at home) sent to RIRRC's Materials Recycling Facility (MRF) by the total of these tons plus the tons of trash delivered to RIRRC for landfilling. RIRRC automatically collects both of these numbers when your city or town's trucks cross our scales. By law, all municipal recycling and trash must be delivered to RIRRC.

   Simple example: If a city brought 30 tons of recycling and 70 tons of trash, then 30 / (30+70) = .3 or 30%

3. Mandatory Recycling Rate: This measure is similar to the one above, but also includes other materials on the Rhode Island Department of Environmental Management's (RI DEM) Mandatory Recyclables List. In addition to bin recycling, this rate includes leaf and yard debris composted at RIRRC or elsewhere, as well as clothing and other metals reused or recycled elsewhere. We divide these tons by their total plus the total tons of trash delivered to RIRRC for landfilling.

4. Rate of Overall Material Diversion from Landfill: This measure expands on the previous one even more, by adding in all other materials that are diverted from the landfill for reuse or recycling. It includes special wastes such as tires, mattresses, clean wood, clothing and shoes, books, motor oil and filters, cooking oil, etc., not on the RI DEM's list. We divide these tons by their total plus the total tons of trash delivered to RIRRC for landfilling.

The State of RI has set a two-part goal for its 39 municipalities:

§ 23-18.9-1: Beginning July 1, 2012 every city or town that enters into a contract with the Rhode Island resource recovery corporation to dispose of solid waste shall be required to recycle a minimum of thirty-five percent (35%)* of its solid waste and to divert a minimum of fifty percent (50%) of its solid waste.

*RI Municipalities commonly measure this against their Mandatory Recycling Rate.

How Can I Help My City Improve its Recycling and Diversion?

RIRRC provides many free services to RI residents, businesses, schools, and community groups. You can also visit our website, www.rirrc.org, and use these keywords (including the /) after our URL for more information:

Find Your DPW	/contacts	Event Recycling	/events
What Goes Where?	/AtoZ	Group Tours	/tours
Hazardous Waste	/ecodepot	Presentations	/talks
Compost Bins	/compost	Field Trips	/fieldtrips
Give & Get Stuff	/free	MaxMan Visits	/visits
Waste Assessments	/assess	Curriculum	/teachers

2014 MUNICIPAL WASTE MANAGEMENT DATA
BY COLLECTION PROGRAM SIZE AND TYPE

	Tons of Trash Sent to Landfill per Household Served in Program	MRF Recycling Rate	Mandatory Recycling Rate	Rate of Overall Material Diversion from Landfill
≥ 10K housholds served curbside				
Coventry	0.99	23.6%	32.2%	32.8%
Cranston	0.78	24.2%	37.7%	38.2%
Cumberland	0.91	25.8%	30.1%	30.5%
East Providence	0.82	26.1%	48.1%	48.4%
Johnston	1.44	12.3%	18.3%	20.1%
Newport	0.70	25.7%	38.3%	38.8%
North Providence	0.78	23.4%	33.1%	33.3%
Pawtucket	0.53	29.3%	36.1%	36.5%
Providence	0.99	9.5%	13.9%	14.5%
Warwick	0.86	28.8%	51.7%	51.9%
West Warwick	0.91	20.2%	31.0%	31.4%
Woonsocket	0.85	25.2%	33.1%	34.7%
≥ 10K Curb. AVG.	**0.88**	**22.9%**	**33.6%**	**34.3%**
< 10K housholds served curbside				
Barrington	0.93	30.5%	52.0%	52.6%
Bristol	1.30	19.0%	46.9%	47.4%
Burrillville	0.70	31.5%	36.2%	38.3%
Central Falls	0.82	25.4%	27.0%	27.6%
East Greenwich	0.94	29.6%	38.4%	38.6%
Foster	1.02	23.8%	24.0%	24.6%
Lincoln	1.15	22.7%	29.3%	30.0%
Middletown	0.56	40.7%	52.6%	52.9%
North Smithfield	0.80	28.6%	34.8%	35.9%
Scituate	0.83	25.3%	27.6%	28.4%
Smithfield	0.75	31.9%	42.3%	43.9%
Tiverton	0.70	30.9%	34.2%	35.0%
Warren	0.93	21.4%	28.7%	29.3%
< 10K Curb. AVG.	**0.88**	**27.8%**	**36.5%**	**37.3%**
Transfer station / independent curbside collections				
Charlestown	0.39	39.2%	43.4%	45.0%
Exeter	0.78	28.1%	32.3%	33.1%
Glocester	0.74	33.9%	36.9%	39.2%
Jamestown	2.08	33.1%	36.4%	36.9%
Little Compton	0.71	24.2%	27.7%	29.6%
Narragansett**	0.39	33.3%	39.3%	40.4%
New Shoreham	*	18.0%	23.6%	24.6%
North Kingstown	1.31	35.1%	37.5%	38.8%
Portsmouth	1.01	35.2%	43.2%	47.6%
Richmond	*	41.6%	41.6%	42.6%
South Kingstown**	0.41	37.0%	44.3%	46.2%
West Greenwich	1.13	26.5%	31.5%	33.2%
Westerly/Hopkinton	1.06	28.5%	37.7%	39.4%
T-Station/Ind. AVG.	**0.91**	**31.8%**	**36.6%**	**38.2%**
STATE AVERAGE	**0.92**	**23.8%**	**34.8%**	**35.6%**

[e] Number of households served is rough estimate
* Data on number of households served unavailable
** SK & Narragansett agree upon a split of shared figures from Rose Hill Transfer Station

	Total Tons of Trash Landfilled / Reported Number of Households Served
	Total Tons of Bin Recyclables / Above Numerator + Trash Tons
	Total Tons of Bin Recyclables + Leaf & Yard + Clothing + Metals / Above Numerator + Trash Tons
	Total Tons of All Materials Kept Out of Landfill / Above Numerator + Trash Tons