

BENZIE COUNTY SOLID WASTE

The Benzie County Solid Waste Advisory Committee (SWAC) is comprised of Chairman - Dale Flaherty, Vice-Chairman - Todd Warren, Secretary - Jane Schultz, Dawn Campeau, Mary Pitcher, Ronn Beyette, Bruce Ogilvie, & County Commissioner, Roland Halliday. This committee meets quarterly to address the goals and objectives established in the Benzie County Solid Waste Plan and to oversee the countywide 24/7 Residential Recycling Program. Continuous correspondence and communication is maintained between the SWAC and the recycling coordinator in addition to the regular meetings. The SWAC is kept informed of all activities of the coordinator and of the program. Recommendations of operation are made by the SWAC to the Benzie County Board of Commissioners for final approval and action.

The 24/7 Residential Recycling Program operates under the funding mechanism of PA 069 of 2005, with all documentation and procedure requirements in place at the County level.

Interlocal Agreements with all municipalities are in place to allow the County to impose and collect a surcharge on households to cover costs of waste reduction programs and collections of material. All funds collected are administered by Benzie County in accordance with State Statute and the Benzie County Solid Waste Plan. Revenues collected are held with the County Treasurer and used solely for recycling and collections, such as household hazardous waste materials, electronics, composting, etc. Municipalities are encouraged to have representation on the Solid Waste Advisory Committee.

Reciprocal Agreements between Benzie County and Manistee & Leelanau Counties are in place for acceptance and disposal of solid waste. This resolution states that Benzie County will establish, implement and maintain a program for diverting a portion of its waste from landfill facilities. Benzie County is proud to announce that it has achieved a 25% waste diversion rate with last year coming in at 26%.

Memorandum of Understanding Agreements are in place to outline the relationship and responsibilities between the County and the recycling site hosts.

Process for Dispute process is in place with all local units of government so treasurers know the procedures to follow in the case of dispute of the recycling surcharge on a household.

The Recycling coordinator's duties consist of maintaining drop off sites, including signage, monitoring, enforcement and effective management of revenues & expenditures. All contracts, collections, correspondence, public relations and educational programs are the responsibility of the coordinator.

Residential recycling has been available to ALL municipalities ever since 100% participation countywide was achieved in 2007. Recycling volumes continue to increase and landfill waste is on the decrease. New in 2012 is SINGLE STREAM recycling. This means tin and aluminum, all numbers of plastics, paper and cardboard can be put in one bin together. All colors of glass bottles and jars must be kept separate from other recyclables in their specific containers at 24/7 drop off sites. Styrofoam packaging will be accepted in the program through special collections throughout the year. The program is complying with new law requirements on household battery recycling and e-waste. Business participation is increasing through the Green Benzie Business Recycling Initiative. There currently are 35 businesses subscribing to the recycling program. The Cardboard Recycling program offered to schools by Packaging Corporation of America has proven invaluable to the success of the countywide recycling program. Businesses may recycle cardboard at any of the four trailers at no charge and students receive \$50 per ton for all cardboard collected at their school trailer. The impact of recycling cardboard would be more than our countywide program could bear if we had to accommodate that volume into our budget. The annual household fee is \$22.00 for unlimited drop off of recyclables and all collections offered throughout the year. Households that recycle more and throw away less are realizing the money savings by having this program in place. Benzie County residents recognize the responsibility to the environment and to each other in maintaining a clean, healthy, beautiful and green community. The results of solid waste alternatives and actions directed by the recycling program provide a positive and productive effect on the future environmental health of Benzie County.

MISSION STATEMENT

The mission of the SWAC is to develop and implement a cost effective and sustainable recycling, solid waste and hazardous waste management strategy that will meet or exceed local and state goals and minimize adverse effects on public health and the environment for the current and future residents of Benzie County