

State of Recycling in Arkansas—2016

Arkansas Department of Environmental Quality

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Closing the Gap

In 2001, Arkansas added the then current year's recycling tonnage to the then current year's landfill tonnage for the first time to calculate the total waste stream. (For a decade before that, the 1991 waste stream was used instead of calculating a yearly waste stream.) At that time, the total waste stream was 3.6 million tons and Arkansans landfilled nearly 1.6 million tons more than they recycled. This gap is one way of measuring how well the state is doing when it comes to recycling. The smaller the gap, the closer we come to making recycling the primary method of handling our solid waste.

Ideally, the lines in the Solid Waste Trend chart below will cross and begin creating a gap in the opposite direction. In other words, the difference between the tonnage landfilled and the tonnage recycled will be a negative number, and Arkansans will be recycling more than they landfill.

The gap between tons landfilled and tons recycled has varied over the years, from a high of 1.9 million tons to a low of 0.4 million tons, reached this year. The overall trend is down, as shown by the trendline in the Difference:

Landfilled—Recycled chart below.

Arkansans have done a good job of recycling. Recycling tonnage has increased 176 percent since 2001. However, we still need to work to reduce the tonnage we throw away. While this number is currently heading downward, landfill tonnage has increased 22.8 percent since 2001. In that same time, population has increased at half that rate (11.4 percent).

We encourage Arkansans to do what we can to continue to close the gap—buy only what is needed; donate useful items no longer wanted; use reusables instead of disposables when possible; recycle or compost; and think of these alternatives before throwing anything away.

2001

- Tons Landfilled: 2,598,804
- Tons Recycled: 1,010,748
- Recycling Rate: 28 percent

2016

- Tons Landfilled: 3,191,461
- Tons Recycled: 2,789,867
- Recycling Rate: 46.6 percent

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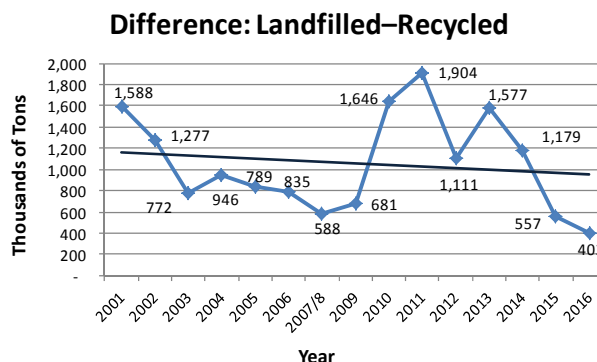
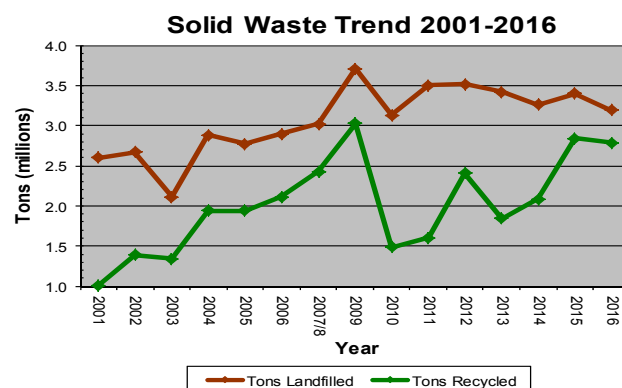
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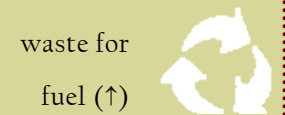


Materials Recycled 2016



Businesses reported on calendar year 2015; community programs reported on fiscal year 2016 (July 1, 2015—June 30, 2016).

Material	Weight in Tons (vs 2015)	
Batteries	5,282	↑
Electronic Waste	5,717	↑
Glass	3,709	↓
Household Hazardous Waste	613	↓
Metals	2,293,606	↑
Nonferrous—Aluminum, Brass, Copper	79,530	↑
Ferrous—Steel and Iron	2,214,076	↑
Mixed Recyclables	1,128	New Category
Oil (Motor, Cooking)	21,033	↓
Paper	157,228	↓
Cardboard	99,070	↓
Magazines/Mixed	15,278	↓
Newsprint	4,437	↓
Sorted Office Paper & Sorted White Ledger	2,112	↓
Other (rolls of paper, consumer board, etc.)	36,331	↓
Plastic	105,202	↓
HDPE (high density polyethylene)	6,999	↓
LDPE (low density polyethylene)	23,515	↑
PET (polyethylene terephthalate)	1,415	↓
Poly Pipe (linear low density polyethylene)	24,707	↓
Other (poly logs, electronics plastics, barrels, etc.)	48,566	↑
Textiles & Leather	6,520	↑
Tires & Rubber	8,519	↑
Yard Wastes	181,310	↑
Total	2,789,867	↓



Arkansas also reclaimed 357,151 tons of road material (↑); 202,777 tons of asphalt (↑); 26,199 tons of shingles (↑); 19,136 tons of tire-derived fuel (↑); and 1,084,971 tons of wood waste for fuel (↑) that were not included in the listed total.

Landfilled = 3,191,461 tons ↓

Recycled = 2,789,867 tons ↓

Total Waste Stream = 5,981,328 tons ↓

Recycling Rate = $\text{Recycled/Waste Stream} \times 100 = 46.6\% \uparrow$