

Augusta County Recycling Committee Report 2020

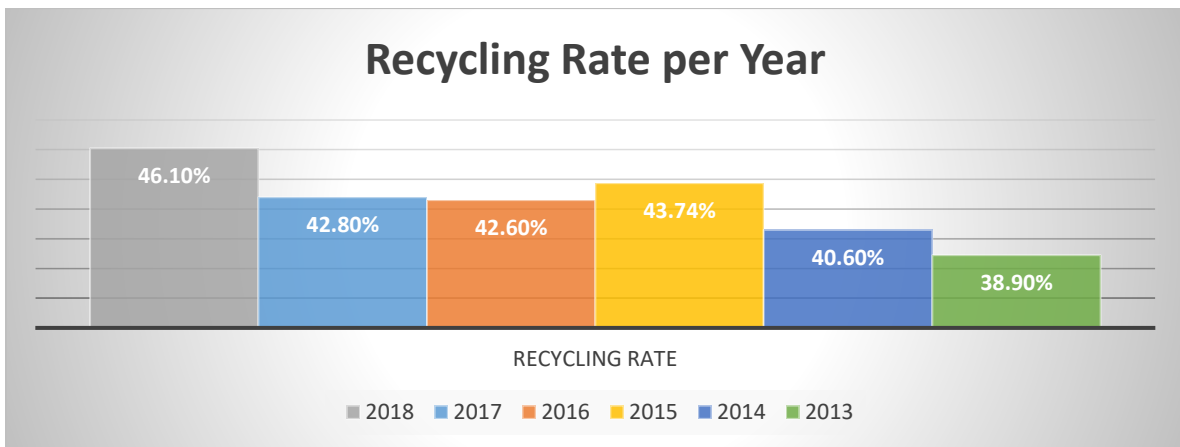
Committee Members:

Mark Daugherty	Beverley Manor District
	North River District
David Kirby	Wayne District
Marty Siebken	Chair, South River District
Jo-el Nelson	Riverheads District
Ray Cline	Pastures District
Riley Murray	Middle River District
Scott Seaton	Board Liaison
Jerry Martin	Landfill Liaison
Greg Thomasson	Landfill Liaison
Morgan Shrewsbury	County Liaison

The Recycling Committee consists of Board of Supervisors appointed members as well as liaisons. The purpose of the Committee is to advise the Board of Supervisors on recycling and provide a benefit to the residents of Augusta County.

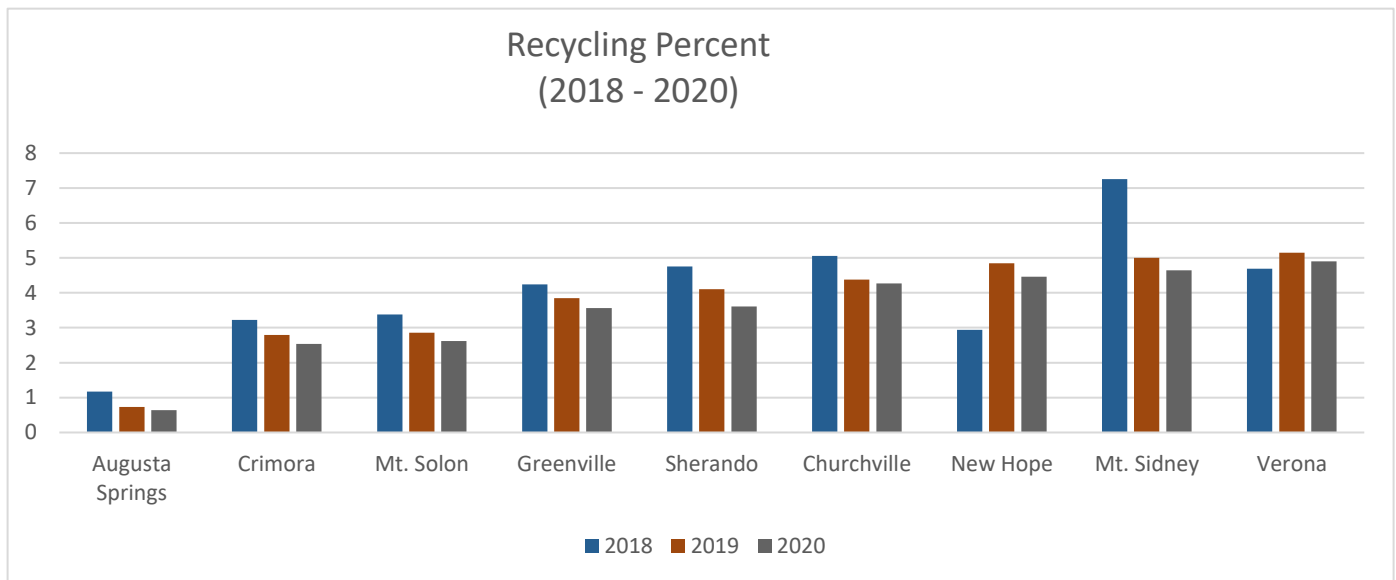
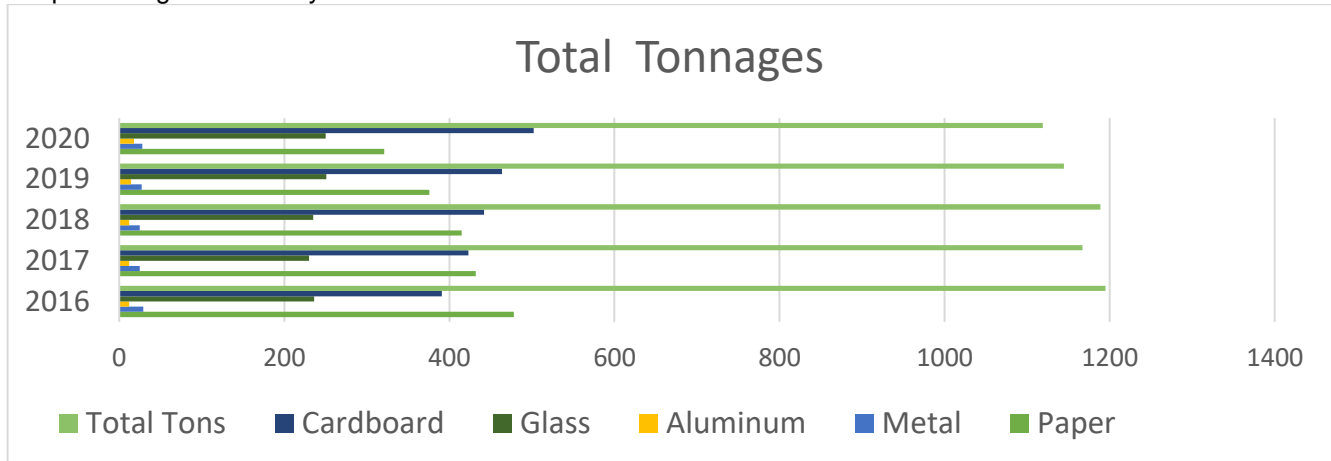
Recycling Rate

The State of Virginia currently requires a 25% recycling rate (VA Code §10.1-1411). In 2018, Augusta County, Staunton and Waynesboro's recycling rate was 34.0%, Up .9 points from the previous year. The State's overall recycling rate is at 46.1% . DEQ has not released 2019 data, calculating 2020's recycling rate will begin this spring. Contributing factors for the increase may be increased citizen awareness and better reporting. Included in the calculation is solid waste reused, non – MSW recycled, recycling residues and source reduction programs.



Recycling by Community

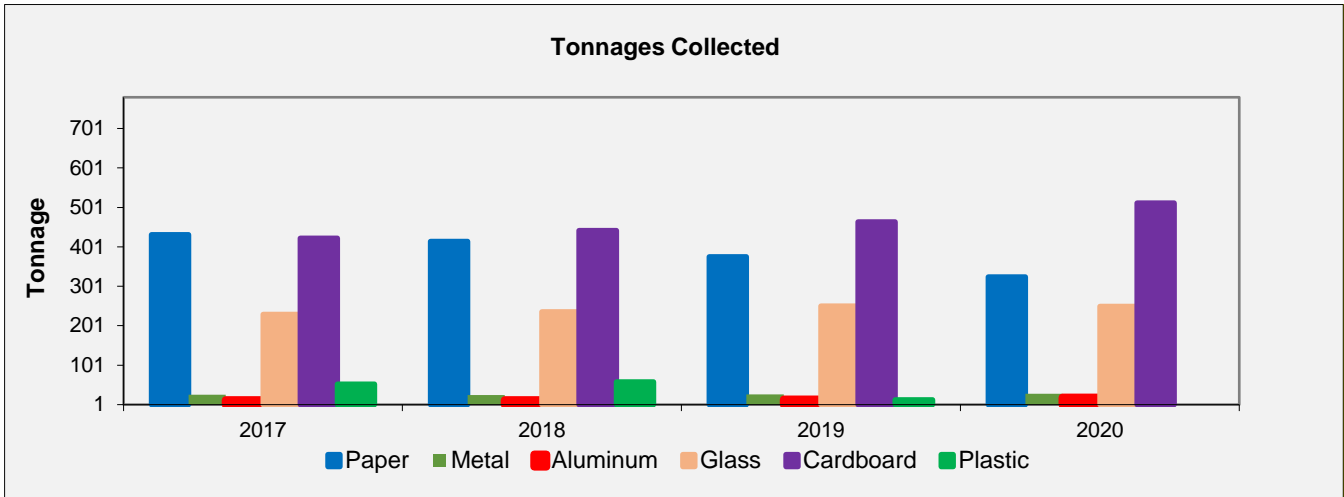
In 2010, the Recycling Committee began looking at recycling rates for communities (compactor sites). The Recycling Committee also started recognizing communities with the highest percentage collected. The hope is to increase recycling through community competition. The communities are recognized with a recycling champ sign that is displayed at the compactor site. This percentage is based on the total waste collected at the site and the percentage that is recycled.



Tonnage Collected

The following table shows the County's tonnages collected for 2020 and previous years for comparison:

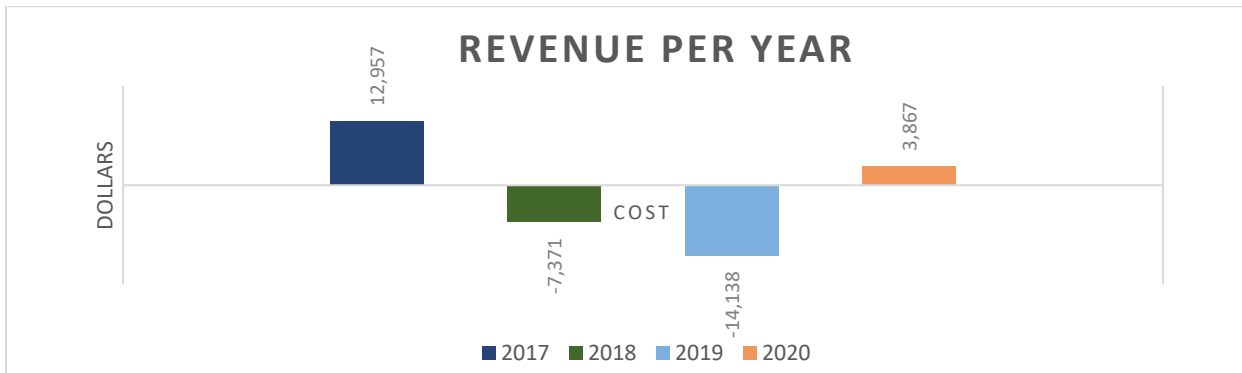
Year	Tonnage						Totals
	Mixed Paper	Metal	Aluminum	Glass	Cardboard	Plastic	
2010	692	63	8	212	405	31	1411
2011	665	29	9	218	395	40	1356
2012	595	29	8	226	383	43	1284
2013	572	28	10	232	386	45	1273
2014	529	26	10	236	354	45	1200
2015	504	25	10	219	382	48	1188
2016	478	29	12	236	391	49	1,195
2017	432	26	12	230	423	53	1,167
2018	415	25	12	236	442	59	1,189
2019	376	27	14	251	464	13	1,145
2020	324.70	29.10	18.87	249.66	512.32	0.00	1134.65



Revenues and Expenditures per Commodity

The following table shows each commodity and its revenue and expenditure for the year. The average cost per ton for glass in 2018 was \$34.50, a price negotiated between Sonoco and Augusta, Staunton, Waynesboro. The average cost per ton all recyclables changed in June of 2018 making the rate for each commodity fluctuate with the markets. 2020 price per ton fluctuated though out the year, Paper averaged at \$-28.62, Metal \$17, Aluminum \$308, and Cardboard at \$16.45.

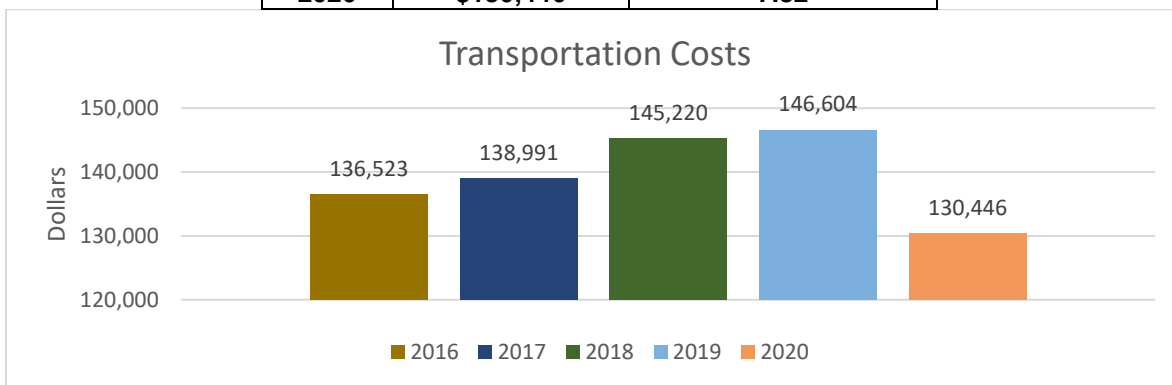
Year	Dollars (\$)						Total
	Mixed Paper	Metal	Aluminum	Glass	Cardboard	Plastic	
2010	3,443	0	5,043	-5,298	23,853	0	27,041
2011	7,200	0	8,021	-5,301	22,136	0	32,056
2012	0	0	7,480	-5,273	13,701	0	15,908
2013	0	0	7,968	-5,804	15,701	0	17,865
2014	0	0	8,016	-5,822	7,930	0	10,124
2015	0	0	5,926	-5,484	7,275	0	7,718
2016	0	0	4,205	-8,865	8,267	0	3,607
2017	0	0	4,392	-7,988	16,552	0	12,957
2018	-12,309	281	4,323	-7,476	9,951	-2,140	-7,371
2019	-18,609	27	4,898	-1,885	1,689	-790	-14,138
2020	-12,116.05	582.00	6,793.20	0.00	8,608.30	0.00	3,867.45



Transportation Cost

Under contract, Augusta County procures a private company to haul recyclables. ~~2020 data is not complete yet, update to follow~~—This includes hauling from the Landfill and all nine satellite locations. The following table shows costs comparisons:

Year	Annual Cost (\$)	Average Fuel Rate (\$)
2010	\$128,944	7.31
2011	\$135,575	7.58
2012	\$139,989	7.80
2013	\$142,783	7.94
2014	\$136,563	7.73
2015	\$134,198	4.47
2016	\$113,266	7.47
2017	\$138,991	7.66
2018	\$145,220	7.85
2019	\$146,604	7.93
2020	\$130,446	7.82



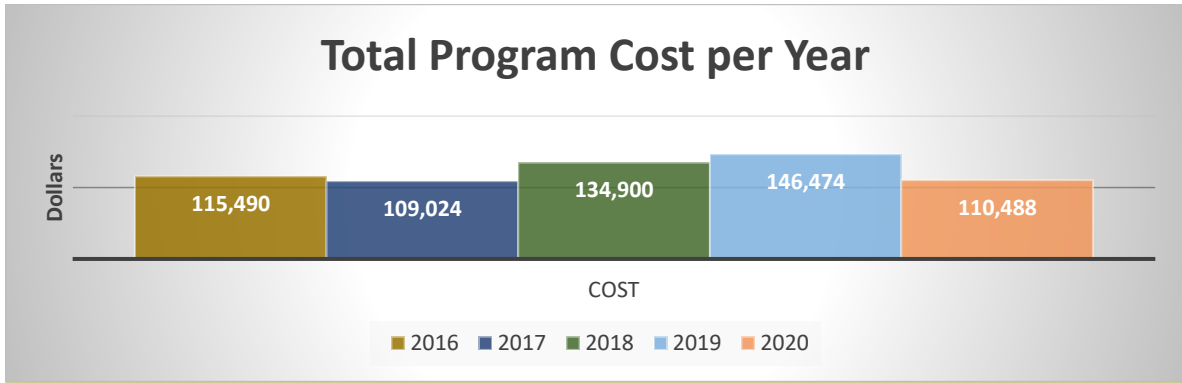
Recycling Grant

Annually, Augusta County applies for a grant from the State. Applications are submitted to the Department of Environmental Quality for review. For FY 2020 Augusta County received \$16246.00 to help offset costs for our recycling program.

Total program cost comparison:

Year	Recyclables Revenue	DEQ Grant Funds	Transportation Cost	Total Program Cost
2010	27,041	15,526	-128,944	-86,377
2011	32,056	15,382	-135,575	-88,137
2012	15,908	20,258	-139,989	-103,823
2013	17,865	17,869	-142,783	-107,049
2014	10,124	17,864	-136,507	-108,519
2015	7,718	18,062	-134,198	-108,418
2016	3,607	17,426	-136,523	-115,490
2017	12,957	17,010	-138,991	-109,024
2018	-7,519	17,840	-145,220	-134,900
2019	-14,138	14,268	-146,604	-146,474
2020	3,867.45	16,246	-130,445	-\$110,488.49

Please note, that the total program cost does not exactly reflect the total cost to recycle. If the County did not recycle, waste would still be hauled to the landfill.



Landfill Benefit

Recycling provides a variety of benefits to the community including: greater stewardship, green education, saved landfill space and cost/revenue potential. The following are comparisons for how the landfill is affected:

Landfill Benefits			
Year	Tonnage	Air Space Saved (yd3)	Cost/Revenue Potential (\$45)
2010	1411	2,820	\$63,484
2011	1356	2,715	\$61,020
2012	1284	2,568	\$57,780
2013	1273	2,546	\$57,285
2014	1200	2,400	\$54,000
2015	1187	2,375	\$53,415
2016	1089	2,390	\$53,775
2017	1167	1,255	\$52,515
2018	1189	1,231	\$55,430
2019	1145	1,220	\$54,900
2020	1135	1,200	\$54,000

Compaction rate has been adjusted to match what the Landfill does, the compaction rate is 1,859lbs./cubic yard

Additional Landfill Recycling

In addition to paper, metals, glass, cardboard, and plastics, the Landfill collects many other items on a regular basis as part of its operations. Goodwill has paused the collections due to an abundance being collected. The following includes the Spring Clean-Up:

Item	Quantity	Unit
Wood-waste	9,260.57	tons
Tires	300.25	tons
Used oil	16,588	gallons
Scrap metal/appliances	858.29	tons
Auto batteries	8.56	tons
Antifreeze	1,269	gallons
Cardboard	115.1	tons
Goodwill E-Waste	37.49	tons
Glass	611.06	tons

Spring Clean-Up Event

Spring Clean-Up was canceled due to COVID-19.

Fall Household Hazardous Waste Collection Event

At the Fall Household Hazardous Waste event, Committee Members and volunteers provided service to 280 vehicles that dropped off herbicides, pesticides, oil-based paint, antifreeze, batteries, used oil, and other chemicals from the County, Staunton, and Waynesboro. The Landfill stepped up and coordinated with Ecoflo Holding Inc. to provide disposal.

The Recycling Committee also partnered with Goodwill Industries to accept computers, computer equipment, small kitchen appliances, and small electronics. Goodwill Industries recycles the material that cannot sell in stores.

Christmas Tree Recycling

The Recycling Committee promotes Christmas tree recycling annually. Staff coordinates efforts with local contractors to recycle the trees. Trees are dropped off at many of the satellite locations. These trees are either ground for mulch or taken to the landfill for mulching latter. Fish and Wildlife does take as many trees as needed to create fish habitat.

Public Outreach and Education

The Recycling Committee performs many outreach activities every year. The past year the Committee:

- Displayed materials relating to the Household Hazardous Waste Event and Recycling
- Advertised the annual Household Hazardous Waste Collection Event
- Posted recycling information on the County's website and the Parks and Rec Guide
- Spoke with children at various schools
- Gave tours of the landfill

Regional Recycling

The Regional Recycling Committee (County, Staunton, Waynesboro) has discussed a regional materials handling facility to be located at the landfill. A local processing facility will require a significant investment (+\$1,000,000). In return, materials can be processed and baled for recycling which will increase the value. However, at this time the Committee feels there would be a significant return period due to the down market. This would not be a feasible approach at this time; however, as market or recycling technology changes it should be revisited in the future.

School Recycling

The Recycling Committee encourages Augusta County Public Schools to recycle. The Committee supports school recycling efforts including education. This year there were no applications for grant funding and the Committee is working with the school board to better assist with recycling.

Recycling in Offices

The Recycling Committee encourages County offices to recycle. Currently, mixed paper and cardboard are being recycled. Vector Industries is contracted to collect paper at the Administration Building.

The Library is also participating in recycling activities that include paper and cardboard. They utilize Vector Industries for their hauling.

Advertising

All events are advertised by public service announcements, promoting on the County's website and posting holiday closings at the landfill and compactor sites. Also, ads are placed in Parks and Recreation's Guide for the Household Hazardous Waste Event and Spring Clean-Up

In addition, display cabinets are used at all satellite locations to post public service announcements, closures, etc.

Glass Recycling

The Recycling Committee is continually discussing the increasing cost to recycle glass, and citizens are happy with the service they receive now. Unfortunately, glass is expensive to recycling due to an abundance in the Virginia area and the high cost of cleaning the glass for recycling purposes. The Committee has worked with Sonoco and the Landfill to find solutions. Sonoco no longer take glass recyclables. The Landfill has graciously started using the collected glass as cover or other engineered materials utilized at the facility.

Plastic Recycling

The Recycling Committee is continually discussing the need for plastic recycling, and citizens are asking for this service. Unfortunately, plastic recycling is no longer accepted in our area. The Committee is working on creative ways to utilize community efforts to address these issues.

Local recycling facilities are willing to take plastics 1 and 2 but only if they are clean and separated. The Committee would like to utilize these programs and community organizations.

Sonoco Changes

Sonoco has become more restrictive on the quality of recyclables that it receives causing some anomalies in the recycling data. If aluminum is considered contaminated it is mixed in with the steel cans receiving a lower price at market. The Committee hopes that better signage at collection sites will fix this problem.

Committee Recommendations

1. Budgeting for increased cost of all recycling.
2. Budget for changes in transportation cost, new company is Meridian Waste, <https://www.meridianwaste.com/>.
3. Budget for trials for clean plastic recycling tests.
4. Removal of glass from collection sites to allow other vendors to accept recyclables.