



Resource Recycling Systems
Sustainable Systems for a Waste-Free Future

CHIPPEWA COUNTY MATERIALS RECOVERY AND FACILITY MANAGEMENT OPTIONS STUDY

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BACKGROUND

Chippewa County Recycling Division is assessing where changes could be made to evaluate the viability of Material Recycling Facilities (MRFs).

- Determine the cost effectiveness of the household recycling programs and MRFs in Chippewa County.
- Provide the County with information and options for future changes to limit recycling costs to municipalities and County residents.

The Study has the following three components:

- Market Analysis Report that contains market analysis for historic, current and projected market values for single sort, commingled and source separated recyclable materials.
- Recyclable Materials Volume Analysis Report that evaluates the recyclable waste stream and volume of recyclable materials in Chippewa County.
- MRF Options Analysis Report that summarizes the anticipated costs, benefits, and feasibility of the three management options to expand the utility of material recovery facilities.

RECYCLABLE MATERIALS OPTIONS ANALYSIS

- The MRF Options Analysis identifies and describes alternative management options for the Chippewa County Responsible Unit to consider as it seeks ways to increase the overall efficiency and effectiveness of its recycling efforts.

TREND TO CONSOLIDATED SERVICES

- A study was recently conducted under the direction of the Wisconsin DNR to examine potential savings if the units of government responsible for mandatory recycling programs (“responsible units”) consolidated their recycling efforts .
- There are several issues that must be considered when discussing the consolidation of services.
 - EFFICIENCY: the use cost per ton of recycled material collected and the cost per household are the appropriate metrics.
 - EQUITY: Distributing costs on a household basis for all participating households provides an equitable approach
 - FEASIBILITY: administrative and political feasibility.

CHIPPEWA CO. RU MANAGEMENT FRAMEWORK

- There are three basic frameworks for collecting, aggregating and processing recyclables now being used by the Chippewa Co. RU:
 - **RURAL DROP-OFF CENTERS:** In more rural areas of the Chippewa Co. RU, townships have contracted with recycling haulers to provide drop off containers where residents can haul their recyclables to for pick up.
 - **BLOOMER/ LAFAYETTE MRFS/DROP-OFF CENTERS:** Two communities in the Chippewa County RU provide a MRF drop-off program that are similar to the drop off container programs offered by more rural municipalities but which provide a higher level of service to their residents.
 - **URBAN CURBSIDE COLLETION – CONTRACTED CURBSIDE:** The third basic framework for recycling in the Chippewa County RU is municipally contracted curbside recycling, which provides service to the residents of the municipality at their residence.

CURRENT RECYCLING PROGRAMS

REGIONAL SUMMARY

Municipal Recycling Programs	Eligible Costs	Participating Population	Participating Households	Tons of Recyclables	Lbs./person /Year	Cost/person /Year	Lbs./HHLD/Year	Cost/HHLD/Year
BLOOMER AREA	\$54,194	8,731	3,232	455.8	104.4	\$6.21	282.1	\$16.77
LAKE WISCONSIN - CHIPPEWA FALLS	\$299,807	44,770	13,687	2,819	126.0	\$6.70	412.0	\$21.90
NORTHEAST RURAL	\$28,265	4,196	3,416	161.2	76.8	\$6.74	94.4	\$8.27
COUNTY TOTAL	\$382,266	57,697	20,335	3,436.5	119.1	\$6.63	338.0	\$18.80
AVERAGE OF ELIGIBLE COSTS					79.2	\$6.70	229.7	\$19.50

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CHIPPEWA CO. RU MANAGEMENT OPTIONS EXPLORED

- **OPTION 1:** EXPAND THE TWO (2) EXISTING MUNICIPALLY OWNED AND OPERATED MATERIAL RECOVERY FACILITIES (MRF'S) IN CHIPPEWA COUNTY

This option would develop an expanded Drop-off at Bloomer and develop an expanded MRF and Recycling Transfer Station in the Lake Wissota-Chippewa Falls area. Two sub-options were considered for Option 1:

- Option 1A – Expanded “Super” Drop Off / MRF / Transfer at Lake Wissota-Chippewa Falls-Hallie
- Option 1B- Upgrade MRF and Materials Processing Center at Bloomer.



CHIPPEWA CO. RU MANAGEMENT OPTIONS EXPLORED

- **OPTION 2: EXPAND COLLECTION OF RECYCLABLE MATERIALS IN CHIPPEWA COUNTY AND TRANSFER TO MRF'S LOCATED OUTSIDE THE COUNTY.**
 - The development of a RU recycling transfer capability in the County, or contracting for transfer with facilities outside the County, would allow for the implementation of single sort cart based curbside collection recycling programs throughout the County.
 - Interviews with regional MRF operators from Barron, Pierce, and Polk counties indicate a strong willingness in working with the Chippewa County RU in order to secure additional recyclables for their operations.



CHIPPEWA CO. RU MANAGEMENT OPTIONS EXPLORED

- **OPTION 3:** CREATE AND CONSTRUCT A “NEW” PRIVATELY OWNED AND PRIVATELY OPERATED MRF IN CHIPPEWA COUNTY, THAT WOULD BE SUPPLIED AND SUPPORTED BY MUNICIPALITIES IN CHIPPEWA COUNTY.
 - The basic approach is that a private entity would develop, fund and manage a full Service Single Stream Materials Recovery Facility. The County and municipalities would contractual agree to provide a minimum quantity of recyclables



CHIPPEWA COUNTY RU ESTIMATED REGIONAL RECYCLING TONNAGES

Municipal Recycling Programs	Occupied HHLD	Participating HHLDs	Single Sort (SS) Automated Weekly	Single Sort (SS) Auto Biweekly	BASELINE
			Pounds per Household		
Participation	ALL	80%	750	600	340
BLOOMER AREA	3,232	2,586	1,970	1,776	1,440
LAKE WISSOTA CHIPPEWA FALLS	17,435	13,948	10,231	8,184	6,371
NORTHEAST RURAL	1,667	1,334	1,000	800	627
COUNTY TOTAL	22,334	17,867	13,200	10,360	8,037

FINDINGS

- Options 1 and 3 independently will not work for the Chippewa County RU.
 - It is not viable to develop a privately operated single sort processing MRF in Chippewa County because it cannot achieve the necessary economies of scale to compete with other established regional facilities.
- A variation of Option 1A and 2 will work.
- Curbside single sort recycling collection should be provided in urban areas and other areas that have appropriate density for efficient collection.
 - A single-sort collection program is projected to increase materials quantity recovered by 60%, boosting countywide recycling to roughly 6,000 tons per year.



FINDINGS

- A single stream collection program makes recycling more convenient for residents, which is a major incentive for increasing participation and volumes.
- Communities have achieved better services at a lower cost when consolidating services and seeking competitive pricing from the market.
- A Recycling Transfer facility is necessary to consolidate material to efficiently ship recycled materials to a MRF.
- Several regional recycling processing facilities - Material Recovery Facilities (MRF's) - are equipped to handle single sort collection or would modify their facilities to accept single sort.

RECOMMENDATIONS

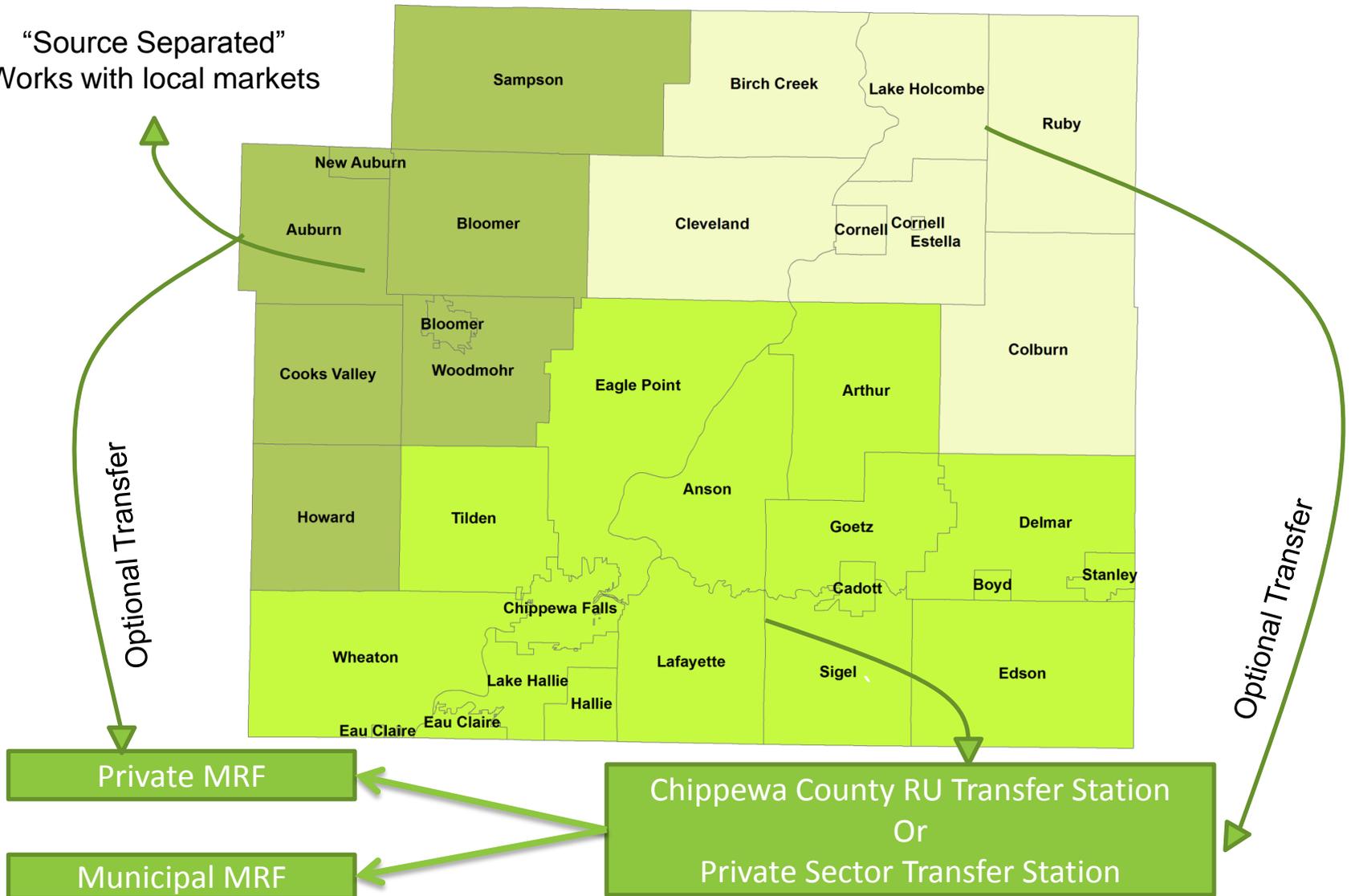
- Two Management Options are the most feasible approaches for the Chippewa County RU to pursue. The alternatives that should be evaluated are:
- Alternative 2A – Countywide RU Contracting; Transfer Station RU Controlled:
 - Implement countywide single stream collection contract that requires all contracted haulers to transport recyclables to a transfer station established and controlled by the Chippewa County RU.
 - Develop contractual agreement with Municipal or Privately owned Material Recovery Facility (MRF) outside of the County for processing and revenue sharing.



RECOMMENDATIONS

- Alternative 2B – Managed Competition with Transfer Station under Private Sector Control:
 - Develop single stream collection requirement for municipal collection contracts.
 - Require all contracted haulers to transport recyclables to a designated transfer station, located in or out of the County, owned and operated by a private sector recycling company.
 - Develop contractual agreement with Municipal or Privately owned Material Recovery Facility (MRF) outside of the County for processing and revenue sharing.

“Source Separated”
Works with local markets



RECOMMENDATIONS

- Chippewa County should conduct a detailed evaluation of the program and investment cost requirement and organizational structures associated with a conversion to single sort collection and processing.
- Issuing a Request for Information (RFI) to determine the actual collection and processing costs from public or private sector service providers can accomplish this.
- Market based research is necessary in order to get competitive pricing information which will provide a better understanding of the costs and benefits of a potential collaborative approach to recycling in Chippewa County.
- The goal of the RFI would be the identification of more cost effective and efficient service delivery options available from the private sector than are currently being provided within the County.

QUESTIONS

Thank you for your Attention

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