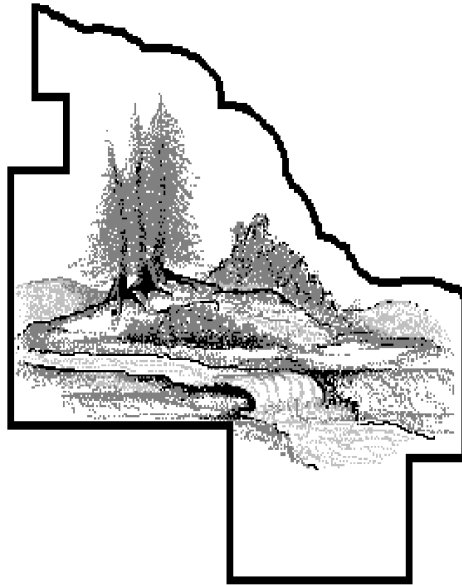


**MARQUETTE COUNTY SOLID WASTE MANAGEMENT
AUTHORITY**



Annual Report

Fiscal Year 2024/2025

Mission Statement

The Authority is committed to environmental protection and the most effective reuse of waste materials. Utilizing a balanced sustainable-economic approach, extending the life of the Marquette County Landfill is our goal. The health and safety of our staff, licensed haulers, and the public is paramount.

The Marquette County Solid Waste Management Authority works collectively and advocates partnerships with its constituent municipalities.

The Marquette County Solid Waste Management Authority shall set solid waste management policy and solid waste system implementation in consultation with the Marquette County Board of Commissioners and the Marquette County Planning Commission.

Summary

The Marquette County Solid Waste Management Authority (Landfill) is a state permitted facility that accepts and processes Marquette County's non-hazardous municipal solid waste. The site has a projected capacity of approximately 46 years.

In addition, we provide recycling and material recovery programs to the residents of Marquette County. These programs include recycling processing and commodity marketing, compost processing, scrap tire processing, household hazardous waste collection, battery recycling and compact fluorescent bulb recycling. We strive to provide services in a cost effective and safe manner. We are diligent in providing a safe and productive work environment. We encourage all staff members to develop to their full potential.

**MARQUETTE COUNTY SOLID WASTE MANAGEMENT
AUTHORITY
FY 2024-2025
BOARD OF TRUSTEES
&
AUTHORITY STAFF**

Board of Trustees

Randall Yelle, Chairperson
Dave Campana, Vice-Chair
Amy Manning, Treasurer
Dennis Honch, Secretary
Robert Anttila
Glenn Adams
Joseph Minelli
Helen Wilson

Appointed by

Sands Township
Board of Trustees
City of Marquette
City of Marquette
Marquette County
Marquette County
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Authority Administration

Director of Operations
Finance/Benefits Director
Materials Management Supervisor
Materials Management and Operations Foreman
Executive Assistant
Scale Attendant

Mike Stannard
Christopher Magnuson
Josh Wales
Ben Koepf
Amy Stakvel
Marie Rasmussen

Authority Operations Staff

Operations/Wastewater Lead
Operator V
Operator III
Operator I
Operator I
Operator I
Mobile Mechanic I
Mobile Mechanic II
Mobile Mechanic II
Building and Facilities Lead
Building and Facilities III
Building and Facilities I

Joe Nowicki
Bobby Wales
Mike Larson
Aron Perkins
Danny Holmes
Nick Bertucci
Aaron Borrett
Josh Hansen
James Volek
John Anderson
Brian Schuhmacher
Chris Lawry

Authority Materials Management Staff

Custodial Utility
MRF Baler Outbound
MRF Operator
Materials Management Utility
Recycling Sorter
Recycling Sorter Lead
Recycling Sorter
Recycling Sorter

Brenda Bartling
Mike Peterson
Coulter Keisler
Rianna Jalonen
Molly Omarro
Kelly Laakso
Cory Russell
Addison Boursaw

Recycling Sorter
Recycling Sorter
Recycling Sorter
Recycling Sorter
Recycling Sorter
Recycling Sorter
Recycling Sorter

Caleb Soronen
Indi Soronen
Ty Hutchinson
Jamie Boyer
Jessica Boyer
Logan Alexander
Chanse Steiner

THE AUTHORITY

Origin

The Authority was established in 1988. At that time, unlicensed and unlined landfills dominated the Upper Peninsula. State efforts to close these landfills prompted local communities to cooperatively develop state of the art waste management systems. All of Marquette County's 23 constituent municipalities are now members of the Authority. The Authority operates under terms specified in an *Intergovernmental Agreement*, its bylaws, and articles of incorporation. The landfill opened for business in late December 1989 and a total of 2,151,893 tons of waste has been placed in the landfill through December 31, 2025.

Board of Trustees

A Board of Trustees governs the Authority. The Board is comprised of seven members. Appointments to the Authority are made by the Marquette County Board of Commissioners (3), City of Marquette (2), Sands Township (1), and the Board of Trustees (1). The Trustees appointment must be a resident of the City of Marquette. Board members have strong backgrounds in engineering, business, education, and government. The Board meets once a month.

Past members of the Board of Trustees are as follows:

Earl Yelle
Joe Constance
Gary Walker
Tom Griffith
Dave Kallio
Edward J. Keto
Donald Potvin
Judith Mattord
Gail Griffith
Sam Elder
Larry Arsenault
Brett Schwenke
Carr Baldwin, PE

Ed Kinkella
Loretta Acocks
Robert Clark
James Kizer
Donald Wickstrom
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James Hartwig
Robert Berube II
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Leighton Carlisle III
Fred Benzie
Kurt Gravedoni

Dawson Carriere
Tom Knauss
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Leonard Parker
Michael Twohey
William Gordon
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Rickey Wilson
John Marshall
Rob Schmeling II
Deborah Pellow
Jorma Lankinen

Authority Financials

FY 2023-2024 Snapshot

Per the audited financial statements for the year ending on June 30, 2025, the Authority did have an increase in net position of \$1,746,001. A major part of that increase was the demolition of the old hospital in Marquette and the demolition of several buildings at the former KI Sawyer Air Force Base.

Tipping Fees

The tipping rate was \$71.00 per ton for FY 2024-2025.

Outstanding Loans

In FY 2024-2025, the Authority has two outstanding loans.

In 2024, the Authority entered into a bond agreement for \$3,695,000 for various projects. The bond has a coupon rate of 5 percent and a maturity rate of 7 years. The Authority makes annual payments on the principal and semi-annual payments on the interest.

In February 2025, the Authority received a loan for \$855,005 for various construction projects. The loan has an annual interest rate of 2.5 percent and a maturity rate of 22 years. The Authority makes annual payments on the loan.

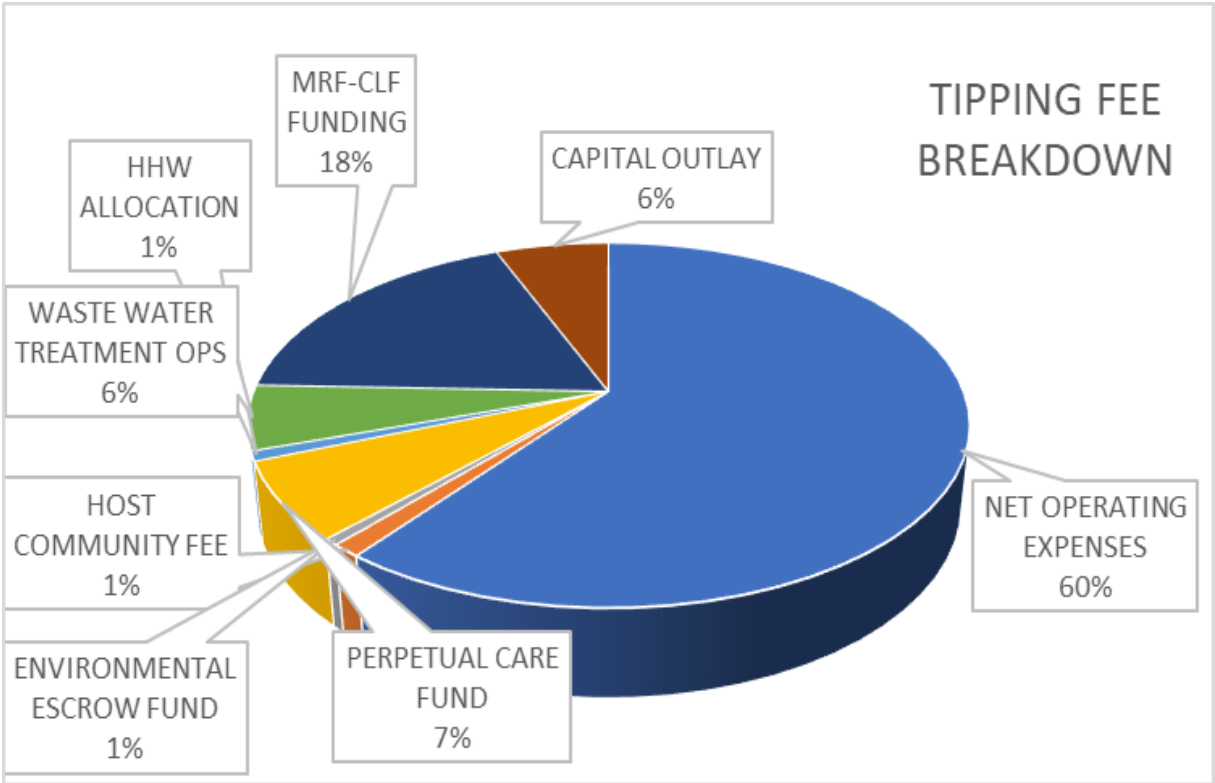
Mobile Equipment Municipal Leases

In May 2025, the Authority entered into a lease-purchase agreement of \$1,025,975 for a Bomag waste compactor. This agreement has an annual interest rate of 5.64 percent and a maturity rate of 6 years. The Authority makes annual payments on the agreement.

Budgeted FY 2024-2025 tipping fees are presented in Table 1.

TABLE 1: TIPPING FEE BUDGET FY 2024-2025

Tipping Fee Components	Budget	Cost/ Ton
Net Operating Expenses	\$3,150,000	\$52.50
Host Community Fee	\$60,000	\$1.00
Environmental Escrow Fund	\$30,000	\$0.50
**Perpetual Care Fund	\$360,000	\$6.00
HHW ALLOCATION	\$45,000	\$0.75
CLF/County Bonding	\$960,000	\$16.00
Construction/Equipment	\$315,000	\$5.25
Waste Water Treatment Op	\$300,000	5.00
Total:	\$5,220,000	\$87.00



Highlights for FY 2024-2025

Compliance

- MCSWMA continues to be compliant with all Department of Environment, Great Lakes, and Energy (EGLE) quarterly and annual landfill and processing facility inspections

Single Stream Recycling

- Continuing efforts to recover and/or recycle waste to extend the life of the landfill
- Continue to execute a recycling agreement with Delta County Recycling
- Provided recycling education to elementary aged students at Bay Cliff
- Provided recycling education at the Alger County 2024 Agripalooza event
- 9,413 material wizard searches on the recycle906.com website.
- Embedded the material wizard search function on multiple out of county municipality websites
- Increased social media engagement and followers on Facebook and Instagram

Others

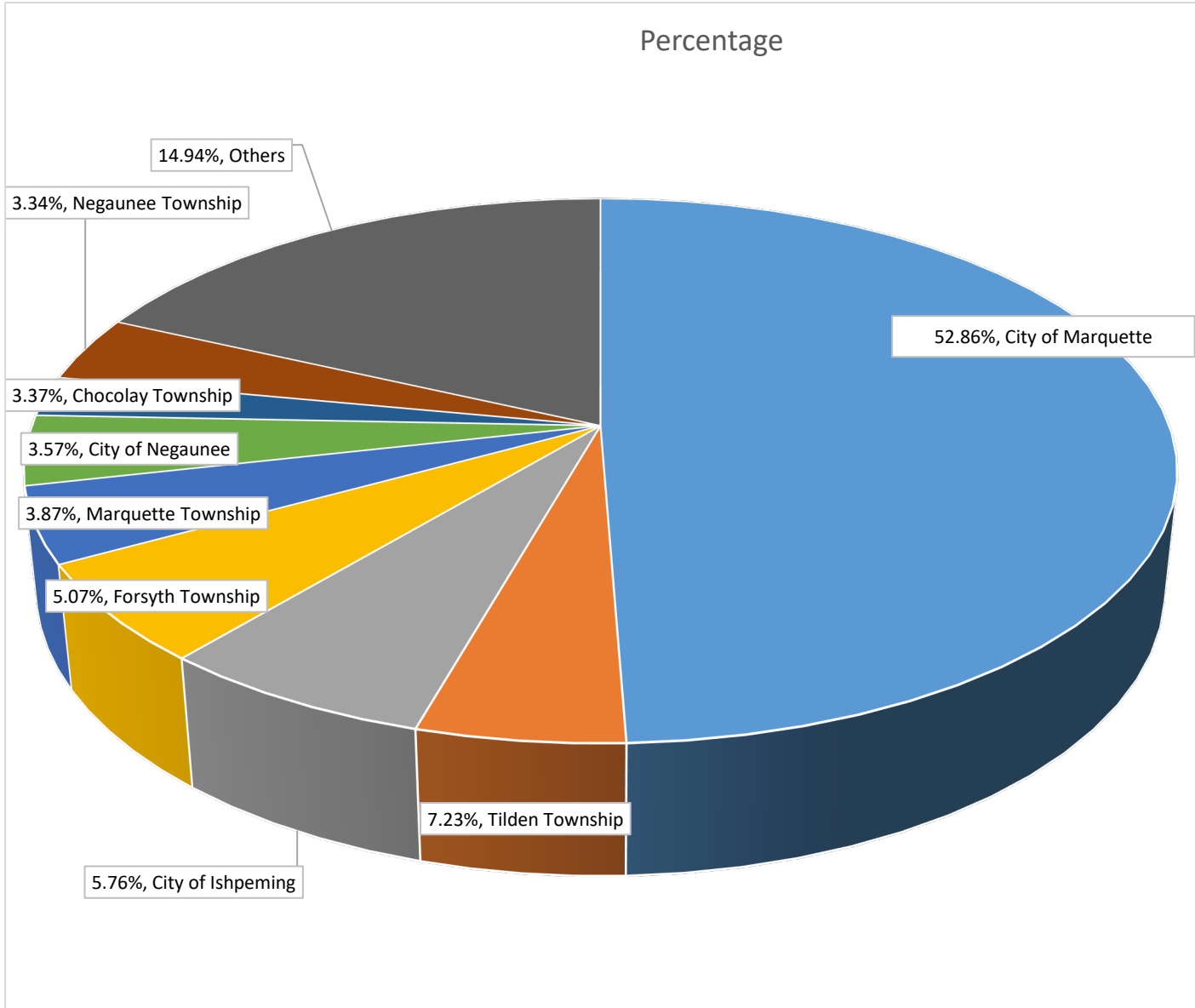
- Received an EGLE \$5,000 Clean Sweep grant for the disposal of household pesticides.
- Hosted multiple meetings and provided facility tours
- Continued partnership and collaboration with Northern Michigan University and Michigan Tech University.
- Invested in and executed on-site projects that improved operational efficiency and safety.
- Continued to increase safety awareness via an employee and management led safety program.

- Annual tonnage, fees, special/surcharges and amounts of contaminated soils from each user municipality are presented in Table 2.
- The tonnage of the various municipalities is compared graphically in Figure 1. The combined tonnage from City of Marquette, Tilden Township, and City of Ishpeming made up 65.85 percent of total tonnage during fiscal year 2024-2025.

	Tons	Outside Hauler Tons	Total Tons	Percentage
City of Marquette	36,593.04	8,894.04	45,487.08	52.86%
Tilden Township	3,713.56	2,504.25	6,217.81	7.23%
City of Ishpeming	4,959.02		4,959.02	5.76%
Forsyth Township	4,360.94		4,360.94	5.07%
Marquette Township	3,331.87		3,331.87	3.87%
City of Negaunee	3,072.28		3,072.28	3.57%
Chocolay Township	1,755.88	1,143.84	2,899.72	3.37%
Negaunee Township	2,873.65		2,873.65	3.34%
West Transfer Station	2,740.16		2,740.16	3.18%
Ishpeming Wastewater Treatment	2,476.93		2,476.93	2.88%
Sands Township	1,528.80		1,528.80	1.78%
Humboldt Township	1,209.96		1,209.96	1.41%
Michigamme Township	1,089.53		1,089.53	1.27%
Richmond Township	656.90		656.90	0.76%
Skandia West Branch	639.83		639.83	0.74%
Powell Township	590.50		590.50	0.69%
Republic Township	533.16		533.16	0.62%
West Branch Township	486.36		486.36	0.57%
Ishpeming Township	359.25		359.25	0.42%
Wells Township	142.69		142.69	0.17%
Ely Township	120.51		120.51	0.14%
Turin Township	83.95		83.95	0.10%
Ewing Township	76.62		76.62	0.09%
Champion Township	45.42	22.62	68.04	0.08%
Skandia Township	34.94		34.94	0.04%
Marquette County Road Commission	17.34		17.34	0.02%
Superior Watershed Partnership	0.93		0.93	0.00%
MCSWMA*	592.28		592.28	0.00%

FIGURE 1. 2024-2025 FISCAL YEAR MUNICIPALITY TONNAGE PRODUCE

*Split monthly tonnages available upon request.



The Authority has several dedicated accounts that will be allocated for future expenses, ensure adequate funding in case of an emergency, and provide economic and environmental stability to the organization. Some of these funds are required by statute. Year-end fund balances in these accounts for 2024 and 2025 are presented in Table 3.

TABLE 3. AUTHORITY FUND BALANCES YEAR END 2024 and 2025

Fund	December 2024 Balance	December 2025 Balance
Construction Sinking	Included in capital outlay	Included in capital outlay
General Cash Account	\$440,173	\$645,919
Equipment Replacement	Included in capital outlay	Included in capital outlay
Contaminated Soil	\$0	\$0
*Perpetual Care	\$3,766,892	\$3,899,246
Environmental Escrow	\$340,597	\$342,331
Household Hazardous Waste	\$40,000	\$63,944
Capital Outlay	\$1,607,320	\$2,045,230
Sick Accrual	\$0	\$0
Host Community	\$92,399	\$85,993
Payroll Checking Account	\$422	\$6,648
Petty Cash	\$200	\$200
Recycling (infrastructure)	\$75,000	\$252,899
Total:	\$6,363,003	\$7,342,410

*State mandated fund in restricted trust.

Tonnage Received

A total of 86,059 tons of Type II and III waste was disposed of and processed at the facility during Fiscal Year 2024-2025. During the calendar year 2025, a total of 70,418.61 tons of Type II and III waste was landfilled. The average daily tonnage for 2025 was 279.44 tons versus 414.84 in 2024. Fifty-five percent of the material the landfill received was Type II material (household waste) and forty-one percent was Type III material (construction and demolition debris) while biosolids made up the last four percent. The average daily tonnage per month during 2025 is presented in Figure 2. The main reason for this significant decrease in tonnage was due to the demolition of the old Marquette General Hospital and the demolition of 13 buildings at the abandoned KI Sawyer AFB that took place the previous year.

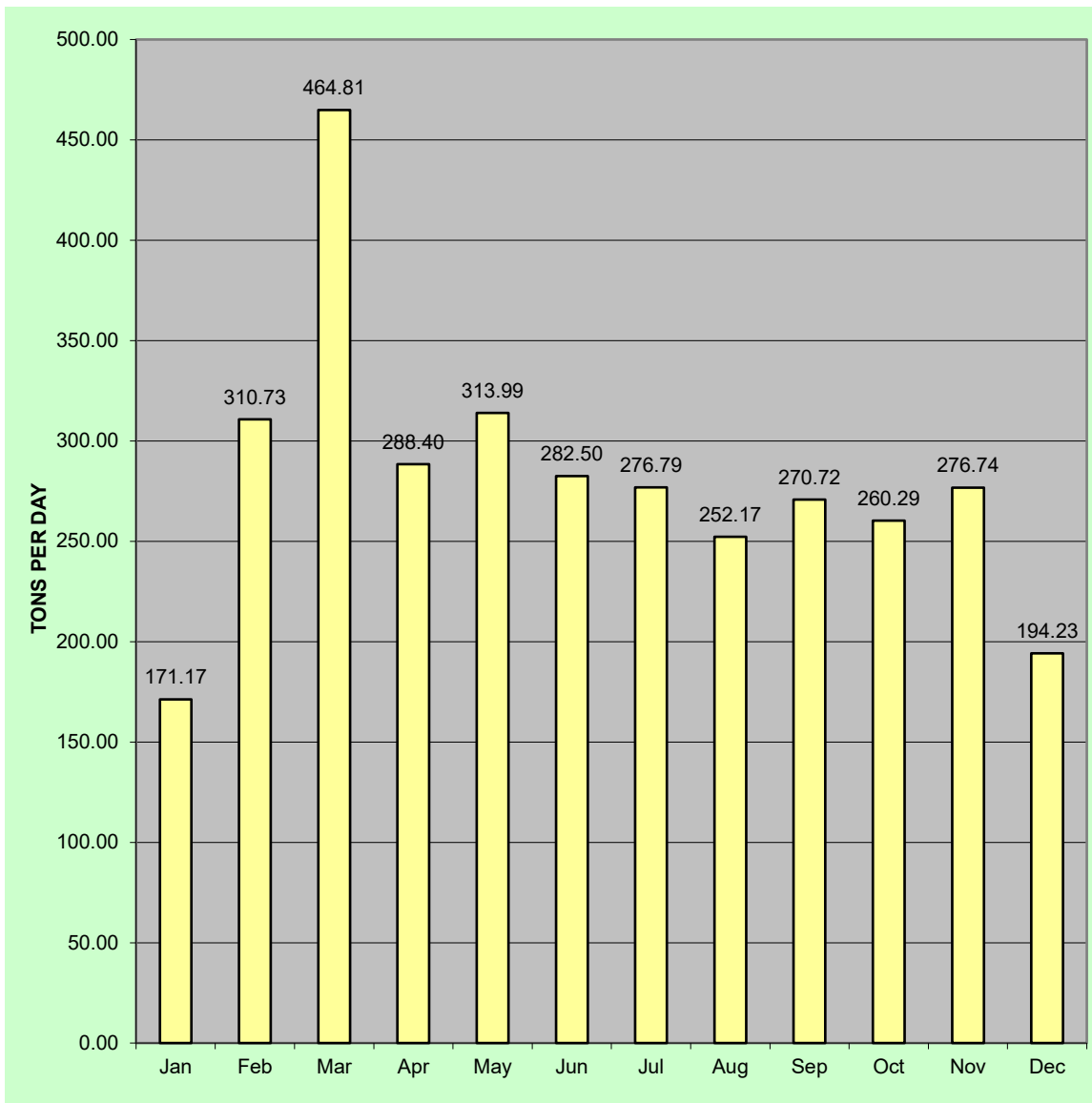


FIGURE 2. AVERAGE DAILY TONNAGE BY MONTH: 2025

FY 2024-2025 Operations

Capital Equipment and Materials Purchased

The 873 Bomag Waste Compactor was purchased in May 2025.
 One truckload of 40 mil HDPE interim cover liner was purchased.

Single Stream Recycling

The MCSWMA received 6,843.88 tons of single stream recyclables in 2025. About 38 percent of that material was delivered from out of county sources. Alger, Delta, Dickinson, Houghton, Iron, and Schoolcraft counties, as well as Ashland, Wisconsin delivered recyclables to MCSWMA.

Impacts Outside Marquette County

The State continues to invest in projects that increase/improve access to recycling. In turn, more recycling volume will be generated. The State and MCSWMA are engaging multiple regional planning agencies in support of these efforts.

Commodity Demand and Value

The demand for recyclable commodities increased during the 3rd quarter of 2024, gradually decreasing in the second quarter of 2025. The demand stabilized during the first half of 2025, with the outbound shipments being slightly less than the third quarter of 2024.

Plastic values fluctuated throughout Fiscal year 2024-2025 with fiber values staying very stable during the fiscal year.

Education and Outreach

The recycle906.com website, Facebook, and advertising videos continue to be a primary resource for recycling, along with presentations by the Materials Management Supervisor and on site tours of the MRF. In 2025, we had over 20,000 visits to the website, which is a 25% increase from the previous year. Coupled with our social media platforms, access to recycling information has improved and continues to evolve. In addition, our team is available by phone to answer questions and/or provide information.

Materials Management Programs

The Authority facilitates several materials management programs to encourage proper disposal and increase landfill diversion. Typically, these items are not placed curbside in the recycling bin but can be diverted from the landfill. Concerted efforts remain focused each year to recover these materials. Items include household hazardous waste, tires, batteries, scrap metal, compact fluorescent lightbulbs, confidential documents, sharps, and devices containing refrigerant.

Household Hazardous Waste

The Authority initiated its HHW program from a grant it received in 1991. The program is popular with county residents and has been in place for over 30 years. The Authority funds the program costs that include staffing, transportation, and disposal.

The Household Hazardous Waste (HHW) Collection Program had six on-site collection events in 2025 at the landfill. The HHW collections were held from May through October in 2025. Table 4 summarizes total HHW collected in 2025 versus 2024.

In addition to the on-site HHW collection events, residents can make an appointment at the landfill during business hours to drop off their HHW materials.

TABLE 4. HHW COLLECTED DURING 2024 AND 2025

Item	2024 Collection	2025 Collection
General HHW	20,919 pounds	35,431 pounds
Car Batteries	130 each	40 each
Motor Oil	1,477.5 gallons	1,432.5 gallons
Antifreeze	140 gallons	304 gallons
Oil Filters	23.6 pounds	115.3 pounds
Mercury	8.34 pounds	0.09 pounds
Pesticides	1,831 pounds	2,245.4 pounds
Fluorescent Bulbs	2,390 each	1,370 each
HHW Deliveries at On-Site Collections	429	469
HHW Deliveries by Appointment at Landfill	219	322

The Authority was awarded the Clean Sweep grant in the amount of \$5,000. This grant will cover the costs of pesticides and herbicides disposal. The Clean Sweep grant no longer covers the cost of mercury disposal. This grant does not require matching local funding or continuation of the project after the grant money is depleted.

The HHW program continues to focus on preventing mercury, chlorinated solvents, waste oil, and other contaminants from entering our environment. Additional items diverted from the landfill include fluorescent light bulbs, pesticides, and oil-based paint from the waste stream. The goal is to prevent these items from entering the landfill and impacting the concentration of the leachate that is generated there.

Tires

A total of 170 tons of tires were collected in 2025, which is down 145 tons from the previous year. The cost to transport and recycle tires in 2025 gradually increased during the year. The Authority shipped 330 tons of tires off site and used 90 tons on site for interim cover anchorage.

FY 2024-2025 Operations

Compost and Organics

Materials accepted include yard and food waste. This material is processed in a separate area and is not part of the landfill cells. Processed compost material is utilized for various on-site construction and landscape projects with the remaining stockpile to be used in future final cover/partial closure of the landfill.

Construction

To facilitate landfill access and waste placement, multiple road construction and improvement projects were completed along with the construction of new dumping pads for the haulers. Interim cover was applied to portions of the landfill that are approaching final waste grade to further reduce leachate production. In addition, improvements to

stormwater drainage away from the landfill continue to aid in the reduction of leachate generation.

Projects in the recycling facility and glass processing building continue to increase efficiency, improve working conditions, and reduce contamination.

Landfill

The Authority performs daily waste placement and compaction of type II (household municipal trash) and type III (construction/demolition debris) waste. Approximately 46 years of landfill space remains based on the most recent waste volume survey. Projects in the landfill included interim cover and landfill cell development. Landfill construction and partial final closure continue to be evaluated each year.

Leachate

Landfill leachate is the stormwater that enters into the landfill and is contaminated by the waste. Leachate must be collected and treated before it can be released to the environment. The Authority collected, treated, and discharged 8,028,000 gallons of leachate in 2025, which is down almost 4 million gallons from the previous year. No leachate was transported off site. Due to concerns with PFAS, emergency haulage of leachate offsite for storage and/or treatment is extremely limited.

MCSWMA is regulated under an Administrative Consent Order (ACO) with EGLE regarding PFAS levels in our landfill leachate. To be compliant, a new wastewater treatment plant (WWTP) is being constructed. The MCSWMA received a Clean Water State Revolving Funds (CWSRF) loan for the project. As of this report, the project is nearing completion and system testing is scheduled to commence very soon.

2025 and Futures

Landfill Regulations

In December 2022, legislation revised numerous landfill regulations and implementation commenced on March 29, 2023. In addition, recycling benchmark standards were established at the same time and a new County or Multi-County Materials Management Plan (MMP) must be developed to replace the existing County Solid Waste Plan. MCSWMA should expect increased regulatory compliance requirements in the future. The overall cost of operating the facility is expected to increase significantly with an increase in the Perpetual Care fund by 2027, which is mandated by EGLE.

Leachate Management

Per the SRF milestone schedule, the WWTP project had gone out for bids in May 2024. PFAS compliance from the EPA and therefore EGLE continue to evolve. MCSWMA may be required to meet additional compliance requirements in the future, but the new reverse osmosis system in the WWTP is expected to be able to meet these requirements.

Landfill

Efforts continue to reduce the open (active) landfill surface area of the site and reduce the amount of leachate that is being generated. Installation of interim cover, improved stormwater management, and eventual partial final closure are crucial in this effort.

Landfill Gas Management

Currently, the MCSWMA 2017 Construction Permit allows for a passive gas collection system. With the changes to Part 115 Rules, an active gas collection and control system will be required. With these changes, EGLE requires that a landfill gas migration and monitoring plan be developed. MCSWMA has implemented that plan with the installation and monitoring of four gas probes along the perimeter of the landfill and monitoring sensors in all of the buildings and sheds on site. A surface emission monitoring plan (SEM) has also been developed per the Part 115 Rules. Surface gas monitoring commenced in the 4th quarter of 2023 and is continuing quarterly thereafter.

In addition, MCSWMA has contracted with NW Natural Renewables to construct a gas recovery facility at the landfill. Work on the project commenced in December 2024 with the installation of three gas wells.

Recycling and Materials Management

The new Part 115 revisions include recycling benchmarks for communities across the state. As recycling access increases in surrounding counties per the required MMP, we expect more recyclable materials will need to be processed. County plans across Upper Michigan may identify MCSWMA as their designated recycling processing facility.

Glass Recycling Projects

In 2025, MCSWMA began working with Sibelco, Inc from Minnesota to start taking our glass free of charge. Sibelco utilizes the recycled glass to manufacture new glass bottles and fiberglass insulation. In addition to no fee, the glass does not have to be crushed at MCSWMA, which saves the Authority time and money.

Budget and Finance

On July 1, 2025, a \$16.00 per ton tipping fee increase on solid waste was implemented. The increase was necessary to finance the construction and operation of the new WWTP. Tipping fees will be reviewed annually by the MCSWMA Board of Trustees.

Recycling Tipping Fees

Residential and commercial in-county recycling remains in effect at \$0 per ton. A \$30 per ton tipping fee is assessed for out of county recyclables. Based on the volume of material delivered and agreements the MCSWMA may have in place, tipping fees for out of county material may vary per the schedule of fees, at the discretion of the Director of Operations. Tipping fees will be reviewed annually by the MCSWMA Board of Trustees. Moving forward, we recognize the historical price fluctuations in the commodity market, which may have some impact on these fees.

Authority Assistance, Outreach and Education

Recycling efforts will not only focus on Marquette County but also include the central and western U.P. counties. Moving forward, the Authority will focus on the following:

- Assist and facilitate any municipalities in pursuit of recycling infrastructure or market development grants.
- Promote municipality programs and efforts to increase recycling access and participation.

- Provide recycling education and outreach updates via our website, social media outlets, and presentations.
- Interact with the public at in person events to promote recycling participation.
- Formulate and implement of K-5 recycling education program.
- Engage with planning agencies and assist in regional recycling planning.

As always, facility tours are available to basically anyone who inquires. These tours truly are the best way to fully understand the recycling process from the residential curb to the marketing/sale of commodities across the Midwest.

Websites and Information

For solid waste disposal information, please visit mcswwa.com. For recycling information, please visit recycle906.com

Personnel

Most of the operations staff is seasoned and very experienced. This, along with the mix of experienced new hires, remains the strength and core of the facility's infrastructure. The administrative staff continues to function in daily operations, administration, and human resources role accordingly. The recycling sorter staff is also a good mix of seasoned veterans and new hires to form the core of the MRF.

From leachate treatment to landfill gas collection and control, new cell construction to partial closure, regulatory compliance is ever changing and becoming more complex. This includes both operations and administrative functions to remain compliant with these changes. The retention of experienced and skilled employees is extremely important for the MCSWMA to remain viable. That employee experience and skill will be relied upon to facilitate the success that the landfill has had and will continue to have in the years to come.