



# MATERIALS MANAGEMENT FAQ

Updated September 2025

## WHAT IS THE MATERIALS MANAGEMENT PLAN?

Part 115 of the Natural Resources and Environmental Protection Act (PA 451 of 1994) was updated in 2023 to include regulations for solid waste, recycling, and composting. As a result, each county will be required to submit a Materials Management Plan to the Department of Environment, Great Lakes and Energy (EGLE). Prior to these updates, each county maintained a Solid Waste Management Plan, with the last major updates required ~25 years ago.

The 6 counties of the central Upper Peninsula (Alger, Delta, Dickinson, Marquette, Menominee, and Schoolcraft) have joined together to form a regional Materials Management Plan (MMP). [Some reporting has called it the multi-county recycling plan]. The MMP regulates provisions for the siting, operation, and strategic use of solid waste, recycling and organics facilities under the requirements of Part 115.

## WHAT IS THE TIMELINE FOR THE MATERIALS MANAGEMENT PLAN?

The timeline for the creation of the Plan is set by Part 115; EGLE has notified the counties that the central Upper Peninsula's MMP is due by June 27, 2027. Beginning in summer of 2026, the draft MMP will be distributed for a public comment and local municipal approval process. Each County Board of Commissioners will approve the plan and recommend its distribution. The Plan will then need to be majority-approved by each local unit of government in the six counties.

## WHO IS CREATING THE MATERIALS MANAGEMENT PLAN?

The counties selected Central Upper Peninsula Planning and Development (CUPPAD) as their Designated Planning Agency for the MMP. CUPPAD administers the Central Upper Peninsula Materials Management Planning Committee (CUPMMPC) as the body that oversees MMP development and implementation. The 23-member body contains representatives appointed by each County Board of Commissioners from materials management facilities, local governments, and businesses. The CUPMMPC is a public body that meets regularly to develop the MMP; see the CUPPAD website for meeting information.

## DO THESE PLANS REQUIRE THAT EVERYONE RECYCLE AND COMPOST?

No, the plans do not require participation from all residents. They do require that recycling options be accessible to all residents in some form. Whether that is through drop-off facilities, haulers providing additional services, municipal facilities, etc. will be determined through the planning process and the work of local governments and agencies. Organic waste represents one of the largest shares of landfilled materials, so additional options to divert organics through composting or other means are expected to become more available.

## I ALREADY RECEIVE TRASH/RECYCLING SERVICE, WILL THIS PLAN AFFECT THAT?

The Plan may ultimately recommend a level of service to households, or various methods of service delivery. A local unit of government may choose to adopt and implement those recommendations in furtherance of the Plan's goals.

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## WHERE WILL ALL THE RECYCLED MATERIAL GO?

Materials Recovery Facilities collect recyclable material and process it for the secondary market. These facilities sell material to manufacturing companies that reuse the materials for products, reducing the time, energy, environmental impact, and expense of extracting new resources. EGLE, the Michigan Economic Development Corporation, and other stakeholders are working to expand the market for recycled materials, providing more local business opportunities to use recycled materials in manufacturing, construction, and reuse.

## WHAT DO THE NEW PART 115 STANDARDS REQUIRE FOR RECYCLING?

Part 115 creates requirements for access to recycling services, as well as provisions for providing capacity for composting services. The major requirements are the "Benchmark Recycling Standards" which outline that:

- By January 1, 2026, at least 90% of single family dwellings in Census-identified urban areas have access to curbside recycling service at least twice per month.  
These areas are in general:
  - Moon Lake-Iron Mountain-Kingsford-East Kingsford-Quinnesec-Norway-Vulcan-Loretto
  - Menominee-M-35 north of city limits
  - Escanaba-Soo Hill-Wells-Gladstone-Kipling
  - West Ishpeming-Ishpeming-Negaunee-Trowbridge Park-Marquette-Harvey
- By January 1, 2028, at least 90% of single family dwellings in municipalities with a population over 5,000 have access to curbside recycling service at least twice per month:
  - Breitung Township, City of Iron Mountain, City of Kingsford
  - City of Menominee
  - City of Escanaba, City of Gladstone
  - City of Marquette, City of Ishpeming, Chocolay Township, Forsyth Township
- By January 1, 2032, in each county, there is at least 1 drop-off location for each 10,000 residents without access to curbside recycling at their dwelling, open at least 24 hours per month. At current levels of activity, the following are the expected needs:
  - Alger- one designated drop-off facility needed
  - Delta- two facilities needed, one currently at DSWMA, one additional needed.
  - Dickinson- one designated drop-off facility needed
  - Marquette- one designated drop-off facility needed
  - Menominee- one designated drop-off facility needed
  - Schoolcraft- one designated drop-off facility needed

## WHAT ABOUT TIRES, HAZARDOUS WASTE, AND ELECTRONICS?

Scrap tires, household hazardous waste, and electronic wastes are not regulated by the requirements of Part 115, and have their own requirements under other Parts of PA 451 of 1994. Their collection is anticipated to be included in materials management planning as complementing activities in order to facilitate wider access. Grant programs from EGLE continue to be available to fund local drop-off events.