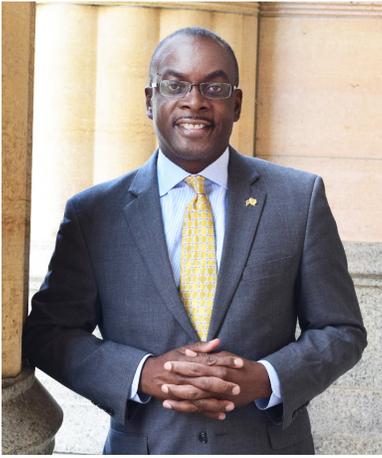


CITY  OF
BUFFALO

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MAYOR BYRON W. BROWN

2017 RECYCLING REPORT





MAYOR BYRON W. BROWN



CITY OF BUFFALO RECYCLING REPORT – 2017



Under the direction of Mayor Byron W. Brown, the City of Buffalo continues its strong commitment to increase its recycling and recovery programs. The City's Department of Public Works is responsible for the solid waste management systems; it serves 85,000 housing units—of which over 50% are multi-dwelling units—and a population nearing 260,000.



RECYCLING IS GOOD FOR THE ENVIRONMENT AND FOR THE ECONOMY.

In 2017, the City of Buffalo provided recycling collection to over 74,900 households and close to 4,000 commercial establishments.

The City of Buffalo continues to send less waste to the landfills. Nearly 28.36% of waste is diverted from the landfill. Instead it is recycled, reused or composted.

Solid waste that requires disposal is processed at the City-owned East Side Transfer Station located at 793 South Ogden Street in Buffalo. The City contracts with Waste Management of NY to operate the facility and transport solid waste to the Waste Management's landfill in Chaffee, New York. Landfill disposal is an integral part of a solid waste system, and also, the most costly; while recovery programs such as waste prevention, recycling, reuse and composting of organic material are more cost effective and sustainable.

At the direction of Mayor Brown, the City of Buffalo switched to single stream curbside recycling in 2012 for all residential structures as well as commercial entities in the designated commercial districts. Since then, overall recycling rates increased from 15.9% in 2012 to 28.36% in 2017. This steady progress has been aided by two new recycling initiatives: the Let's DO This! Neighborhood Recycling Competition and the Community Dare to Repair Café program.

Mayor Brown continues to encourage all city residents, visitors and business owners to recycle. By building on our positive momentum, he hopes to achieve his aggressive goal of 34%—the national recycling average—landfill diversion (reuse, reduce and recycling).



Mayor Brown joins DPW workers for morning coffee.



University at Buffalo students with the City of Buffalo Director of Recycling, Susan Attridge.



Electronic/Universal and Yard Waste Recycling Drop off site located at DPW Engineering Garage.

1120 Seneca St, Buffalo, NY 14210

HOURS OF OPERATION:

Monday–Friday
8:00AM to 3:00PM

First Saturday of the Month
8:00AM to 2:00PM

CITY OF BUFFALO

RECYCLING HIGHLIGHTS:

- Contracted with Modern Recycling to collect and process single stream curbside recyclables. In 2017, 16,501.73 tons was collected - the most recyclables collected curbside ever.
- Contracted with Lardon Construction to process yard waste collected by the Department of Streets and Sanitation. Over 11,000 tons of material was converted to compost and wood chips, which was made available for residents to use. Also sponsored a RainBarrel and Composter sale with Erie County to encourage residents to compost in their backyards.
- Continued to lead the Western New York Coalition for Donated Goods, a consortium of non-profit organizations whose mission is to increase textile recycling and prevent textiles from going to the landfill.
- Continued to operate the award winning Electronic Waste Recycling Facility, located at 1120 Seneca Street, Buffalo, NY. Residents can drop off e-waste for recycling at no charge. The City will also pick up e-waste for senior and disabled residents. Over 430 tons was collected in 2017.
- Continued Mayor Byron W. Brown’s 34andMore Buffalo Recycles marketing and education campaign. This year, television and radio ads encouraging residents to recycle and participate in the Let’s DO This! Neighborhood Recycling Competition were run.
- Sponsored two Household Hazardous Waste Collection events in 2017. City-sponsored Household Hazardous Waste events enable residents to safely and properly dispose of common household chemicals at no cost.
- Sponsored two community paper shredding events for the safe disposal of confidential documents.
- Sponsored three Dare to Repair Café’s with the University Heights Tool Library.

PUBLIC/PRIVATE PARTNERSHIP FOR WASTE MANAGEMENT

The City of Buffalo Department of Public Works, Streets and Sanitation division is responsible for:

- Curbside collection of garbage
- Curbside collection of 2 large items per week
- Curbside collection of yard waste
- Bulk trash pickup
- Special events, garbage and cardboard collection and event clean up



The City of Buffalo partners with private companies to manage many of our recyclables and special wastes.



Yard Waste waiting to be composted at the City's Engineering Garage

MATERIAL	COMPANY
Recycling collection & processing	Modern Recycling
Yard waste composting	Lardon Construction
Electronic waste recycling	Electronic Recyclers International
Household hazardous waste collection/processing	MXI
Universal waste recycling	NLR, Inc.
Textile recycling	Goodwill The Salvation Army Hearts for the Homeless The Buffalo City Mission St. Vincent de Paul Amvets



COMMUNITY OUTREACH AND EDUCATION

SPECIAL EVENT RECYCLING

The City of Buffalo requires recycling at all Special Events held in the City. Recycling totes were placed at over 200 events in 2017. The City of Buffalo also sponsored a recycling program called “Recycling Rangers”. The Rangers have tables at large events where they provide information and encourage participation in the City's recycling program.



COMMUNITY RECYCLING INITIATIVES

City of Buffalo staff attend Block Club meetings and DPW participates in the award winning “Operation Clean Sweeps” program. Over 6,000 households were reached at 32 Clean Sweeps events in 2017. In addition, the Buffalo City Clerk’s office distributed doorhangers to over 10,000 households. And recycling inserts were inserted into 70,000 water bills. This year, the City worked with Zerocycle to target specific neighborhoods to increase their participation. Using an algorithm, we found that Front Park, Kensington and Triangle residents could all increase their recycling rates. They were sent letters letting them know how their recycling compared to adjoining neighborhoods.



COMMUNITY RECYCLING EVENTS

The City of Buffalo held many special recycling events throughout 2017. Residents reported that they enjoy the convenience of dropping off recyclables at locations throughout the City.

EVENTS INCLUDED:

- Community Paper Shredding Events (2)
- Household Hazardous Waste events (2)
- Saturday E-Waste Collections (12)
- Clothing/Textile collection days (4)
- Dare to Repair Café (3)



RECYCLE LET'S DO This!



A NEIGHBORHOOD RECYCLING COMPETITION

This year, Mayor Byron W. Brown introduced the City's first recycling incentive program, the Let's DO This! Block Club Recycling Competition. Let's DO This! is a friendly and fun recycling competition for Buffalo neighborhood block clubs. It is designed to increase awareness and participation in Buffalo's curbside recycling program. Forty-four Buffalo Block Clubs participated in the inaugural four-week long summer challenge.

THE WINNERS WERE:

GRAND PRIZE Roebling Avenue Block
Increased recycling participation by 167%

SECOND PRIZE Walden Heights Community Block Club

As the winners of the competition, the Roebling Avenue Block Club received a Community Shredding Event in their neighborhood and both winning Block Clubs received a street planter. All participating Block Clubs received \$100 worth of beautification materials for their neighborhoods.



DARE TO REPAIR CAFÉ

Mayor Byron W. Brown introduced the new Dare to Repair Café this year. Working with the University Heights Tool Library and other community groups, the City-sponsored 3 Dare to Repair Cafés around the City.

The Dare to Repair initiative is designed to help residents repair common household items they may otherwise have thrown out. Volunteers from the community fix items such as lamps, vacuums, toys, clothing and small appliances.



BUFFALO PUBLIC SCHOOLS OUTREACH



As part of Mayor Byron W. Brown's commitment to encourage recycling citywide, the City of Buffalo offers Buffalo Public School students, teachers, administrators and custodial engineers environmental education programming. Our programs provide best practices and resources for the 3Rs (Reduce, Reuse, Recycle). Our three-tier structure enhances school engagement through technical assistance; educational outreach and workshops; and stewardship opportunities.

In 2017, the City of Buffalo developed uniform signage for its recycling program posters and decals. They were placed in all school classrooms and public spaces. Seventeen schools have received our new three-tier structure for recycling engagement. This led to 73 additional green totes being placed in these Buffalo Public Schools.

We also congratulate PS 156 (Frederick Law Olmsted) for receiving the Fall 2017 Green Grant Award. PS 156 was 1 of 7 schools across New York State that received the \$500 award from NYSAR3 (New York State Association for Reduction, Reuse, and Recycling). This award will enhance their sustainability practices by establishing food waste recovery and compost opportunities within the school.



For additional information:
**DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC WORKS,
STREETS AND PARKS**

716-851-5636



STEVEN J. STEPNIAK

Commissioner
Department of Public
Works, Streets and Parks

716-851-5636



HENRY JACKSON

Deputy
Commissioner
Streets & Sanitation

716-851-5914



SUSAN C. ATTRIDGE

Director of Refuse
and Recycling

716-851-5014



PAUL V. SULLIVAN

Director of
Sanitation

716-851-5915

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