

The background features a white field with a light blue dot pattern in the top right and bottom right corners. On the left side, there are three vertical bars: a wide light blue bar, a narrower olive green bar, and another wide light blue bar.

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MATERIALS MANAGEMENT IN FENNVILLE, MICHIGAN

Presented By : Ann Wilkinson

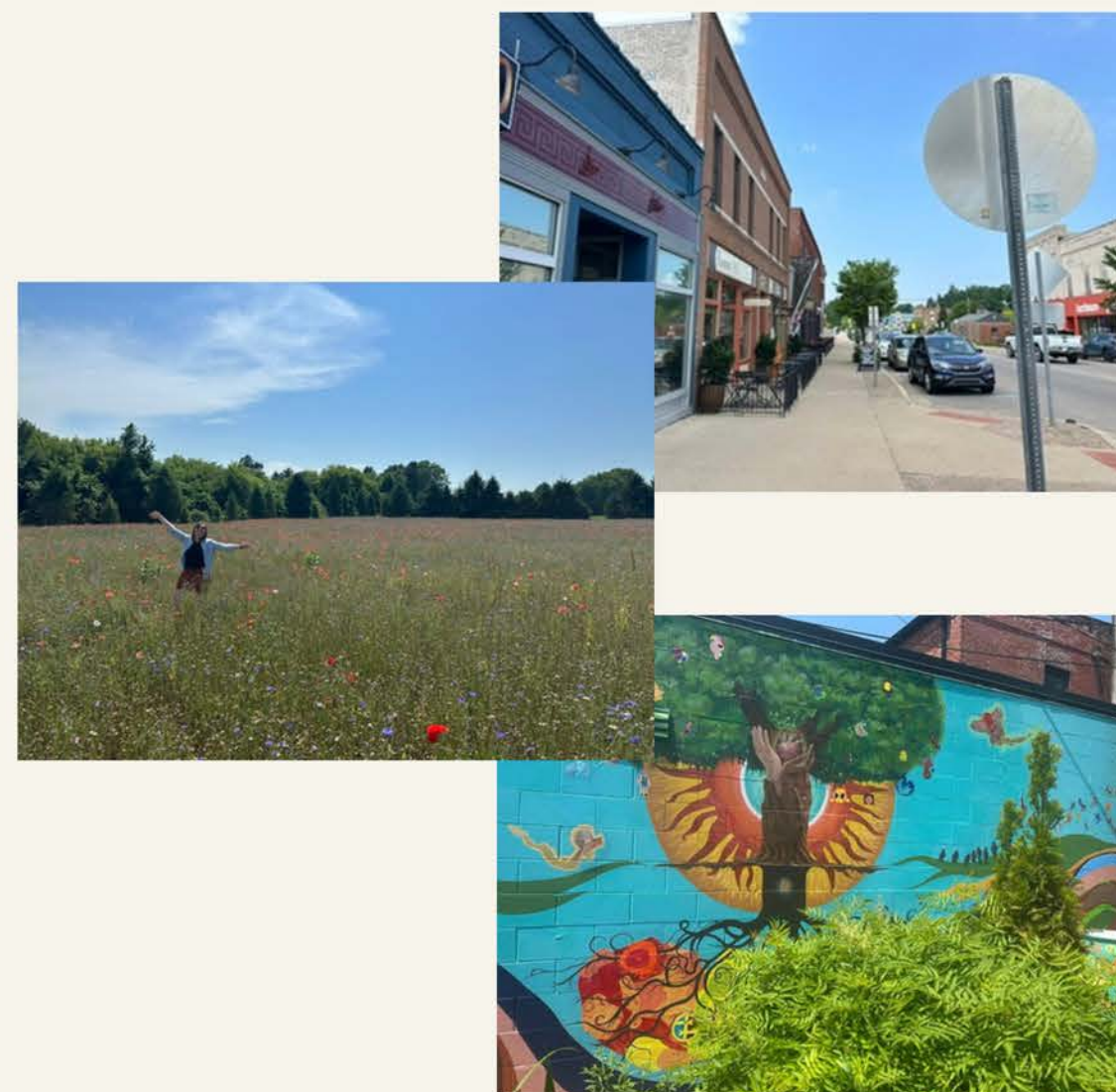
THE FENNVILLE TEAM

Mentor

Katie Beemer, Fennville City Administrator

Technical Advisor

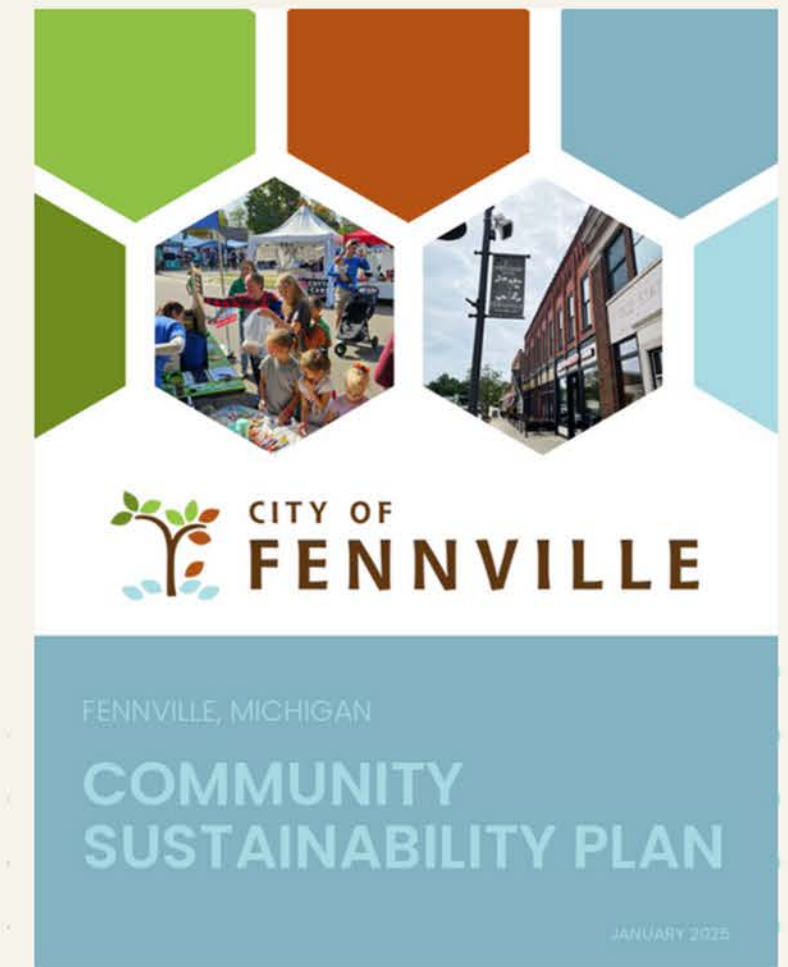
Kerrin O'Brien, Executive Director, Michigan Recycling Coalition



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MOTIVATION

- Sustainability
- Downtown Development Area
- Multi-hauler free market for waste services



METHODOLOGY

- Online research
- Qualitative interviews
- Case studies from peer communities
- Stakeholder engagement



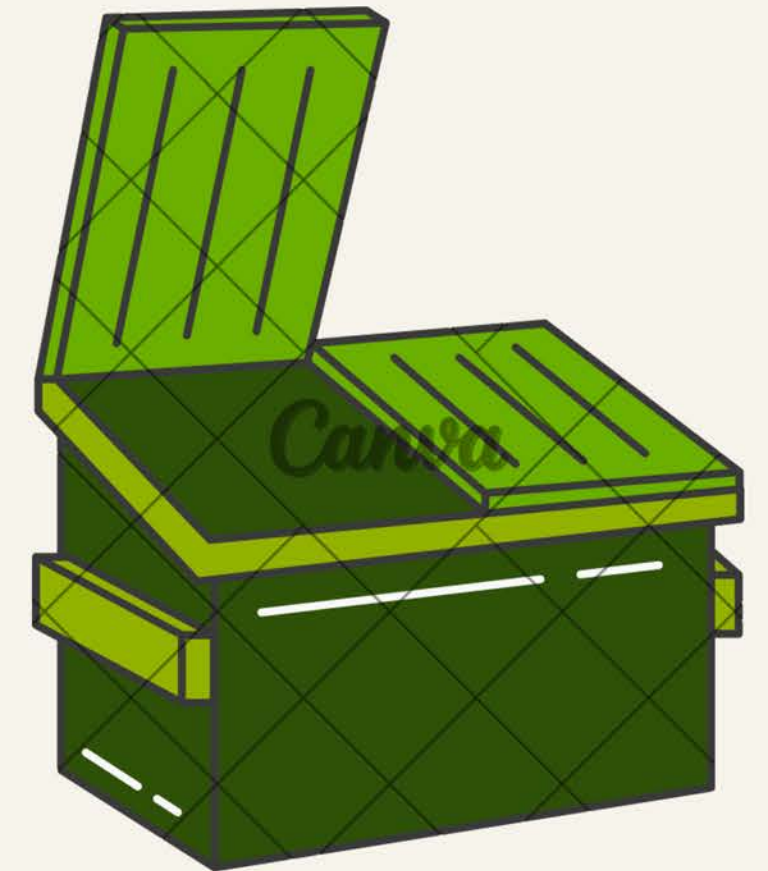
RECOMMENDATION #1: SINGLE-HAULER SYSTEM

- Lower rates for expanded services
- Consistent experience for residents & helpful performance tracking
- Relevant Case Studies:
 - Dexter Township
 - Valley Township



RECOMMENDATION #2: SHARED DOWNTOWN COLLECTION PROGRAM

- Aesthetically-enhanced environment
- Reduced nuisances
- Relevant Case Studies:
 - City of Allegan
 - City of Dexter
 - City of Ferndale



RECOMMENDATION #3: INTERLOCAL AGREEMENT

- **Cost savings: better vendor bids, reduced infrastructure wear, shared administrative and education costs**
- **Consistent regional sustainability standards**
- **Get a jump start on meeting future county MMP goals**
- **Relevant case studies:**
 - **Fennville's ambulance ILA**
 - **RRRASOC, WRRMA**




IMPLEMENTATION FIRST STEPS

 **Materials Management Interlocal Agreement Proposal**
Thursday, July 17, 2025

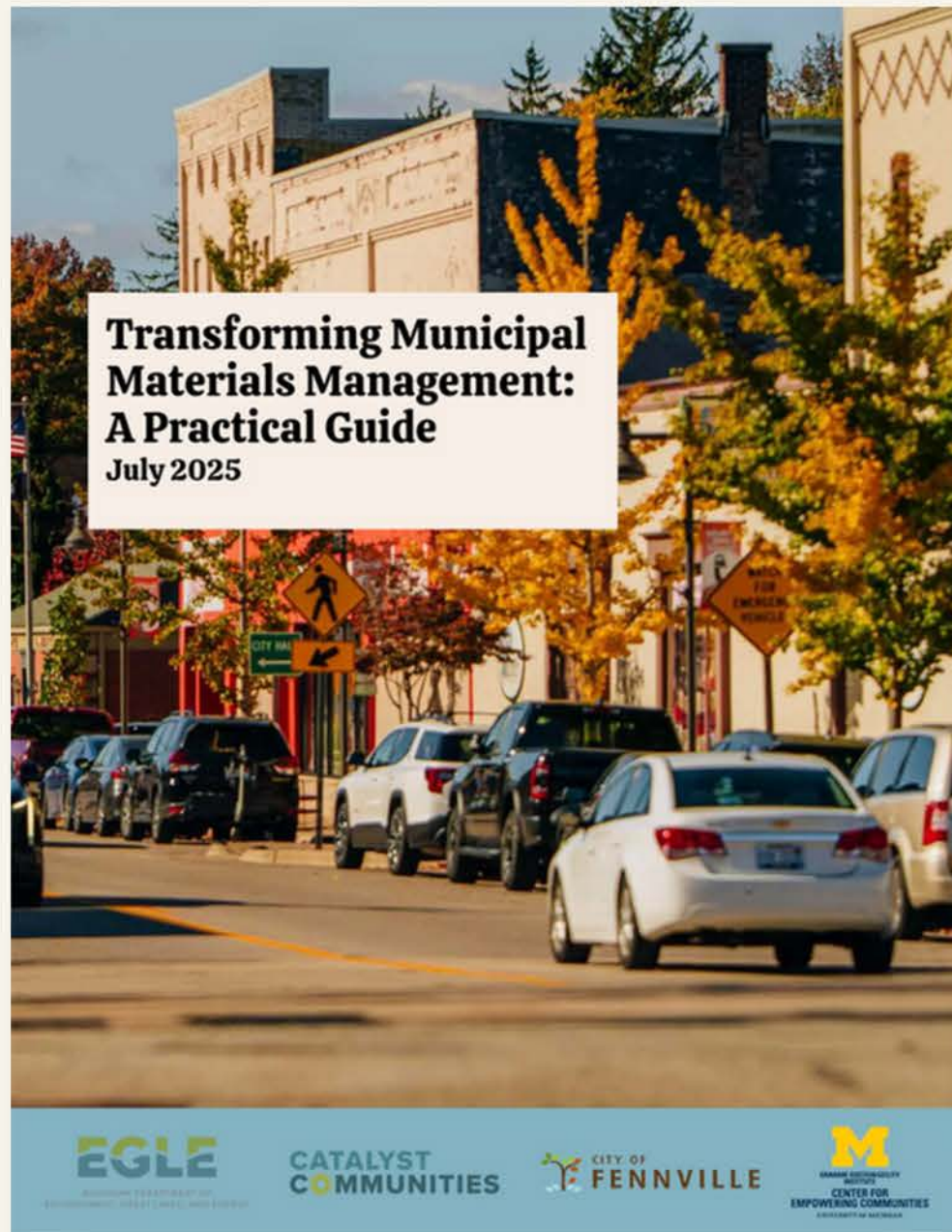



Contracted Curbside Service Overview

	Douglas	Fennville	Holland	Laketown	Saugatuck Twp	Saugatuck
Refuse		Free Market			Free Market	Republic
Bulk Refuse	Republic	Fennville	Republic	Republic	Saugatuck Twp	Saugatuck/ Republic
Recycling		Free Market			PaperGator	Republic
Yard Waste	Douglas/ Republic	Fennville			Saugatuck Twp	Saugatuck/ Republic
Compost/ Food Scraps	N/A	N/A	Ottawa County	N/A	N/A	N/A




SHAREABLE DELIVERABLE



Materials Management Guide

- Recommendations by service type
 - Solid waste
 - Recycling
 - Organics
- Implementation considerations
- Case studies & example documents

Getting Started

What service does your municipality want to focus on?

Select 'solid waste', 'recycling', or 'organics' below to access recommendations for improving each category of service in your community. Unsure where to start? Click here to jump to considerations for public engagement and data collection to get a better understanding of your community's needs.

[Solid Waste](#)

[Recycling](#)

[Organics](#)

Solid Waste



Develop neighborhood-specific solutions: Your municipality can improve the experience of residents, tourists, and businesses alike by customizing services to meet the unique needs of different neighborhoods. For example, implementing shared collection services in high-density areas, such as downtown districts, helps beautify neighborhoods that rely heavily on foot traffic. Additionally, collaborating with neighborhood associations to address local issues and provide extra support during community events or seasonal demands can further enhance resident experience.

Paths to Implementation:

- Downtown collection program
- Public engagement

Considerations for a Downtown Collection Program

Why create a downtown collection program? A downtown materials collection program for commercial entities can offer significant opportunities for both municipal and economic development. Downtown areas benefit from a clean, attractive environment that welcomes tourists, workers, and shoppers. Consistent, reliable, and aesthetically-minded waste management helps create the kind of spaces that invite foot traffic. From an operational perspective, coordinated waste collection across a downtown district will likely reduce truck traffic, wear and tear on city streets, and result in cost savings for participating businesses – particularly for small businesses that may lack the resources to navigate good waste management contracts individually.

When establishing a downtown collection program, a municipality must consider:

- Initial and continuing funding structures
- Policy considerations and necessary ordinance updates
- Program management
- Educational programming for current and future participating businesses

Below, three Michigan case studies offer unique insights for these considerations. Click on the linked items within each case study to see examples such as fee structures and educational materials.

City of Allegan

Overview: After conducting focus groups, the City of Allegan, in collaboration with its DDA, determined that a shared downtown collection program would help address the city's issues with trash cans taking up public sidewalk space. Allegan then coordinated with Republic and a local contractor to design and build the shared downtown sites.

Set-Up: Six enclosed sites (enclosed on three sides), some with gates. Five sites have trash and recycling (paper and cardboard only), while the sixth site has trash.

Funding Structure: The city charges all businesses and buildings in the "Zone of Interest" a ready-to-serve fee, regardless of whether they use a shared dumpster, and charges participants a usage fee. Entities on the edge of the zone can opt in. Businesses and buildings are charged based on their size and entity type.

TAKEAWAYS

- **Offer comprehensive community education, engagement, and support**
- **Implement data-driven operations**
- **Provide convenient collection and drop-off options with simple processes**
- **Maximize economies of scale and explore regional partnerships**

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THANK YOU!