

Recycle McCreary County – 2011-2012 Recycling Program Implementation Guide

Recycling in McCreary County can now be provided through a \$75,000 Division of Waste Management grant. These funds are made possible through tipping fees paid by garbage subscribers and come back to the county in the form of recycling funding, dump cleanup funds and the litter abatement.

The approved grant framework includes a project description and implementation guidelines as previously approved by the McCreary Fiscal Court and Kentucky Division of Waste Management. According to those project details, a new recycling program would be created to serve local government entities, school system facilities, businesses and approximately 18,000 residents within the county. The county hopes to look to programs in neighboring counties to build a local program to reduce the 5,000 tons of solid waste disposed of in landfills each year and reduce disposal costs to all those involved. The county already has a tentative agreement with the Superintendent of the McCreary County School District for assistance for implementation of a recycling program. The school district, which operates a limited recycling program primarily focusing on aluminum, is giving consideration to placement of recycling bins within the county's five schools and recycling trailers on property at three schools in different sections of the county to promote recycling efforts. In addition to the efforts of the school system, the county is hoping to coordinate recycling efforts with local grocery stores and businesses, factories and industrial centers, and even a federal penitentiary located within the county.

In addition, the county has already discussed establishment of the program with Central Kentucky Fiber Resources, a prospective buyer based in Lexington, KY. CKFR has agreed to work with the county to survey the local community in order to coordinate recycling efforts with potential recyclers in the local government, civic and business community in order to maximize effectiveness of the program. It is anticipated that the county reduce municipal landfill waste through recycling by a minimum of 5 percent through the first three years of operation.

The program will be operated exclusively by the McCreary County Fiscal Court, under direction of a component unit, the McCreary County Solid Waste Board, across McCreary County with focus on three primary residential areas within the towns of Whitley City, Stearns and Pine Knot, but serving the 18,000 citizens within the county. Other primary partners would include the McCreary County School System, McCreary County Tourist Commission and the McCreary County Detention Center with possible partnerships developed with USP McCreary, USDA Pine Knot Job Corps, as well as agencies with the state parks system and federal managed recreation areas and facilities.

The project is necessary to McCreary County because we are an economically distressed county struggling with solid waste collection issues, due to a number of citizens being financially unable to afford curbside collection. A recycling program would be one way the county could work to reduce landfill waste, thus reducing garbage collection rates, while producing revenues from recycling that could serve as a means to subsidize the collection service so that all citizens can participate. In addition, every component that participates in the program, whether it be school district or private enterprise, will realize financial gains by lessening the amount of waste disposed of by traditional methods.

Implementation of a recycling program in McCreary County is necessary because few recycling opportunities exist in the county and there are no existing programs supported solely by local government and its partners. The county's franchised solid waste collection company provides recycling of cardboard on a very limited basis, only if the recyclable material is dropped off at their central collection office in Stearns. There are at least two local recyclers who operate a private business, one of which works with the school system to collect limited recyclables. But, private businesses are market driven and if the price doesn't negotiate collection at any period of time, school efforts to recycle are nullified.

McCreary County plans to recover and recycle aluminum cans (UBC), steel food cans (SFC), post consumer plastics (HDPE, PETE), sorted office paper (SOP) and baled cardboard (OCC). After meeting with industry experts (Central Kentucky Fiber Resources) who provided a brief analysis of McCreary County solid waste system, local businesses, schools and other factors, it can be reasonably expected that McCreary County, in its first few years of operation, could recycle 5 percent (250 tons) of the 5,000 tons it currently sends for disposal at a landfill.

Recycling materials will be collected initially in small bins placed at area schools, the public library, park, courthouse and other public facilities that have a high traffic count. Larger mobile recycling trailers will also be placed at three different locations within the county to aid in secondary collection of the smaller bins from the schools as well as serve as central drop off locations for items generated by the local public. These recycling trailers can then be rotated to the county's recycling/waste transfer station where they can be unloaded, materials sorted, baled and prepared for shipment to market. Equipment funded through the Division of Waste Management will aid the county in completing the process from initial collection to market. County officials have already met with a prospective buyer of the materials listed above and hope to engage others in the coming months.

According to grant documentation approved by the Division of Waste Management, months 1-3 following grant award (June 15, 2011) would include the following: Equipment would be bid out, purchased and taken delivery of. Equipment, specifically recycling bins and trailers, could be prepared locally to include program contact information, use guidelines and other information pertinent to use. The county, solid waste coordinator and the McCreary County Jailer would also begin coordination at the time in order to establish a continuous workforce using both county employees and low-level security inmates.

Months 4-6: Equipment, specifically recycling bins would be moved into location and prepared for use. Smaller bins would be placed within the five area schools as soon as the school year calendar allowed. Larger recycling trailers could be utilized at various locations around the county during the time with three of those moved into location at area schools as the school year allowed (Trailer would be relocated to various locations around the county: courthouse, library, grocery stores, when school is not in session). One trailer would be put into use immediately at the local waste transfer station and rotated to other locations as other bins are brought to the center for sorting and baling. The county would also work to grow its "customer" base within the community by focusing on local businesses to provide recyclable materials.

Months 6-9: Materials would begin to be moved to the recycling center and processed for sale and transfer. The county could initiate during the time a contract (s) with a prospective buyer (s), begin storing materials until such tonnage is accumulated for transfer to the buyer. Work would continue to expand the base of community partners utilizing the program.

Months 9-12: At this time the program should be underway with materials beginning to be collected throughout the community, processed at the center and transferred to a buyer. The county focus at this time should shift to cooperative programs with the school system to provide educational programs for students and awareness to the community. The county can also begin to identify additional partners within the community to supply recyclable goods to the program. At the time, the county could also gauge the effectiveness of the program during the first year, develop a five-year plan and begin to address ways to make the program more beneficial to the community.

Since award of the grant implementation of the project and timeline have been altered to the following based on receipt of equipment and response of community partners. The solid Waste Coordinator, 109 Board and Judge's Office have developed the following project implementation plan.

Tier 1 – Program to begin with courthouse/public officials and school system (Program established in courthouse on August 25, 2011). Large blue bins installed in courthouse lobby, senior center lobby and plans to place in lobby at McCreary Center Campus and three local schools as defined by Superintendent Wright and school staff.

Medium blue containers located at library and courthouse with plans to expand to BSF depot, and other public and non-profit facilities where traffic and recycling opportunities are greater. Will work with school system and PRIDE to place more bins throughout area schools and encourage classroom coordination of program.

Small blue containers will be placed deskside in public offices to focus on collection of office paper.

Large recycling trailers will arrive late in September. Have tentative approval to place these at area schools, but must finalize these plans with Superintendent Donnie Wright and coordinate entire recycling program with principals and schools.

Overall program to focus on office paper, newspaper and magazines, plastic bottles, aluminum cans and cardboard. Courthouse/recycling staff will collect from all locations, using state inmate assistance, and transfer to Stearns recycling/transfer facility to sort and prepare for transfer to market.

Implement all of Tier 1 by October 1.

Tier 2 – Plans to expand scope of program to federal agencies: USFS, Post Office, NPS, USP McCreary, Job Corps as well as Cumberland Falls. Begin to introduce commercial customers to program: OVC, Kroger, IGA, Dolens, area banks etc., emphasizing collection of cardboard and office paper. Install large bins at recycling center/transfer station for after hours drop off.

Implement Tier 2 of recycling program by December 1.

109 Board to establish education committee by October 1, cooperating with local media, to devise awareness programs and community recycling strategy. Purchase flyers, advertisements, recycling bags for cars, provide community recycling guide and workshops as well as use PRIDE educational resources to promote programs in schools.

-New grant cycle opens January 1, plan on applying for more funds to expand access to bins throughout the county and to provide additional baling equipment and process equipment at center. Need to focus this winter on construction of small covered shelter at recycling/transfer station facility to house recyclables that are baled and ready for shipment.

Recycling program can be amended as necessary based upon recommendations of the Solid Waste Coordinator, Recycling Coordinator and the McCreary County Solid Waste Board in order to meet the program requirements as set out by the Division of Waste Management and McCreary Fiscal Court. The recycling program also falls within the guidelines as set out in McCreary county's five-year solid waste management plan and future plans will be amended to include the recycling program as defined above.