



Department of
**Environment &
Conservation**

Office of Recovered Materials

Program Updates

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10-Year Plan Update

Upcoming Workshops

Industry Recycling Study (SWIFR Round 2)

Waste Characterization Study

Annual Progress Report Dashboard

Recycling Education and Outreach

Household Hazardous Waste Events

Grants Update

10 Year Plan (Time-line)

- **November 2026:** TDEC publishes the State Plan
- **January 2027:** Regional Planning Grants open
- **April 2027:** Grant contracts with counties executed
- **June 2027:** New rules (Part 8 Legislative Changes) published prior to this date, TDEC will engage the regions on draft rules by holding a public hearing and public comment period to receive feedback
- **July 1, 2028:** Regions submit their Regional Plans to TDEC

Upcoming Workshops/Presentations

- **October 14- 16:** SWANA TCAPWA Conference- Knoxville, TN
- **October 21-23rd:** TCSA Mayor's & County Commissioners Conference
- **October 26-28:** TN Solid Waste Directors' Conference
- **November 3-6th:** 2025-2035 Solid Waste Plan How-To Training for Regions – Fleming Training Center in Murfreesboro
- **November 16-18:** East TN Ten-Year Plan Workshop- The Carnegie Hotel & Knoxville Field Office
- **December 7-9:** Paris Landing State Park- Ten-Year Plan Workshop
- **December 14:** Virtual Ten-Year Plan Workshop
- **January- February TBA:** Annual Progress Report(APR) Workshops

SWIFR Grant Update (Round 2 EPA Grant)

- EPA SWIFR Grant
- \$598,000 to use for promoting recycling and diversion
- Statewide Recycling Study for Diversion of Film and Packaging Materials.
- The goal is to determine what is being recycled across the state with film and packaging materials.
- Cooperative marketing website development

Waste Characterization Study

The TN Department of Environment & Conservation, Office of Recovered Material Program, received round one of the EPA SWIFR grant for a comprehensive statewide waste characterization study

The study's goal is to establish a detailed, data-driven understanding of what waste Tennessee municipalities generate, in what proportions, and how it is managed.

It was the first study since 2008 and collected samples from over 30 landfills and three MRFs.

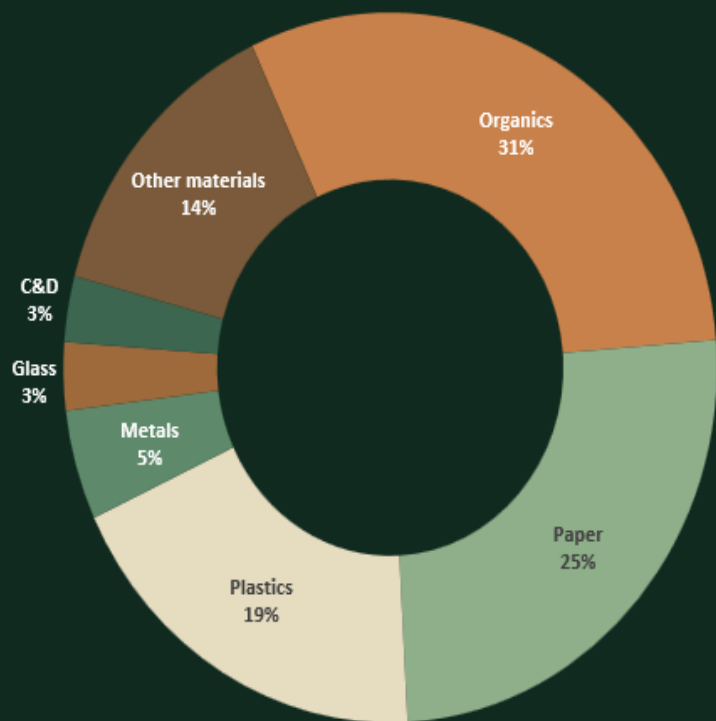
[mm_waste-character-recycling-study-final-report.pdf](#)



Waste Characterization Study (page 2)

● OVERALL STATEWIDE MSW COMPOSITION

Composition of Tennessee's MSW



Three major categories dominate the disposed stream

30.7%

Organics

The single largest category — led by wasted food

25.4%

Paper

Cardboard and compostable paper drive the total

19.0%

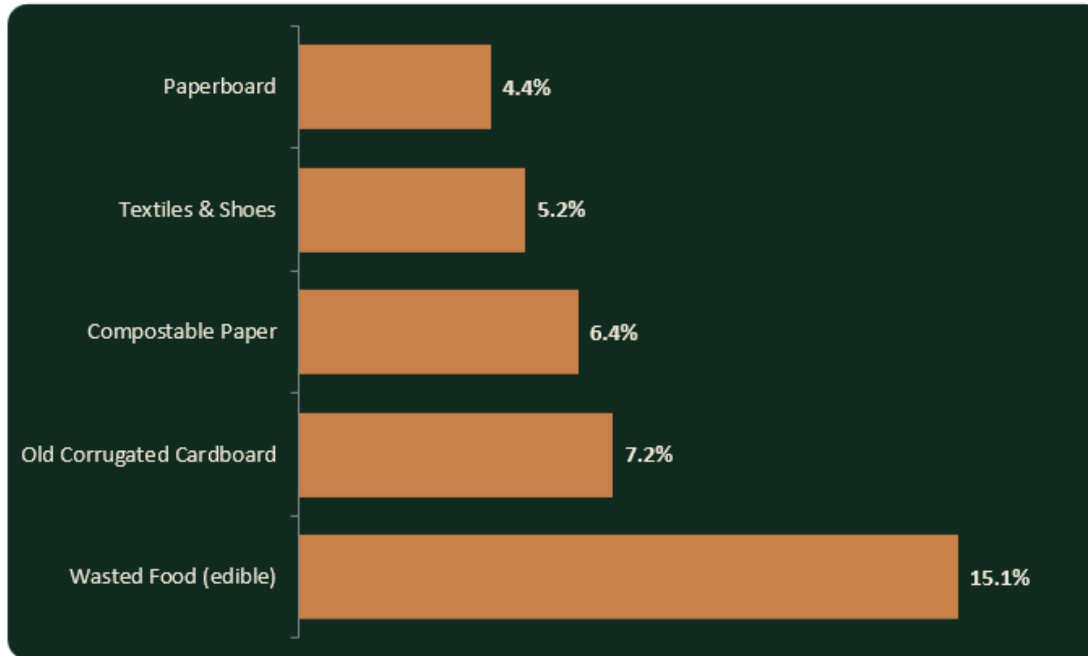
Plastics

Rigid containers plus a large share of film

Waste Characterization Study (page 3)

● LEADING DISPOSED RECOVERABLE/POTENTIALLY RECOVERABLE MATERIAL TYPES

Wasted Food is the #1 Material Disposed



What it tells us

- Five materials represent about 38% of disposed waste stream.
- Wasted food is the largest single component of disposed waste.
- Fiber packaging (cardboard and paperboard) remains a major recovery opportunity.
- Food-soiled compostable paper creates opportunities for composting.
- Textiles are a persistent, under-addressed stream.

Waste Characterization Study (page 4)

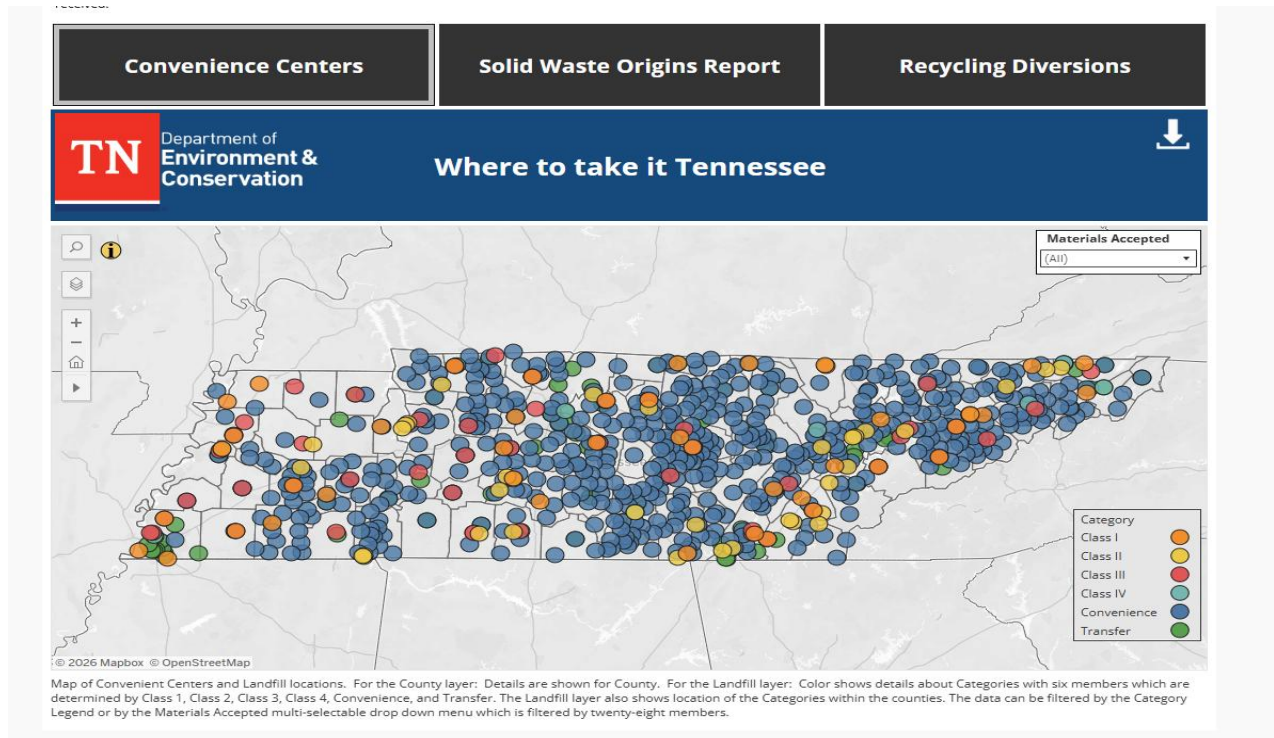
70–75%

of what Tennessee sends for disposal is potentially recyclable or compostable — material with value that is currently being buried.

Organics + Paper alone = 56.1% of disposed MSW

Just a few material groups drive most of the disposed tonnage — which means a focused strategies can move the needle.

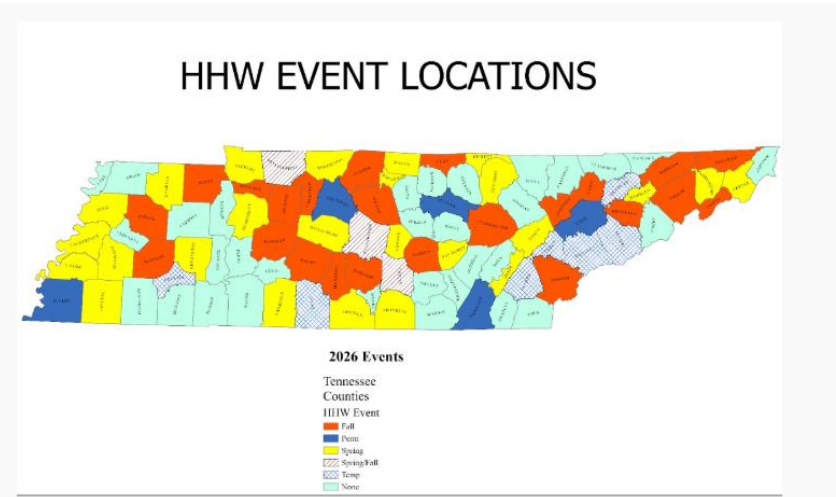
Annual Progress Report Dashboard



- [Tennessee Materials Management Annual Progress Report Dashboard](#)
- Solid Waste Origin Report
- Recycling Diversion
- Convenience Centers

Household Hazardous Waste Events

- Any Tennessee citizen can participate in the Mobile Household Hazardous Waste Collection Service. Collections only occur in the fall and spring to avoid extreme weather. The process is very simple. Check the [collection schedule](#) to determine a convenient event for you. The schedule is posted in January each year. You can also [subscribe to our newsletter](#) to receive collection event reminders for your county.
- We have 54 counties participating in 2026
- Website:
 - [Tennessee Household Hazardous Waste Program \(HHW\)](#)



Recycling Education & Outreach

- Partnership with Bristol Motor Speedway to promote used oil recycling education and outreach.



Recovered Materials Grant Program – FY26

- **FY26 Grants Awarded Totaling \$8,583,659**
 - (18) \$4,509,340 – Waste Reduction
 - (5) \$403,563 - Organics Management
 - (8) \$651,580 – Technical Assistance for Development Districts
 - (9) \$1,071,577 – Convenience Center
 - (6) \$150,804 – Used Automotive Fluid Recycling (Used Oil)
 - (9) \$980,755 - Recycling Equipment Grant
 - (8) \$693, 540 - Recycling Rebates
 - (2) \$122,500 - Household Hazardous Waste
 - (14) \$5,000,000 - Hurricane Helene Grant (EPA Federal Funds)

Recovered Materials Grants Program-FY27

Technical Assistance Grant Awards:

- Upper Cumberland Development District - \$96,134.00
- Northwest Tennessee Development District - \$80,800.00
- First Tennessee Development District - \$74,267.00
- East Tennessee Development District - \$122,533.00
- South Central Tennessee Development District - \$92,574.00
- Chattanooga Area Regional Council of Governments - \$77,668.00
- Midsouth Development District - \$40,884.00
- Southwest Tennessee Development District - \$76,720.00

Used Oil Grant Awards:

- Trustee of Greene County - \$62,949.96
- Cumberland County - \$18,788.00
- Washington County - \$17,755.00
- Montgomery County - \$41,167.27
- Henry County - \$21,300.00
- Obion County - \$22,809.00

Convenience Center Grant Awards:

- Henry County - \$150,000.00

FY27 Remaining Grant Cycles

FY27/28 Grant openings:

- Recycling Equipment - September 2026
- Recycling Rebate - September 2026
- HHW - September 2026
- Solid Waste Planning Grant – February 2027





Questions?