

Shelby County 109 Board 2015 Annual Report



RECYCLING

For years, the 7th Street Recycling Center drop-off was the main hub for the collection and distribution of recyclables in Shelby County. Although popular with the citizens the location had no area for storage, we were forced to haul partial loads which drastically cut the value per ton thereby reducing revenue. Two on-site vertical balers had no protection from the elements which shortened their life span. A 10 ft. x 12 ft. portable building was used as an office and protection for personnel during harsh weather conditions. There was no lavatory on site which caused a big inconvenience for staff members. On occasions when the number of cars increased it became difficult to manage the site in a safe manner.

Since the completion of the new facility, we have relocated the two balers from 7th Street and one from Waddy. With the additional space, we can now store recyclables and sell by the tractor trailer load. This allows us to secure a higher price for our recyclables, in some cases doubling the price per ton. The Shelby County investment did not go unnoticed by the Division of Waste Management Recycling Committee. The Shelby County 109 Board was awarded a recycling grant in the amount of \$406,000 for the purchase of recycling equipment and the promotion of recycling. This has enabled us to modernize our facility and prepare ourselves to become a Regional Facility. The following items were purchased using the 2015 grant funds.

1. Horizontal baler capable of making a 2,000 lb. bale.
2. Six man recycling sorting system.
3. Bob Cat skid steer with grapple bucket and forks, an essential piece of equipment to manage recyclables.
4. 6,000 lb. fork lift with rotating forks.
5. Six roll-off recycling containers and trailer with decorative wrap.
6. Ten Mini recycle containers. These are placed at businesses to capture OCC.
7. Can flattener used in compacting cans which saves space during storage.
8. Vehicle wrap that promotes recycling.
9. Recycling stations set out in the community.
10. Five wire mesh containers for storing recyclables.
11. Education and advertisement materials.

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The acquisition of our new horizontal baler has improved our efficiency significantly. With the modernized dumping system we're able to load the baler without handling the product by hand. It takes a fraction of the time to make a bale compared to our previous equipment. The horizontal baler has enabled us to make larger and heavier bales which takes less time to load tractor trailers.

Our new sorting system is essential in processing co-mingled recyclables. With this system we now can sort at a rate of 1,000 lbs. per hour. In the past we asked citizens to drop off their recyclables presorted. We feel we have made it much less cumbersome for customers dropping off recyclables at our new facility. This sorting equipment has given us a great opportunity; we now have the capability to process recyclables that increase the value substantially.

Purchasing a new skid steer has accelerated the recycling process significantly. With this piece of equipment the only time we physically touch the recyclables is at the time of receiving and during sorting.

In an effort to prepare for future recycling we have chosen particular equipment to purchase. Throughout the past year a number of containers have been acquired for separating and managing recyclables. The addition of a forklift with rotating forks allows us to dump large containers of recyclables thus improving our efficiency.

This is the first year that Shelby County has offered recycling drop-off locations in the county. The 6 containers wrapped with historical images of Shelby County are eye catchers. We should be proud of our history and promote it as much as possible. The containers are placed at our 7th drop-off location, Masonic Home of Shelbyville and one staged in downtown Bagdad. The community comments have been overwhelming, in a positive way. It is our goal to reach out to other areas of the county to place containers to make it more convenient for citizens.

4.5 cubic yard containers were purchased and placed at businesses to capture recyclables. This has been a great success, so successful we now have a waiting list of potential new locations. We have also located two 40 yard boxes at two area businesses that generate large volumes of (OCC) cardboard. This has enabled these businesses to divert disposal cost to revenue.

It is a general rule that if you run out of space at your recycling facility it's a sign of success. Our target for obtaining a can flattener was to save space. We now can store aluminum in half the space that before.

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One of our goals is to promote recycling through-out Shelby County. New and innovative ways to advertise is always a challenge. We are using vehicle wrap as one way to promote our recycling facility and recycling in general. Our children and grandchildren are captivated when they see the decorative wrap on our vehicles and recycling containers.

The future of our planet's resources depends on our generation. The Shelby 109 Taxing District board members are dedicated in preserving earth for the future of our children.

DISPOSAL

Waddy Convenience Center was funded by a Landfill Tax of .035 per hundred of property assessments. Solid waste disposal was free of charge to citizens of Shelby County, but it had negative consequences. Problems associated with the Waddy Convenience Center are as follow:

- Out of county haulers dumping at Waddy – This caused staff to use valuable time to police vehicles and face the possibility of confrontations.
- Solid Waste Haulers representing themselves as good Samaritans stating they were hauling for family and the elderly were dumping at no charge.
- The facility had no way to divert rain water from soaking the waste. This caused an overcharge for disposal due to water weight.
- The number of boxes available to take waste during time of drop-off was highly inadequate. One open top and one compact box was constantly filled and had to be switched out.
- Safety was a big concern with limited dumping area and inadequate room to maneuver vehicles; this contributed to on-site accidents.
- A railroad crossing blocked the entrance and exit routes on numerous occasions causing dangerous backups on Kings Highway.

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With the monthly increased tonnage of solid waste along with the new contract price of disposal, it was clear we could no longer sustain this expenditure.

Shelby County is fortunate to have a growing population and industry. The construction of our new state of the art facility began in mid 2014 and was completed in December 2014. The design of the new solid waste drop-off system allows dumping from one to as many as eight stations. This design has enabled us to increase the number of vehicles dropping off solid waste as well as reduce their time in the facility. We are confident this new design has improved the safety of our employees as well as the citizens. We no longer have dangerous backups on any road ways. No staff member has witnessed any arguments between citizens about cutting in line and no vehicle accidents have been reported. Solid waste tonnage has dropped since relocating to our new facility. There are two contributing factors: First, the City of Shelbyville has contracted a private hauler for curve side pickup of solid waste and recyclables. Second, our facility was designed to divert a large portion of rain water away from our open top roll offs to a water drain system. We now feel we are hauling less saturated solid waste that relates to cost savings.

March of 2016 marks the one year anniversary that our Recycling Facility's Kiosk system has been in service. Once the system was up and running we found that many elements of the system needed to be upgraded to meet the demands of our customers as well as to improve daily operations. The number of customers requesting assistance has decreased significantly during the first year. Modifications to the Kiosk system as well as familiarity on the part of the customers play a large role in the decrease of assistance needed at the scales.

Negative customer comments have decreased considerably since our opening to the point of none existing. The citizen's comments from all areas of the county today are positive. Since implementing the .035 Landfill Tax in 1970, the rate has not changed. During 2015 the 109 Board approved a tax decrease of .001 to .034. One of our goals is to find a balance between cost of solid waste disposal and revenue generated to fund the disposal of solid waste. In-depth financial studies are continuing in hopes to obtain a better understanding of how funds are being utilized and identify any shortfalls we may have.

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When factoring the cost of disposal we compiled personnel data by tracking the staff's daily activities. The formula below reveals how we calculated the price per pound for transporting and disposing of solid waste received in our facility.

SOLID WASTE DISPOSAL COST ANALYSIS	
Expense	Amount
Two Fulltime Employees Salaries and Benefits	\$100,540.57
Disposal Expense	\$78,000.00
Fuel	\$8734.00
Two Trucks Depreciation	\$26,000.00
Maintenance Expense	\$19,102.00
Vehicle Insurance	\$10,000.00
Credit Card Convenience Fee	\$4,985.00
Total Disposal Expenses	\$247,361.57
<i>TOTAL SOLID WASTE TONNAGE</i>	<i>2,822</i>
<i>TOTAL SOLID WASTE POUNDS</i>	<i>5,644,000</i>
TOTAL COST PER POUND	\$.044

After reviewing the last year's activities I felt it was not a fair evaluation. This has been a learning experience for all of us. New designs placed in service came with unexpected surprises. Many upgrades were required, and we still are not completely satisfied. We will need to make our facility more accommodating to our customers. The 2016-2017 budget includes funds to cover the scale area. This will make it much more pleasant for our customers during inclement weather as well as protecting our scale equipment. My recommendation is to maintain the .03 charge per pound at our facility as well as the .034 tax rate.