

Section 1. Introduction

The City of Madison began separating recyclables from going into the landfill long before the Recycling Act of 1991. Initially, the City started with recycling of metals and glasses and now has expanded it to a whole lot, reducing the recyclable waste going into the Dane County Landfill from a few tons totons in 2016. Buoyed by this increase and the fact that any diversion of waste from the landfill increases the life of the landfill, the City's Madison Results Initiative and its Sustainability Plan set a lofty goal of "zero waste" by the year 2050.

The City of Madison is a primary customer of the Dane County Landfill withtons of City's waste being sent for landfilling (--% disposed) annually. The landfill has a defined, State approved total capacity to accept waste for disposal. Any reduction in the annual disposal tonnage, especially from its primary customer, the City of Madison, will be welcome by the County and will lengthen the life of the existing landfill. Once the landfill reaches its State approved capacity, a new landfill will need to be sited. A new landfill siting is a lengthy, very expensive and highly politically sensitive process and is likely to use the County's farmland. It is also likely to be located farther away from the City, increasing the transportation costs, not to mention the environmental damage and costs.

For the purpose of this Plan, "zero waste" is defined as zero recyclable waste. The Plan recognizes that some waste materials (examples-disposable diapers, pet wastes) that are landfilled, are currently not viably recyclable or preventable at the municipal level. The Plan's goal is to achieve zero recyclable waste going to the landfill for disposal by 2050. The term recyclable will be a moving target, as the technology changes more waste materials will likely become recyclable, thus increasing the materials diverted from landfilling.

The Plan offers the following:

1. Guide the public to reduce waste generation
2. Find opportunities/markets for recycle waste materials
3. Guide the public to use recyclable/biodegradable materials in place of non-recyclable/non-biodegradable materials
4. Provide efficient waste collection and management system.