

Does Davis County Recycle?

April 6, 2011
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Layton – More than 50 percent of the waste generated in Davis and Morgan Counties is recycled or diverted from the landfill. During the Calendar year 2010, District facilities received a total of 267,359 tons of municipal solid waste. Of that waste, we recycled the following amounts (2007, 2008, and 2009 numbers are also provided for comparison):

| | <u>2007</u> | <u>2008</u> | <u>2009</u> | <u>2010</u> |
|--------------------------------|---------------------|---------------------|---------------------|---------------------|
| Total Waste | 289,968 tons | 284,014 tons | 274,095 tons | 267,359 tons |
| Waste Landfilled | 155,034 tons | 144,235 tons | 145,094 tons | 130,282 tons |
| Energy Recovery | 123,240 tons | 129,020 tons | 117,392 tons | 124,360 tons |
| Carpet Pads | 101 tons | 99 tons | 117 tons | 133 tons |
| Used Oil | 23 tons | 15 tons | 26 tons | 32 tons |
| Metals | 3,409 tons | 4,846 tons | 4,397 tons | 4,361 tons |
| Tires | 118 tons | 145 tons | 223 tons | 282 tons |
| Green Waste | 8,916 tons | 9,443 tons | 10,172 tons | 11,339 tons |
| Recycling Bins | 728 tons | 713 tons | 1,439 tons | 534 tons |
| Refrigerators | 459 units | 420 units | 540 units | 599 units |
| Total Diverted | 136,332 tons | 139,779 tons | 129,001 tons | 141,041 tons |
| Landfill Diversion Rate | 50 % | 49% | 47% | 51% |

Wasatch Integrated Waste Management District is a special service district responsible for disposal of solid waste generated in Davis and Morgan Counties, with the exception of the City of Bountiful. The District operates an integrated solid waste management system which includes, recycling, composting, waste to energy, and landfill. The Davis Energy Recovery Facility recovers energy from the garbage, in the form of heat, which is used to generate steam and electricity. The steam is purchased by Hill Air Force Base, thereby reducing consumption of natural gas. The District also operates the Davis Landfill, green waste recycling facility, household hazardous waste drop off, and recycling center.

A recently released national survey conducted by BioCycle Magazine titled *The State of Garbage in America* reports the average landfill diversion rate in the Rocky Mountain region at 11 percent. The State of Utah is currently diverting about 13 percent of their waste from landfills (the Davis Energy Recovery Facility accounts for 5 percent of the entire Utah landfill diversion tonnage). The New England states reported the highest landfill diversion rate of 68 percent with all other regions reporting less than 48 percent of the waste stream being diverted away from a

landfill. The State of California currently requires all municipalities to achieve a landfill diversion rate of at least 50 percent.

The integrated approach to solid waste management being used by Wasatch Integrated is an extremely cost efficient method of recycling. Traditional curbside recycling programs cost about \$3 per month per household and collect, on average, about 40 pounds per month, per household. The resulting cost is approximately \$150 per ton of recyclables diverted from the landfill. Curbside programs typically result in diversion rates in the range of 10 to 20 percent overall. Waste to energy costs substantially less per ton than curbside recycling, and virtually 100 percent of the waste picked up at Davis and Morgan County residences is processed at the energy recovery facility. Waste from households is reduced by 90 percent by volume while recovering energy, while ash from the facility is further recycled by recovering metals and use as daily cover at the landfill.

“I am often asked why we don’t have District mandated curbside recycling in Davis and Morgan Counties” said Nathan Rich, Executive Director of Wasatch Integrated Waste Management District. “Curbside recycling systems simply can not match the performance and cost effectiveness of the integrated waste management system which we already have in place”. Rich also pointed out the expansion in other recycling programs the District provides. “We have a great green waste recycling and composting program and have helped to implement curbside collection of green waste in a growing number of Davis County cities. In 2010, we opened a new recycling drop off center, located at the landfill, for citizens living in cities without traditional curbside recycling. We have also an ongoing project with Hill Air Force Base which uses waste methane gas being produced at the landfill to produce electricity”.

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