



## MEMORANDUM

**TO:** Mayor Laurel Lunt Prussing and Members of the City Council  
**FROM:** Courtney Rushforth, Recycling Coordinator  
**DATE:** February 25, 2013  
**RE:** 2012 Waste & Recycling Update – Information Only

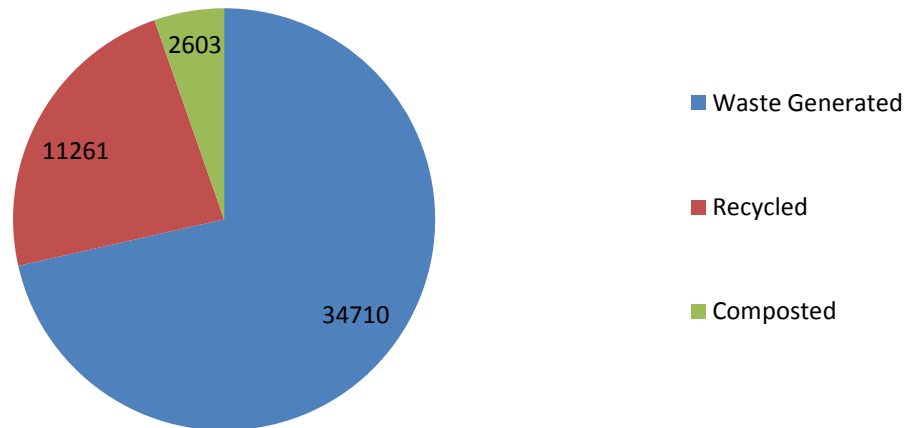
### **U-Cycle Program and Hauler Reports**

The City of Urbana's curbside and multifamily U-Cycle programs both saw significant increases in 2012, with a 27% increase in materials collected (by weight) in the curbside program and a 21% jump in materials collected in the multifamily program. The U-Cycle program has not seen such a significant increase in recyclables collected since the mid-2000s when recycling carts (U-Carts) were added to the curbside program. This achievement was promoted via a news release and reported by local print and broadcast media in January 2013.

The curbside U-Cycle program saw increases in paper commodities collected, along with glass and #1 and #2 plastics. The multifamily U-Cycle program also saw increases in paper commodities, along with glass and metal commodities.

The 2012 recycling increases may be attributed to increased community outreach efforts at local events, advertising campaigns, through school programs and through social and mass media coverage. In addition, the increases may also be attributed to an improvement in the local economy. The diversion rate (the percentage of waste materials diverted from landfilling) in Urbana is calculated using data provided by licensed haulers and contractors from the required annual hauler report. The results indicate that a total of 34,710 tons of waste was generated in Urbana in 2012. Of that, 20,846 tons were landfilled as garbage and 13,864 tons were either recycled or composted, equaling a diversion rate of 40%. This rate is significant, as diversion rates calculated in the past were around 35%. This indicates improvement in source reduction, and in recycling and composting landscape waste. Breaking it down, the commodity recycling rate was 32% and composting rate was 8% in 2012.

## City of Urbana Waste & Recycling 2012



### Electronics Recycling

The U-Cycle program is continuing support for countywide electronics collection events in 2013. In 2012, Urbana and local recycling coordinators conducted three collection events, collecting a total of 108 tons of electronics including televisions, computers, printers and more from countywide residents. These electronic devices were either recycled or refurbished depending on the condition of the device. Two electronics collection events are scheduled in 2013. These events will be held on April 20 and October 12.

### Household Hazardous Waste

On September 29, 2012, the Illinois EPA (IEPA) held a household hazardous waste (HHW) collection event in Champaign, as a result of a HHW application submitted by the City of Urbana to the IEPA in 2007. The event was an overwhelming success with more than 2200 households participating at a cost of \$135,445. Results from the event revealed that countywide households properly disposed of 509 55-gallon drums filled with oils, paints, solvents, old gasoline, adhesives, sealers, flammables, mercury, asbestos, lead-acid batteries and poisons and pesticides. This is the equivalent to 205,127 pounds of hazardous materials being diverted from landfills!

More than 50 percent of the materials collected were adhesives, sealers, poisons and pesticides. The 2012 event surpassed the last event, held in Urbana in 2006. At that event 230 55-gallon drums or the equivalent of 92,690 pounds of materials was collected. The 2012 event showed a 121% increase in materials collected from the 2006 event, indicating the need for more frequent events. Two local vendors also participated at the 2012 event: Interstate Batteries of Champaign collected 256 lead-acid batteries, and Hick's Gas of Urbana collected more than 500 propane tanks.

The event was sponsored by the Illinois EPA and cosponsored by the cities of Urbana and Champaign, Village of Savoy, Champaign County, Champaign County Probation and Court Services, Champaign County Regional Planning Commission, Prairie Rivers Network, and the MTD, with The News-Gazette serving as the host. The event contractor was Heritage Environmental Services, LLC of Wood River, Illinois.