
TETON COUNTY
INTEGRATED SOLID WASTE AND RECYCLING

2020
ANNUAL
REPORT

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2020 ADVISORY BOARD

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Rani Carr, *vice chair*

Paul Cherry, *treasurer*

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Lindsey Ehinger

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Nikki Kaufman

All photos by Carson Meyer Photography

Image 1. Aerial view of the landfill cap

*Reduce, reuse, recycle and manage municipal solid
waste throughout Teton County, Wyoming, in an
efficient and environmentally-sound manner.*

THE ROAD TO ZERO WASTE AND COVID-19

The Road to Zero Waste (R2ZW) and Covid-19 ran perpendicular paths in 2020. The R2ZW encourages residents of Teton County to reduce, reuse, and recycle as much as possible, with the ultimate goal being 60% reduction in waste sent to the landfill by 2030. Covid-19 encourages the use of single-use items over reusables, such as masks, gloves, coffee cups, and bags just to name a few. The year 2020 has been a tough year for waste diversion, but the extra time at home has opened the eyes of many to how much waste they create on an average day. Though we may see some diversion setbacks related to Covid-19, ISWR has seen an increase in community involvement and concern for waste creation and diversion.

With more people home for long stretches of time, the waste stream was significantly impacted. Staff at ISWR anticipated trash tonnages would falter, as businesses temporarily closed. However, the reality was the community had more time to clean out sheds, closets, and garages. While many businesses temporarily closed,

some industries like construction and demolition merely paused. Construction and demolition waste increased from fiscal year 2019 to 2020 by almost 1,000 tons.

Recycling also experienced significant changes due to Covid-19. Aluminum recycling increased significantly, while many other materials slowed. Textile recycling was suspended in May, and as of December it has yet to resume. ISWR has every intention of continuing with this collection service as soon as possible. Electronic waste, shredding service, and hazardous waste collection were temporarily suspended in spring and early summer. Programs like the Community Partnerships were canceled due to budget constraints.

The Trash Transfer Station temporarily modified payment options to accounts only, but has since returned to normal payment options. Like everyone in this new world, ISWR is pivoting, managing waste, and innovating strategies to continue reducing waste in the community while also keeping staff and the community as safe as possible.

Image 2. Unloading cardboard at the Recycling Center



2020 IN A NUTSHELL

Fall and Spring Clean Ups

Spring Clean Up was scheduled to take place in the height of the Covid-19 shut down in Jackson. It was a difficult decision to make, but Teton County and the Town of Jackson decided it was best to cancel the event to ensure the safety of staff, volunteers, and the community.

Fall Clean Up was a great success and collected 105 tons, or 210,000 pounds of yard waste to be composted locally. ISWR allowed 500 pounds of free residential yard waste drop-off for one week in early November at the Trash Transfer Station. ISWR staff and ISWR board members joined the Town of Jackson at the Rodeo Grounds for a one-day residential drop-off during that same week in early November. We appreciate the community support for the event! ISWR and the Town of Jackson are extremely grateful to our sponsors, WestBank Sanitation and Teton Trash Removal, who made this event possible. Thank you to Terra Firma Organics for their exemplary composting services.

In addition to the Fall Clean Up event, normally a Pumpkin Smash is hosted by ISWR, the Town of Jackson, and the Jackson Hole Fire/EMS department. The decision to cancel was a difficult one, but because of the health metrics at the time and the tendency for people to crowd while watching the event, it was deemed an unnecessary risk. Pumpkins were still accepted for composting.

Commercial Food Waste Composting

The retrofit of the Interim Transfer Station is complete, and is now officially the Food Waste Composting Facility. A new waterline was installed providing the necessary water at the composting site and all facilities at the Trash Transfer Station. Wildlife fencing was installed to deter local fauna that may be attracted to the site. Delays in infrastructure postponed the permitting and completion of the retrofit until December. However, the first load of commercial food waste is expected in early winter 2021.

Image 3. Aerial view of compost piles, food waste composting facility, and scrap metal



Taming the Wild Waste

ISWR's longest and biggest project to date was officially completed in 2020. Aptly called "Taming the Wild Waste," the project began in 2012 and continued uninterrupted until 2020.

The project included the construction of:

- a new and improved weigh station which resulted in: shorter lines at the scales, quicker in and out of the facility, increased efficiency with two scales, and an enhanced customer experience.
- an interim transfer station/food composting facility which resulted in: a means to continue operations and zero days lost while the main transfer station was under construction, and the ability to retrofit from a transfer station to a composting facility without the need to rebuild.
- a new transfer station which resulted in: improved preparation for the future, most efficient service for the community, a safer environment for users, and expanded opportunities for diversion.

Meanwhile, 800,000 cubic yards of trash buried in the old Horsethief Canyon landfill were excavated and hauled into the canyon above. The excavated waste was placed on top of the upper section of the old landfill and capped with an impermeable layer and plenty of dirt for native flora to grow on. This method of managing the old landfill avoided 5,217 additional trips to the Bonneville County, ID landfill, \$25,000,000 in additional fees, and 11 years to complete the removal of waste. The excavation of the old waste mass and proper capping will remediate groundwater contamination for future generations.

Virtual Tours

Education and outreach for ISWR's facilities and programs have been forced to move away from in-person events, tours, and classroom visits. One way to still offer a view into the facilities is through a virtual tour. Two tours were created, one of the Recycling Center and one for the Trash Transfer Station, so classrooms, clubs, or anyone interested can still see how we operate and why waste reduction is so important to our community. The virtual tours can be found on our [website](#). A member of the ISWR staff would be happy to Zoom into groups to chat further or answer any questions.

Reusable Water Bottle Round Up

ISWR partnered with the Jackson Hole Middle School on a Reusable Water Bottle Round Up in the fall. Due to Covid-19 precautions, students are required to bring a reusable water bottle to school every day as water fountains are shut down. If a student forgets, they are given a single-use plastic cup. This created a large amount of waste. Over 600 reusable water bottles were donated from the Jackson community and local businesses to support this sustainability initiative. Bottles are sanitized and given to students to keep or put back into rotation.

Image 4. Aerial view of compost piles



UPCOMING IN 2021

2021 has a lot in store!

New Recycling Signs

ISWR intends to partner with Recycle Across America to design new picture-based signage to replace the old, outdated signs seen on all the recycling bins across the county. Picture-based signs have been proven to increase recycling participation and decrease contamination.

Artist Residency

ISWR and local artist, Suzanne Morlock, should begin an art residency in January, 2021, pending health metrics. Suzanne's finished work will be viewable by the public in summer 2021, location to be determined.

Small Sort System

A small sort system will also be installed in spring 2021. The sort system will have a magnetized eddy current, which will improve the sorting of aluminum and tin, and produce a cleaner product. Additionally, this will allow staff to bale aluminum even faster, which should relieve some of the overflow seen at the community sites.

Baler Upgrade

In spring 2021, improvements to the existing baler will be completed, resulting in greater horsepower and efficiency. This will increase speed, make the current baler compatible with the new sort system, and better meet the needs of staff and the community.

Waste Characterization Study

ISWR intends on conducting a large-scale waste characterization study in summer of 2021 to examine Teton County's waste stream. This will inform ISWR staff on recyclable material not being captured and how to best educate the community in the future.

Image 5. Aerial view of the Recycling Center



ISWR BY THE NUMBERS

32.5%

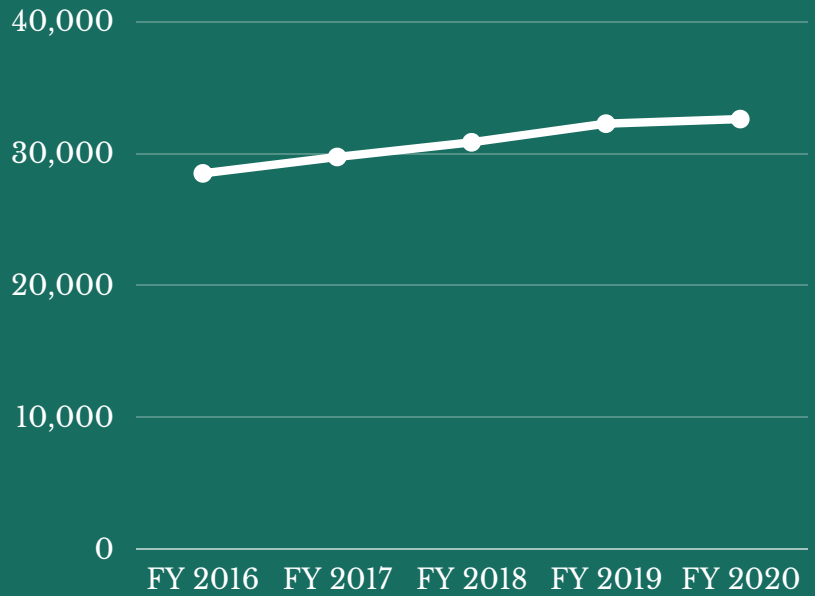
DIVERSION RATE
5 year average

9,236.8

TONS COMPOSTED

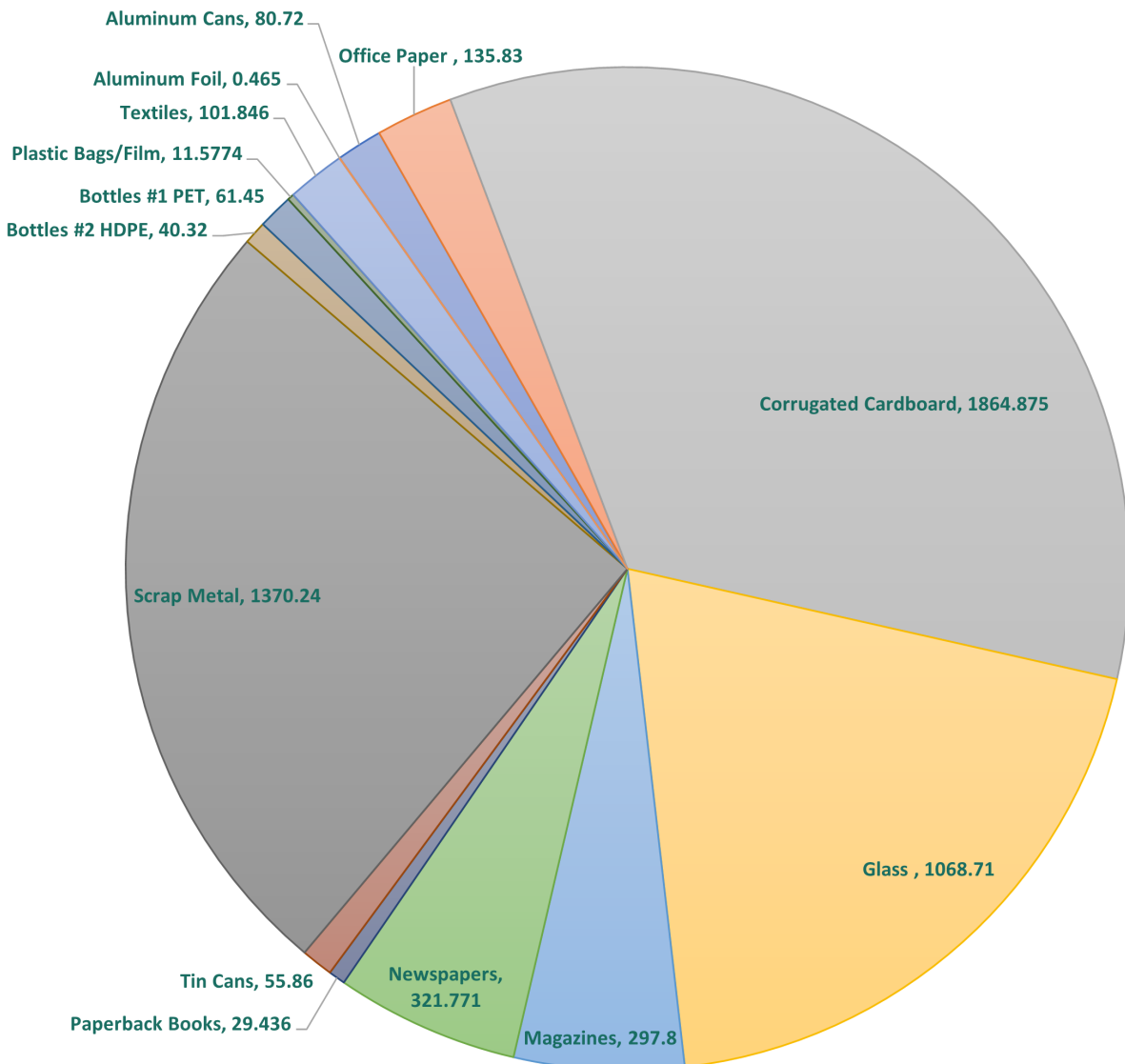
4,328.9

TONS RECYCLED



LANDFILL BOUND TONS

RECYCLED TONS IN FY 2020



COMMUNITY DIVERSION

2020 was a tough year for waste diversion. Thank you to these businesses who went above and beyond:

Hole Food Rescue

- Rescued over 126,991 pounds of food

CLB Architects

- Has 3 office bikes for staff to use
- Has a printer dedicated to printing on the back of already printed paper

St. John's Health

- 1,000 pounds of batteries collected
- 5,000 pounds of cooking oil sent to Cache Valley By Products
- 45,720 pounds of food waste collected and composted locally
- 1,000 pound of linens/rags donated to local veterinarian clinics

Habitat for Humanity ReStore

- Rehomed 23,314 pieces of furniture and accessories
- Diverted 533,866.75 pounds from the landfill

Haagen-Dazs

- Composts all food waste with WyoFarm Composting

Rendezvous River Sports

- Orders kayaks by the container to reduce packaging materials
- Has a 75% diversion rate on their overnight trips in Grand Teton National Park

Esteam Architecture

- Reuses as much packaging material as possible

Fall River Electric

- Reused 5 transformers and 10 poles

Jackson Hole Airport

- Collected approximately 16,000 pounds of food waste for composting
- 1,000 pounds of food donated to Hole Food Rescue
- 1,500 gallons of waste oil reclaimed