

**20  
23**

# **Impact Report**

LA CROSSE COUNTY  
SOLID WASTE DEPARTMENT



**Jadd Stilwell, Director**



LA CROSSE COUNTY

# Moving Our System Forward

## MESSAGE FROM THE DIRECTOR



During 2023, the Solid Waste Department made **significant progress** on advancing our regional waste management system. For our Department, it is important to always be looking years ahead to ensure our system and infrastructure is **resilient, compliant**, and managed to align with current values and future goals. Remaining adaptable during the many changes affecting our area and the economy is our highest priority. We achieve these goals by investing in our **public/private partnerships** which allows for flexibility and resources to meet our regional challenges. This past year the Department initiated and contracted four new partnerships: landfill operations, container hauling services, tire diversion and a new material

diversion program. Additionally, during 2023, the Department **Moved Our System Forward** by completing the work summarized in the report below helping to ensure the long-term stability of our regional waste management system.

Thank you for your continued support,

**Jadd Stilwell**

Director, La Crosse County Solid Waste Department

### ***Solid Waste Mission Statement***

***To provide environmentally and economically sound solid waste services through:***

- ***Cooperation with a regional mindset***
- ***Communication and education that is comprehensive***
- ***Creativity that will result in long-term value to the stakeholders***

## 2023 HIGHLIGHTS

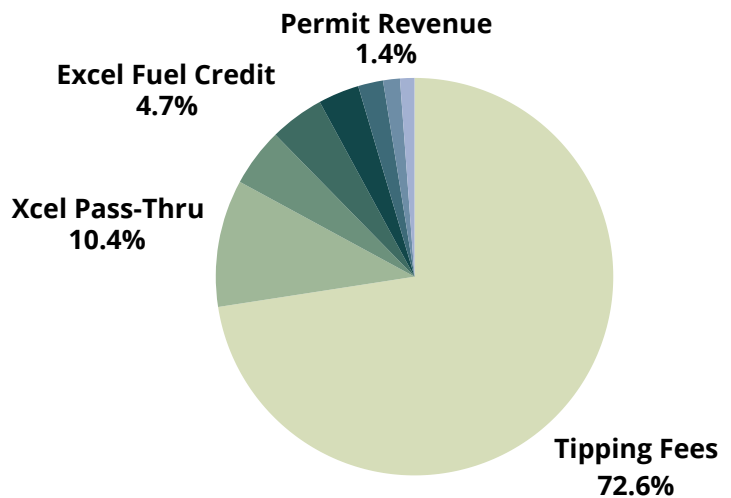
- The La Crosse County Solid Waste Department received approval for the **Phase 2, 18-acre North Expansion** providing the Facility with an additional 3.2 million cubic yards of air space or approximately 14.8 years of operation.
- The Department was requested by officials to launch an emergency 24/7 operations process to support the cleanup of an estimated 2,500 tons of debris from a **local train derailment** in order to minimize the environmental impacts to the region.
- Initiation of the **Polystyrene foam (Styrofoam) recycling program** in partnership with Hilltopper Refuse and 7 Rivers Recycling.
- Installation of two new exterior aboveground storage tanks for **oil and antifreeze** at the Household Hazardous Materials Facility as part of the waste storage updates.

# Department Overview

## FINANCES

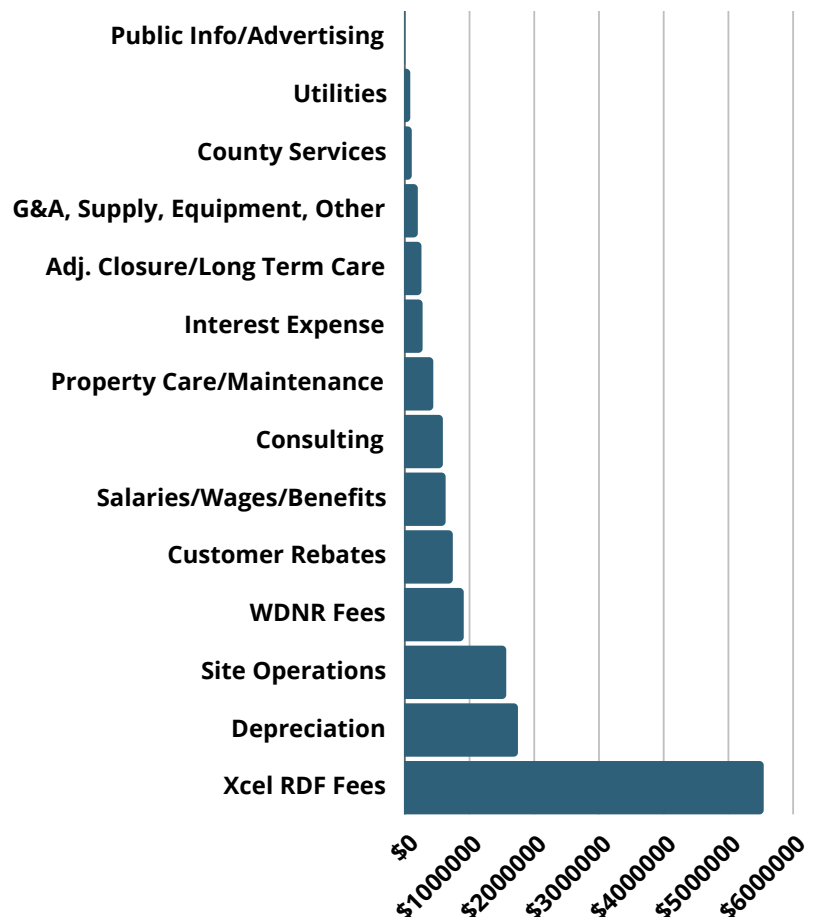
### REVENUE: \$14,862,851

- SW Tipping Fees: \$10,443,514
- Xcel Pass-Thru: \$1,490,032
- Xcel Fuel Credit: \$683,346
- Citizen Drop Off Fees: \$637,021
- Xcel Ash: \$480,315
- Recycling Revenue: \$292,643
- Permit Revenue: \$197,198
- Gas to Energy: \$168,500
- Other: \$84,817



### EXPENSES: \$13,829,489

- Public Info/Advertising: \$6,491
- Utilities: \$87,590
- County Services: \$188,178
- G&A, Supply, Equipment, Other: \$201,448
- Adj. Closure/Long Term Care: \$401,145
- Interest Expense: \$208,710
- Property Care/Maintenance: \$497,521
- Consulting: \$358,204
- Salaries/Wages/Benefits: \$695,405
- Customer Rebates: \$727,776
- WDNR Fees: \$887,306
- Site Operations: \$1,925,019
- Depreciation/Amort: \$1,748,186
- Xcel RDF Fees: \$6,241,256



**34%**

Of all materials brought to the facility are diverted from landfilling or recycled.

**\$8,840,821**

Reserve Fund facilitates future construction and development of the facility without debt financing (up 14.26% or \$1.1 million from 2022)

**84,217**

Total customers served by the Solid Waste Department and Xcel (+1% from 2022)



# Department Overview

## INSIDE THE SOLID WASTE DEPARTMENT

### OUR TEAM

Jadd Stilwell - Director  
Danielle Meiners - Financial Specialist  
Linda Bettin - Account Clerk  
Bailee Moore - Administrative Associate  
Sophie Emery - Scale Attendant  
Burgandi Harvey - Scale Attendant

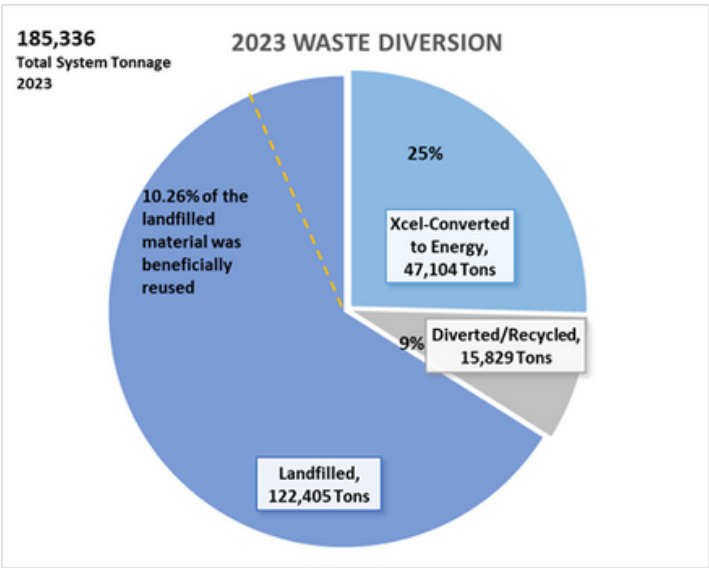
Jackie Davis - Operations Coordinator  
Bryce Gerke - Department Technician  
Kirk Hackbarth - Department Technician  
Melisa Goergen - Department Technician  
John Warnecke - Department Technician

### 4 THINGS TO KNOW

- 1. The System supports **four counties** outside of La Crosse County, including: Buffalo, Houston, Trempealeau, and Wabasha.
- 2. The Solid Waste Department is the **only facility** in Wisconsin that operates, through partnerships, both waste-to-energy and gas-to-energy programs.
- 3. The Household Hazardous Materials facility operates with a 16.5% residential user rate, which is considered **exceptional** among comparable programs.
- 4. The Department is an **enterprise fund**, relying on tipping fees in lieu of tax levy funds.

### DIVERSION

A key component of the facility is diverting as much material as possible from landfilling. The graph below details the volumes diverted versus landfilled materials in 2023.



| Diverted/Recycled Material | Amount in Tons |
|----------------------------|----------------|
| Shingles                   | 6,918          |
| Concrete and Blacktop      | 1,476          |
| Wood                       | 2,742          |
| Xcel Metals                | 2,832          |
| HHM                        | 178            |
| Landfill Metals            | 340            |
| Tires                      | 198            |
| Yard Waste                 | 172            |
| Mattresses                 | 169            |
| Clean Soil                 | 804            |

# Looking Forward

## PLANNED FOR 2024

- **Ash Monofill** site closure and SB-3 Pond Decommissioning.
- Xcel **Front-End Shredder** Pilot Program
- Design and construction of improvements to the **Household Hazardous Materials** Facility.
- **Walking Trail** improvements.
- **Community Service Program** expansion of services

## OUTREACH AND EDUCATION OPPORTUNITIES

The Solid Waste Department is actively engaged with the community. Information regarding our programs and waste diversion efforts is shared in all our outreach programs. We utilize social media, brochures, our household mailer that goes to every residential household in the area called "The Recycler". Over 1,200 individuals tour the facility annually including local schools and area organizations. For 2024, we plan to design and train staff on the WasteWizard software by ReCollect; which is an online and phone application that allows residents to search by item to find disposal/reuse opportunities. This will be available to all residents to use at no charge.

## IMPORTANT DATES

- 6/19/24- **Annual Meeting** with the Stakeholders- 9am to Noon at the Stoney Creek Conference Center.

## QUESTIONS OR COMMENTS?



[solidwastewebsitecomments@lacrossecounty.org](mailto:solidwastewebsitecomments@lacrossecounty.org)



[lacrossecounty.org/solidwaste](https://lacrossecounty.org/solidwaste)



608-785-9572



The Reuse Room program provides useable materials back to the community. In 2023, 103,700 pounds of materials were stocked in the Reuse Room. Collectively, the value to the program is estimated at \$240,500 (saving \$85,000 in the equivalent disposal costs and \$155,500 in commercial purchasing value for equivalent new products).

## **PUBLIC WORKS AND INFRASTRUCTURE COMMITTEE MEMBERS (2022-2024)**

Pam Viner, Chair  
Matt Nikolay, Vice Chair  
Steve Doyle  
Ralph Geary  
Dan Hesse  
Dennis "Jake" Jacobsen  
Jack Pogreba

## **SOLID WASTE POLICY BOARD MEMBERS (2023)**

Maureen Freedland, Chair (La Crosse County)  
Steve Hogden Vice Chair (Trempealeau County)  
Lewis Kuhlman (City of La Crosse)  
Gary Padesky (La Crosse County)  
Ralph Geary (La Crosse County)  
Jarrod Holter (City of Onalaska)  
Anthony Pfaff (Buffalo County)  
Dewey Severson (Houston County)  
Mike Wobbe (Wabasha County)

## **Location**

**3200 BERLIN DRIVE  
LA CROSSE, WI 54601**

## **Contact**

**PHONE: 608-785-9572  
FAX: 608-785-6160**

# Partnerships

## **XCEL ENERGY**

Xcel received 85,404 tons of waste in 2023, a record total for the system and more than 6,347 tons above historical three-year averages. Additionally, 74.24% of all waste processed was converted to refuse derived fuel (RDF). Ferrous (2.96%) and Non-ferrous (0.41%) recovery remained consistent with historical volumes. Average BTU value for RDF remained steady at 4,942 compared to 2022 averages.

## **GUNDERSEN HEALTH SYSTEM**

La Crosse County Solid Waste, in partnership with Gundersen Health System, continues operation of the joint Gas-to-Energy and thermal recovery project which began in January of 2012. The landfill gas extraction system extracted gas volumes of 114,939,231 cf in 2023 which was used to power the gas-to-energy (G2E) and thermal recovery project with Gundersen Health System.

## **SHORT ELLIOTT HENDRICKSON INC.(SEH)**

SEH continues to support the Department with technological advancements along with regulatory and local efforts to reduce, reuse and recycle the volumes and types of waste the system formerly only landfilled.

## **INTEGRITY GRADING & EXCAVATING (IGE)**

IGE received the operations contract in July of 2023. Due to the capital investment required for operating, they will be under contract, with the facility, until 2033.

## **7 RIVERS RECYCLING**

The Department has partnered with this local organization to support recycling programs. In 2016, we started recycling mattresses and box springs. Over 21,677 mattresses have been diverted from the landfill for recycling, saving approximately 620,234 cubic feet of air space. In 2023, we started recycling polystyrene foam. Over 1,200 lbs. has been recycled in the first quarter of the program.



# LA CROSSE COUNTY

Exceptional services. Extraordinary place.



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