

TRASH & RECYCLING

MARQUETTE 2049 CLIMATE CHANGE LEARNING CIRCLE

Wednesday, June 12, 2024

Northern Center, Peninsula I

10:00 - 11:30 a.m.

Circle Overview

“[The Story of Stuff](#)” will continue to evolve with local, regional, and statewide pressures over the next 25 years. Garbage and waste management, recycling, and composting are in the beginning stages of a revamped planning process, with the passage of significant amendments to Part 115, Solid Waste Management, of the Natural Resources and Environmental Protection Act, 1994 PA 451.

Recycling rates in the United States are up for the first time in several years (the national recycling rate is close to 32%). Marquette County is at about 11% counting only in-county materials, the Central UP is closer to 8%, and if you go UP-wide it falls to 2-3%.

Climate change may create demographics and population changes that will open opportunities to get away from the business-as-usual “cradle to grave” approach to trash and recycling and build a circular economy in our region. Participants at the Trash & Recycling Learning Circle are invited to consider how Marquette County can leverage existing strengths such as its central location, recycling, and composting facilities to reduce pollution and strengthen our workforce and economy.

Pre-Circle Reading

1. [Michigan Recycles](#) Factsheets on [Recycling](#) and [Compost](#) trends and data on the state of Michigan.
2. [State of Central UP Recycling](#). Prepared by CUPPAD (June, 2023).
3. Adopt-a-Beach: 20 Years of Great Lakes Litter Data, A Story of Plastic Pollution Told Through Citizen Science. [Executive Summary](#) prepared by Alliance for the Great Lakes (April, 2024).

Learning Circle Questions

1. What is your ideal vision for our area’s trash and recycling systems over the next 10, 15, and 25 years?
2. Beyond climate change impacts, what other factors might influence/impact your vision for trash and recycling in the future?
3. What can we do today to ensure we meet our ideal scenarios/visions for the future? How might we continue this conversation? Share any ideas for the short-term and long-term.