

**20
25**

Impact Report

LA CROSSE COUNTY
SOLID WASTE DEPARTMENT



Jadd Stilwell, Director



LA CROSSE COUNTY

Designing For Our Future

MESSAGE FROM THE DIRECTOR



During 2025, the Solid Waste Department continued strengthening our regional waste management system amid rising landfill pressures, evolving PFAS and air-emissions regulations, increased waste volumes, and broader enterprise challenges such as workforce constraints and shifting supply chains. By planning years ahead and remaining adaptable, we ensure our infrastructure stays resilient, compliant, and aligned with regional values. Our ongoing investments in public-private partnerships provided the flexibility and resources needed to respond to regulatory changes and operational demands. Throughout the year, the Department advanced key facility and program improvements, continued long-term design work, and finalized important updates to the Xcel Energy contract, all of which reinforce the long-term stability of our system.

Thank you for your continued support,

Jadd Stilwell

Director, La Crosse County Solid Waste Department

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***

2025 HIGHLIGHTS

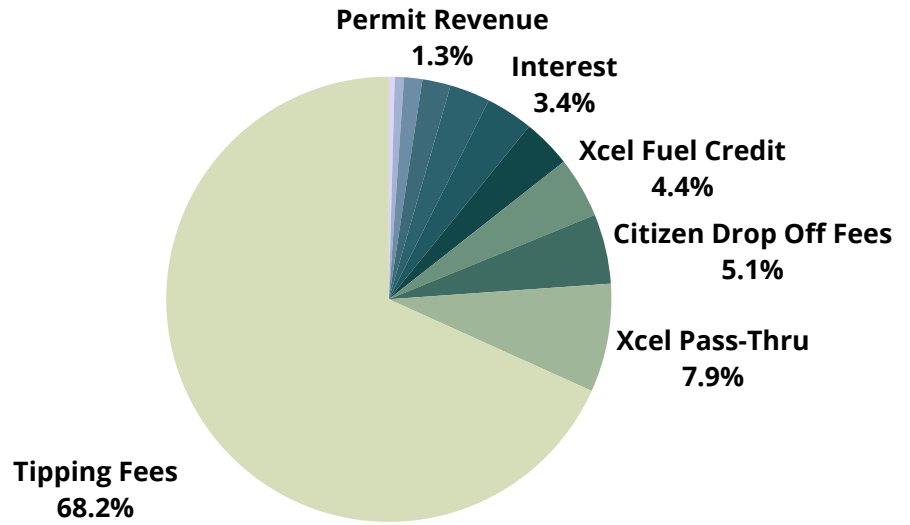
- The Department completed a project to allow for a new access road into the MSW Landfill, surface water management and subbase preparation of Phase IX Mod A and expanded the Citizen Drop Off area with the addition of three more Roll-Off containers.
- The Solid Waste Department entered into an agreement with Emplify Health for acceptance of landfill gas for use in the production of electricity, heating and cooling at their facility in 2010. Although the formal agreement's effective date was Oct. 7, 2010, the commencement of substantial operation and combustion of the biogas supplied to Emplify Health by the County did not begin until on or around March 1, 2012. Both parties have agreed to amend the start date for the agreement to be March 1, 2012. Therefore, the initial 15-year term shall run until March 1, 2027 unless earlier terminated under the agreement.
- The Solid Waste Department completed a Request for Disposal for aggregate materials for Phase IX Mod 1 and Phase IX Mod 2 Landfill Cell construction as approved by the site vertical and horizontal expansion. The material includes drainage blanket rock for the base of the cell and drainage trench material.
- The HHM started construction on relocating and expanding its very popular Reuse Room. The room is scheduled to be open for Jan. 1, 2026. For efficiency and safety, the room is being relocated to a different building. During this relocation the size of the room will also increase slightly.

Department Overview

FINANCES

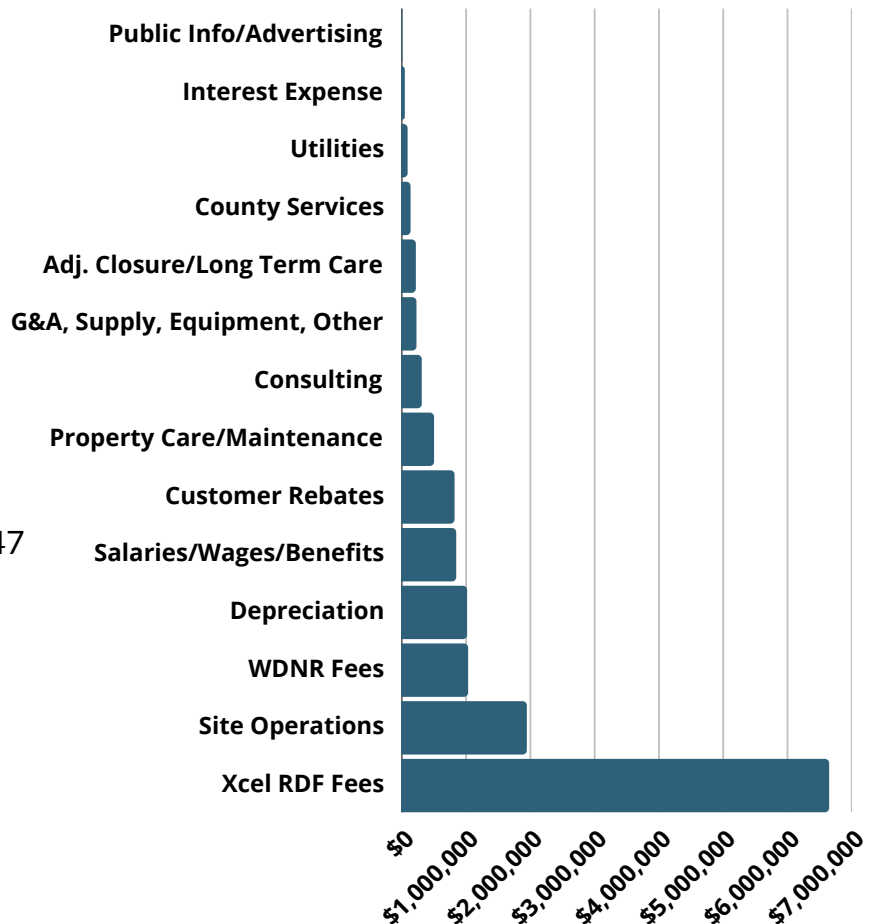
REVENUE: \$16,256,612

- Tipping Fees: \$11,067,430
- Xcel Pass-Thru: \$1,279,590
- Citizen Drop Off Fees: \$823,242
- Xcel Fuel Credit: \$719,105
- Xcel Ash: \$576,371
- Interest: \$559,340
- Old Landfill: \$477,022
- Recycling Revenue: \$333,829
- Permit Revenue: \$215,903
- Gas to Energy: \$108,030
- Other: \$69,749



EXPENSES: \$13,849,148

- Xcel RDF Fees: \$6,647,929
- Site Operations: \$1,945,189
- WDNR Fees: \$1,031,969
- Depreciation: \$1,016,042
- Salaries/Wages/Benefits: \$846,768
- Customer Rebates: \$820,662
- Property Care/Maintenance: \$501,796
- Consulting: \$310,279
- G&A, Supply, Equipment, Other: \$228,247
- Adj. Closure/Long Term Care: \$218,780
- County Services: \$136,130
- Utilities: \$90,456
- Interest Expense: \$47,109
- Public Info/Advertising: \$7,794



75.6%

Of all waste brought to the HHM Facility is diverted from landfilling.

31.4%

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

90,573

Total customers served by the Solid Waste Department and Xcel.

Department Overview

INSIDE THE SOLID WASTE DEPARTMENT

OUR TEAM

Jadd Stilwell - Director

Danielle Meiners - Fiscal Supervisor

Sandy Anderson - Accounting Clerk

Bailee Moore - Administrative Assistant

Sophie Emery - Scale Attendant

Jeffrey Ross - Scale Attendant

Jackie Davis - Operations Coordinator

Bryce Gerke - Department Technician

Kirk Hackbarth - Department Technician

Melisa Goergen - Department Technician

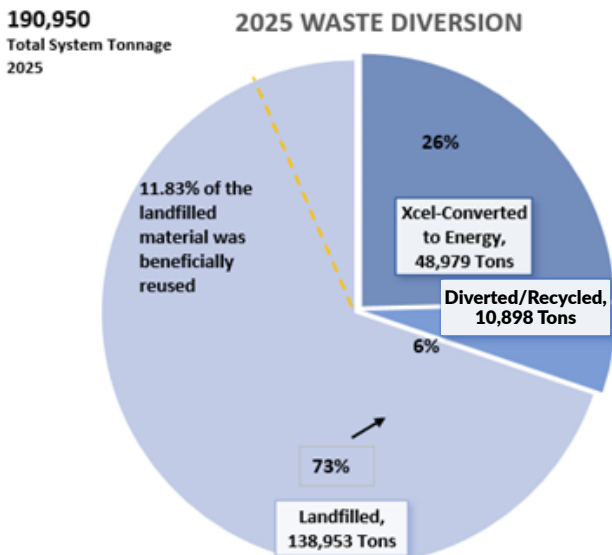
John Warnecke - Department Technician

4 THINGS TO KNOW

1. The System supports **four counties** outside of La Crosse County (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% 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 2025.



| Diverted/Recycled Material | Amount in Tons |
|----------------------------|----------------|
| Xcel Metals | 2,760 |
| Shingles | 2,549 |
| Wood | 2,465 |
| Concrete and Blacktop | 1,430 |
| Clean Soil | 747 |
| Landfill Metals | 376 |
| Yard Waste | 199 |
| HHM | 195 |
| Tires | 177 |
| Mattresses | 0 |

Looking Forward

PLANNED FOR 2026

- Phase IX Cell Construction of a composite liner system, including an approximate **4.8-acre** composite liner consisting of an HDPE geomembrane and a 4-foot compacted clay layer.
- C2-B Closure Construction of an approximate **4.1-acre** composite liner system comprised of two feet of compacted clay and an LLDPE geomembrane overlain with a synthetic geo-composite drainage layer.
- Point of Sale Program Global implementation for Xcel and HHM.

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.

IMPORTANT DATES

- 6/24/2026- **Annual Meeting** with Stakeholders- 9am to Noon
 - Event will be held at Stoney Creek Conference Center

QUESTIONS OR COMMENTS?

Visit us on our website at
lacrossecounty.org/solidwaste



608-785-9572



solidwastewebsitecomments@lacrossecounty.org



The Reuse Room program diverts useable materials back to the community. In 2025, 86,359 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 2025

- Joe Kovacevich, Chair
- Randy Erickson
- Steve Doyle
- Ralph Geary
- David Hundt
- Grant Mathu
- Travis Elam

SOLID WASTE POLICY BOARD MEMBERS 2025

- Maureen Freedland, Chair (La Crosse County)
- Steve Hogden, Vice Chair (Trempealeau County)
- Ralph Geary (La Crosse County)
- Gary Padesky (La Crosse County)
- Lewis Kuhlman (City of La Crosse)
- Jarrod Holter (City of Onalaska)
- Richard Bauer (Buffalo County)
- Robert Schuldt (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 86,299 tons of waste in 2025. 75.04% of all waste processed was converted to refuse derived fuel (RDF). Ferrous (2.83%) and Non-ferrous (0.41%) recovery remained consistent with historical volumes. Average BTU value for RDF remained steady at 5,038 BTU/lb.

EMPLIFY HEALTH

La Crosse County Solid Waste, in partnership with Emplify Health, 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 95,699,017 cf in 2025 which was used to power the gas-to-energy (G2E) and thermal recovery project with Emplify Health.

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

In the fourth quarter of 2023, we partnered with 7 Rivers to initiate a polystyrene foam recycling. The program has been able to recycle 15,260 pounds of polystyrene foam. The majority of the material is being generated by La Crosse County residents (85%).



LA CROSSE COUNTY

Exceptional services. Extraordinary place.



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