

**20
24**

Impact Report

LA CROSSE COUNTY
SOLID WASTE DEPARTMENT



Jadd Stilwell, Director



LA CROSSE COUNTY

Designing For Our Future

MESSAGE FROM THE DIRECTOR



During 2024, 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 several facility and program upgrades along with amending our Xcel Energy contract. Additionally, during 2024, the Department continued to Design for our Future 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

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*

2024 HIGHLIGHTS

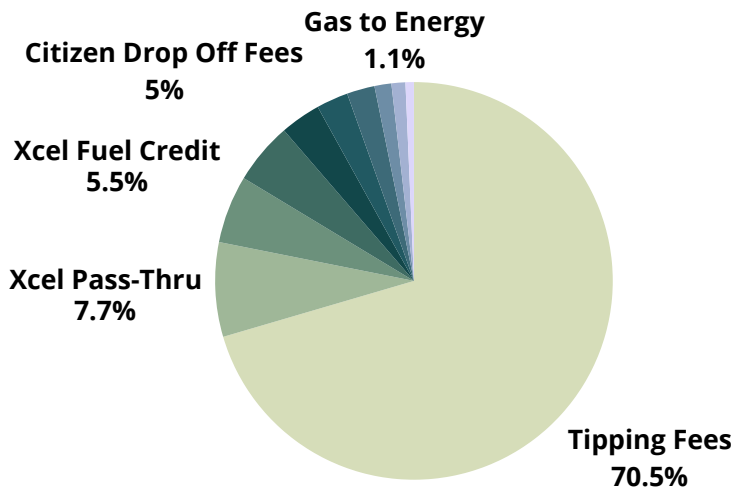
- The Department completed **final closure** for the 5.9 acre Ash Monofil site. Closure construction consists of two feet of compacted clay, LLDPE geomembrane overlain with a synthetic geocomposite drainage layer. This liner system is then covered with 2.5 foot of general soils (rooting zone) and six inches of topsoil which is seeded and e-matted for erosion control.
- The Department initiated the initial phase of a **two-year plan** to upgrade the site Supervisory Control and Data Acquisition System (SCADA). This system controls and provides data collection for critical landfill operating systems including: Landfill gas collection and monitoring, gas pipeline operation and leachate collection and discharge.
- With the growth and development of the Household Hazardous Material program over the past 20 years the department performed a complete evaluation of the facilities waste storage system. Since inception, the program has been required to adapt from 14 different waste streams in 2004 to now managing over **40 waste streams**.
- Due to the EPA's designation of PFOA and PFOS as CERCLA Hazardous Substances in July 2024, our contract with Xcel Energy was renegotiated. The resulting Amendment provides provisions to allow **Waste-to-Energy** to continue at Xcel's French Island Facility until 2030.

Department Overview

FINANCES

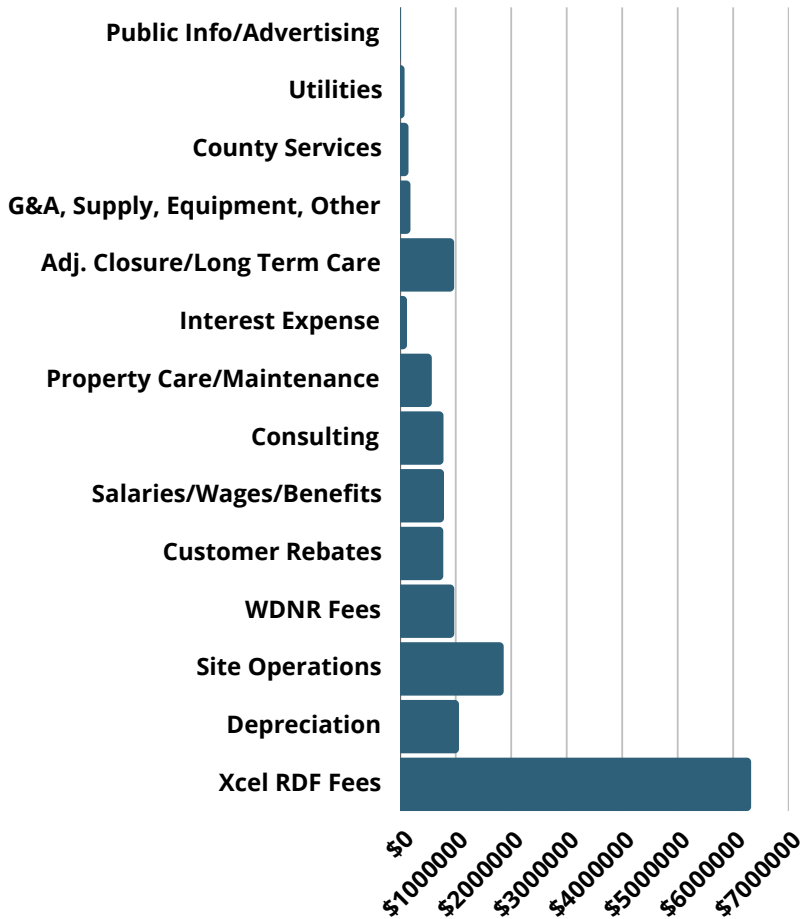
REVENUE: \$15,407,054

- SW Tipping Fees: \$10,856,021
- Xcel Pass-Thru: \$1,182,210
- Xcel Fuel Credit: \$849,121
- Citizen Drop Off Fees: \$773,074
- Xcel Ash: \$507,242
- Interest: \$399,334
- Recycling Revenue: \$348,879
- Permit Revenue: \$211,345
- Gas to Energy: \$174,224
- Other: \$105,604



EXPENSES: \$14,651,310

- Public Info/Advertising: \$10,430
- Utilities: \$78,333
- County Services: \$149,343
- G&A, Supply, Equipment, Other: \$184,499
- Adj. Closure/Long Term Care: \$971,561
- Interest Expense: \$122,369
- Property Care/Maintenance: \$569,193
- Consulting: \$779,016
- Salaries/Wages/Benefits: \$789,002
- Customer Rebates: \$776,016
- WDNR Fees: \$973,583
- Site Operations: \$1,864,729
- Depreciation/Amort: \$1,058,785
- Xcel RDF Fees: \$6,323,499



\$8,559,781

Reserve Fund facilitates future construction and development of the facility without debt financing.

34%

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

92,618

Total customers served by the Solid Waste Department and Xcel (up 10% from 2023.)

Department Overview

INSIDE THE SOLID WASTE DEPARTMENT

OUR TEAM

Jadd Stilwell - Director
Danielle Meiners - Financial Specialist
Sandy Anderson - Account Clerk
Bailee Moore - Administrative Associate
Sophie Emery - Scale Attendant
Jeffrey Ross - Scale Attendant

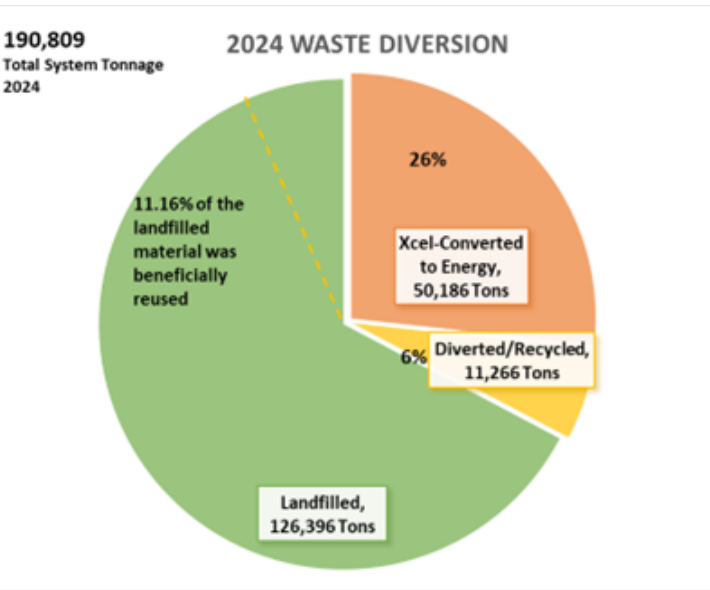
Jackie Davis - Operations Coordinator
Bryce Gerke - Department Technician
Kirk Hackbarth - Department Technician
Melisa Goergen - Department Technician
John Warnecke - Department Technician

4 THINGS TO KNOW

- 1. The System supports **four counties** outside of La Crosse County, 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 2024.



Diverted/Recycled Material	Amount in Tons
Shingles	4,314
Concrete and Blacktop	1,963
Wood	3,426
Xcel Metals	2,776
HHM	203
Landfill Metals	394
Tires	155
Yard Waste	220
Mattresses	142
Clean Soil	653

Looking Forward

PLANNED FOR 2025

- Phase IX access road and sub-base preparation
- Citizen area drop-off location improvements
- Ongoing Gas-to-Energy SCADA system/IT security updates
- Household Hazardous Materials Facility Reuse Room expansion and relocation

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

- 6/18/2025- **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 provides useable materials back to the community. In 2024, 98,678 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 2024

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

SOLID WASTE POLICY BOARD MEMBERS 2024

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)
Dewey Severson (Houston County)
Mike Wobbe (Wabasha County)
Richard Bauer (Buffalo County)

Location

3200 BERLIN DRIVE
LA CROSSE, WI 54601

Contact

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

Partnerships

XCEL ENERGY

Xcel received 84,449 tons of waste in 2024. 75.52% of all waste processed was converted to refuse derived fuel (RDF). Ferrous (2.87%) and Non-ferrous (0.44%) recovery remained consistent with historical volumes. Average BTU value for RDF remained steady at 5,385 BTU/lb.

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 122,330,157 cf in 2024 which was used to power the gas-to-energy (G2E) and thermal recovery project with Gundersen Health System. The department is currently working with Gundersen's Envision Team to determine how landfill gas can potentially be utilized to support construction and operation of a Micro-grid on the Onalaska Campus

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. In its first full year of operation the program has been able to recycle just over 6,776 pounds of polystyrene foam.



LA CROSSE COUNTY

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