

Planning for Our Future: 2027

The County needs to further evaluate alternative waste disposal options that ensure adequate and affordable disposal capacity is available when the Johnson County Landfill closes in 2027 or sooner.

It is unlikely that a new MSW landfill will be sited within Johnson County. It may be possible to partner with one or more other counties to site a landfill outside of Johnson County to accommodate the county's waste. One or more MSW transfer stations are a more likely option for Johnson County. Transfer stations serve as the link between solid waste collection and disposal when waste is hauled over distances.

How Can I Help?

- Recycle at home using your curbside service.
- If you do not have curbside recycling, urge your city officials or homeowners associations to provide it.
- Reduce your waste. Use your purchasing power and choose products with less packaging.
- Leave your grass clippings on the lawn. Compost at home and plant native gardens.
- Start a recycling program at work.
- Implement a recycling program at your school.



Hop to it! Why?

- It is our responsibility to be good stewards of our land now and for future generations.
- Recycling saves energy, resources and money.
- Reducing waste can prolong the life of our landfill.

Items Allowed in Your Curbside Bin



The Johnson County Environmental Department is available to present our *Recycling Road Show* to your group or organization.

We also offer presentations on recycling and waste reduction for children.

The complete 2007 Solid Waste Management Plan for Johnson County can be found online.

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Johnson County Solid Waste Management Plan



Planning for Our Future

Background:

The Johnson County Solid Waste Management Plan (SWMP) is required to provide for storage, collection, transportation, processing, and disposal of all solid waste generated in the County. The population of Johnson County is growing while waste reduction through recycling and composting in the County is significantly below the national average. Thus, the amount of solid waste destined for disposal is growing faster than desired, and valuable resources are not being recovered in adequate quantities.

A waste evaluation conducted in 2006 and 2007 determined that the top four materials being disposed include paper, plastics, food and yard waste. A large proportion of these materials are potentially recyclable (Figure 1). This chart represents the material being thrown in the trash by Johnson County residents and businesses by weight.

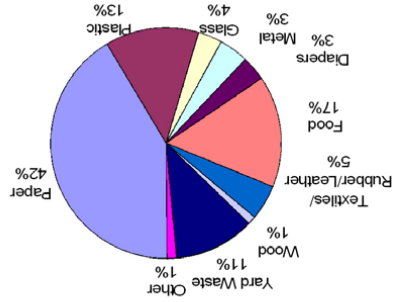


Figure 1: Composition of Waste Disposed in Johnson County Landfills

Johnson County Landfill:

The Johnson County Landfill, Inc., privately owned and operated by Deffenbaugh Industries, receives most of Johnson County's municipal solid waste (MSW) and a large portion of the MSW from surrounding counties. It is the only landfill in Johnson County permitted to accept MSW. The principal driving force behind the recommendations in the SWMP is the following:

Johnson County Landfill, Inc. will close no later than 2027 and at current disposal rates, may close sooner.

Plan Goals:

- Reduce waste volume to the landfill.
- Increase residential recycling and composting efforts.
- Exceed the national municipal solid waste recovery rate currently at 32%. Johnson County is below the national average at a rate of 22%.
- Increase waste management education.
- Expand recycling to businesses and multi-family residential buildings.
- Reduce construction and demolition waste by reusing and recycling materials.



Plan Strategies:

- Coordinate with Johnson County cities and homeowners associations; build a consensus for waste reduction.
- Implement volume-based collection rates, i.e., **pay-as-you-throw** by 2013.
- Eliminate landfill disposal of yard waste by 2011. Provide curbside collection for yard waste followed by a landfill ban.
- Implement county-wide recycling of residential electronic waste, 2008.
- Promote reuse and reduction of construction and demolition waste.
- Lead by example eliminating waste operations by 2020.

Johnson County Landfill (Deffenbaugh) receives 5,500 tons of waste daily



R-R-REDUCE WASTE!

93% of Johnson County residents feel that recycling is important.

-Mid-America Regional Council survey

Separate Garbage, Recyclables, and Yard Waste for Curbside Pickup

