

Gustavus Disposal & Recycling Center (DRC) Quarterly Staff Report
Ian Barrier, DRC Manager/ Operator
Monday, August 12th, 2024

General Operations and Management

Labor

This fiscal year I decided to only have one operator for the summer rather than two as a way to cut costs since all city departments had to shave their budgets. With labor being the biggest expense this made sense to me. With the return of Syd Glasmann our daily operations have been very smooth and efficient. If I didn't have such good help I would need two operators around to keep things moving efficiently and I am grateful for her return. I also want to give a shout out for Artemis BonaDea as she has been volunteering consistently on Saturdays for the last six weeks at least. It has been very nice to have an extra hand around to handle the small stuff. So far the DRC hasn't felt as busy this summer as it was last year, but spring felt busier than normal. It is very hard to predict what we will receive in a given day and until I generate my annual report and review the data for FY25 I can't say for sure how busy we have been. I believe this could be due to my perspective or because of how fast we handle material at the DRC. Considering how much Gustavus has grown over the last few years and continues to grow I am always surprised by a slow day in summer. According to U.S Census Bureau Gustavus had a population of 655 in 2020, and in 2010, our population was 442 according to census data. Some say that the population in Gustavus is under reported as well.

New Baler/Balers

Since the City has received news that our grant proposal for the new building was accepted I was introduced to Steve Anderson from Blankenship Equipment by Paul Berry to begin discussions about a new baler for our new building. Currently I have my eyes on horizontal balers that are made for baling non-ferrous metals and recyclables such as paper and plastic. A new horizontal baler would be a game changer for the DRC for various reasons, such as having a hopper that would be loadable with our skid steers, much higher compacting pressures, faster cycle times, and the ability to eject bales from the baling chamber with the hydraulic ram itself. It would make sense to have a conveyor belt to go along with the baler and I'm looking into that as well. A large horizontal baler wouldn't necessarily replace our vertical Cram-A-Lot for every task, such as baling ferrous scrap metal, but we could safely bale white goods such as refrigerators and washing machines with the horizontal baler. Scrap metal is one of the trickier materials to bale because of the variation it has in regards to shape and strength, which means certain items can damage balers (think of thick shafts from axles or heavy metal stock positioned poorly). This is where we would continue to use the vertical baler for scrap metal because objects can be positioned evenly and in a fashion that won't cause damage. I would like to upgrade our vertical baler someday in the future. In regards to balers I would like to share that we have been experimenting with utilizing our small yellow GPI baler more often and have found out the size of the bales match the height of our Cram-A-Lot bales when the smaller GPI bales are rolled on end. This means we are now using both balers for non-recyclables again and have further increased the rate we can process materials. We recently weighed a bale from each baler and our GPI produced a bale that weighed 360 pounds, and the Cram-A-Lot bale weighed over 1500 pounds. This is variable due to density of solid waste but on average I can say the Cram-A-Lot can fit 4x as much waste.

Shipping

At the end of FY24 I shipped a load of scrap metal weighing 25,298 pounds to Skookum in Juneau which is a first for the DRC. Skookum only charged \$236.35 with tax included for a 20' container of scrap metal with Frontier Freight charging us \$2,195.00 to ship the container from Gustavus to Juneau, which is a cost of \$2,431.35 to the city. Our last ferrous scrap metal shipment to Settle weighing 26,520 pounds cost us \$5,380.54 to ship and we only received \$1,458.60 for the materials which is a loss of \$3,921.94 to the City. In this specific example, shipping to Skookum saved us \$1,490.59 in freight charges. I'm going to continue shipping our non-ferrous metals to Seattle at this time.

Signs

I have had our "Keep Right" sign at the entrance to the DRC ran over several times this spring and early summer, from both directions. I don't have a good answer as to why or who keeps running the sign over. This eventually took its toll on the sign and I had to try something new. I took our original skid steer bucket that was worn beyond repair and welded a metal pipe into the center of the bucket and mounted the "Keep Right" sign on that metal pole. I'm hoping this will discourage somebody from hitting the sign, and if they do they will certainly notice.

Landfill Expansion

This project has been moving forward with John Barry working on getting all the permits in order and having conversations with ADEC to ensure everything is on track and correct. John also wrote the RFQ for the drainage ditch relocation with Chuck Schroth being the chosen bidder to perform the work. The fence has been ordered and I anticipate its arrival over the next month or two. After the ditch is relocated the trees that are inside of the new landfill area will have to be cut down and stumps pulled. It is also planned to install new monitoring wells to replace our older and mostly abandoned monitoring wells. After all this is completed we can begin constructing the fence.

Five-Year Comparison

I have prepared the DRC's five year comparison in preparation for this report. When I was first totaling numbers to find out how much recycling we received in FY24 I came to a total of 237,489 pounds which is over 60,000 pounds from than last year. Surprised and rather confused I had to investigate if this number was accurate; and it certainly was accurate. What I did next was go back and double check all the numbers as far back as I could go, which was FY21. I then triple checked that I was compiling all the data reports correctly to ensure I wasn't making a mistake myself. I also called and questioned Paul. It also made sense considering we baled and shipped 115 bales of recyclables in FY24. If you take the average weight of each bale and call it 1200 pounds; then $115 \times 1200 = 138,000$ pounds. Add 18,800 glass and 73,448 pounds of food waste the number is 230,248, which is very close to 237,489 pounds. This reassured me I was doing the correct thing. In FY23 we received 217,640 pounds of recycling, FY22 was 211,562 pounds, and FY21 was 201,575 pounds. I came to the conclusion that Paul, and myself had only been adding up our "Recycling" and "Food Waste" codes together to get the total pounds of recycling received. FY20 was the year we switch to our new POS, Trashflow and I am unable to check that data, but I would guess it is fairly accurate because it was Paul's custom coded POS system and I'm guessing he knew his own software. It was also a Covid year and there was certainly less activity. What this also means is the DRC's diversion ratio for recycling is higher than has been reported, and our operation has a lower "cost per pound" average than has been reported. (This year's report is at the bottom of this quarterly report.) When it comes to the data itself we can see that the DRC processed 121,689 pounds of material than the DRC did in FY20, which is approximately 29% more material. We processed just shy of 9% more material in

FY24 than FY23.

Community Chest

This time of the year I have a hard time giving a lot of attention to the Community Chest. I only have the time to check in once a week and retrieve the money and trash produced, and ask whoever is working that day how things are going. Annie has a few projects that she would like done for the chest, mainly painting and sorting/removal of some miscellaneous hardware. I did order cameras for the chest and that is an easy project that I will need to start soon and I hope it will reducing the amount of junk that gets brought/dumped at the Community Chest. Since I have taken over management Annie and I haven't had too much time to talk about the Community Chest and ways it could be improved, or what the future of the Community Chest might be. We have planned to have lunch someday to talk about the Chest in general. Otherwise business has been as usual for the Community Chest with its typical array of volunteers, who I am thankful for having as they are what truly keep the chest alive and cheep. I apologize for not naming them all as Paul would have.

That is all for now, thank you.
07/16/2024

Report compiled by ian.barrier@gustavus-ak.gov

**Gustavus Disposal & Recycling Center
Facility Statistics for
Fiscal Years 2020– 2024 (July 1st – June 30th)
Five Year Comparison**

	FY20	FY21	FY22	FY23	FY24
Waste Stream¹					
Pounds of recyclables ² (<i>materials utilized</i>) % difference from FY20 % diff. from prev FY	171,173 -7% -13%	201,575 +9% +18%	211,562 +10% +3%	217,640 +10% +3%	237,489 +39% +9%
Pounds of non-recyclable trash (<i>the mound</i>) % difference from FY20 % diff. from prev FY	125,919 -8% -14%	136,770 0% +9%	170,812 +24% +25%	164,065 +12% -4%	181,292 +44% +11%
Total pounds waste delivered % difference from FY20 % diff. from prev FY	297,092 -8% -14%	338,345 +5% +14%	382,374 +19% +13%	381,705 +11% +0%	418,781 +41% +10%
Cu. yards Construction/ Demolition waste (C/D) & ash (<i>uncompressed</i>)	82	70	72	81	100
Operating time					
Number of days receiving waste during reporting period (<i>incl. appointment days</i>)	233	3	3	3	3
The processing of recyclables⁴					
Number of recycle shipments	6	3	6	6	6
Recyclables baled for export <u>in pounds</u>	70,027	71,098	85,649	105,151	119,876
<u>in bales</u>	76	76	87	102	115
Pounds of food waste composted	58,481	45,854	70,183	63,921	73,448
Pounds of glass bottles pulverized	33,500	26,400	30,400	28,000	18,800
Income & expense metrics					
Income (<i>all sources external of the City</i>)	\$91,024	\$84,885	\$115,398	\$118,223	\$119,251
Expense	\$142,932	\$131,917	\$144,784	\$158,347	\$151,939
Cost per pound average ⁵	\$0.48	\$0.38	\$0.37	\$0.41	\$0.36

07/24/2024 (Version 1) compiled by ian.Barrier@gustavus-ak.gov

1 The waste delivered to the DRC. Also referred to as “In-flow”.

2 *Reserved*

3 This will be counted in the DRC’s annual report.

4 Baled weights do not include recyclables such as lead-acid batteries, TV’s, fluorescent lamps etc. (several thousand pounds in all). The DRC’s annual report is a better source of the total weight of all materials recycled.

5 Does not include C/D waste in the calculation.