

# SCMUA 2018 Recycling Program Annual Report



The SCMUA herein presents its Annual Recycling Report for 2018. This report provides an annual update of the achievements of the SCMUA Solid Waste & Recycling Facility, including information on the following materials that are recycled at the facility:

- Class A Traditional Recycling Materials: commingled containers ( i.e. glass bottles, plastic bottles, cartons, metal cans); fiber (i.e. newsprint; cardboard; chipboard, magazines and other paper)
- Class B Non Traditional Materials: tires, metals, wood, textiles, boat shrink wrap, mixed rigid plastic, packaging Styrofoam, etc.
- Class C Vegetative Waste Materials: leaves, stumps, brush and grass clippings
- Class D Materials: car batteries, waste oil, antifreeze, E-Waste, etc.
- Other Recycling Materials

The 2018 Recycling Report also incorporates four-year comparison graphs (2015, 2016, 2017 and 2018) to illustrate recycling tonnage trends. It is important to note that street sweepings and Household Hazardous Waste (HHW) are included in the SCMUA 2018 report totals. The inclusion of HHW in this Report has been approved by NJDEP and is credited towards Sussex County’s overall recycling rate. A summary of the SCMUA's recycled materials is as follows:

• Class A Traditional Materials	2,831 tons
• Class B Non Traditional Materials	1,407 tons
• Class C Vegetative Materials (including stumps)	3,246 tons
• Class D Type Materials	556 tons
• Street Sweepings	8,457 tons
• Household Hazardous Waste	<u>39 tons</u>
<b>Total for 2018</b>	<b>16,536 tons</b>

These tonnage figures are for only those materials brought to the SCMUA's Solid Waste Facility; these figures **do not** represent the total all recycling efforts within Sussex County. The SCMUA Solid Waste/Recycling Facility continues to be popular for municipalities, institutions, residents and area businesses. This is illustrated in the attached SCMUA vehicle trip chart (see attached) which indicates customer visits through the SCMUA Solid Waste Facility for the year. In 2018 over 313,773 vehicles accessed the SCMUA’s solid waste and recycling facilities.

It is worthwhile to note that there was an increase in 2018 of over 1,400 tons in the overall recycling tonnage figures, compared to 2017. In addition to preserving natural resources, County recycling efforts saved 1½ months of landfill space by diverting these materials from the waste stream.

## **RECYCLING MARKETING CONDITIONS**

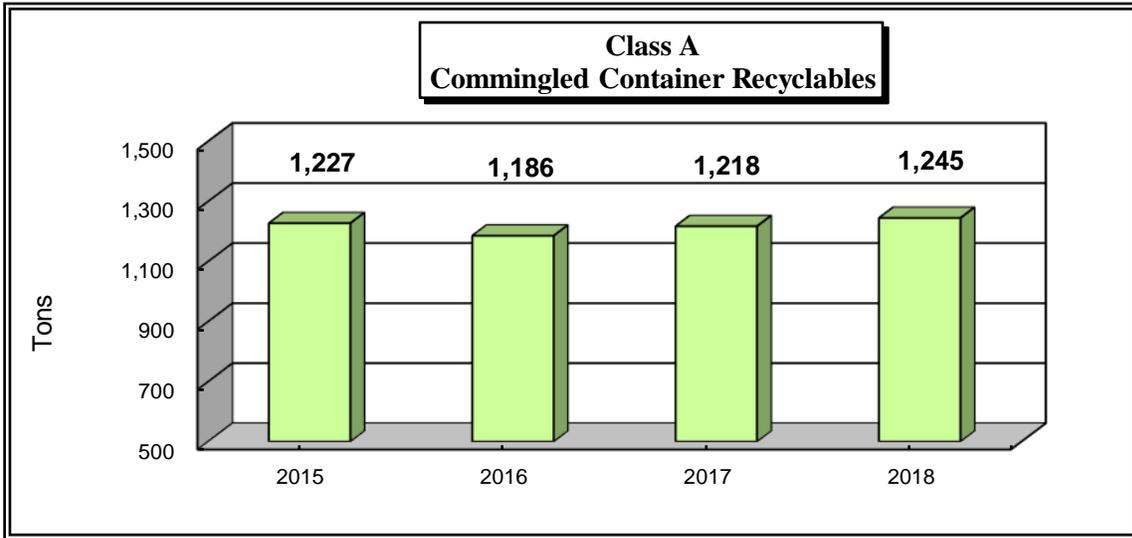
The SCMUA Class A & B marketed recycled materials generated \$209,131 in revenues to help offset the Solid Waste & Recycling Facilities operating and maintenance expenses. During 2018 Class A & B recycling commodities market pricing saw a steady decline despite the increased volume of recyclable material received at the SCMUA. The lower value for recyclable material has been attributed to more stringent quality verification resulting in increased processing costs.

## **CLASS A RECYCLABLES**

(Commingled beverage containers and Fiber Material such as newspaper, cardboard and office paper)

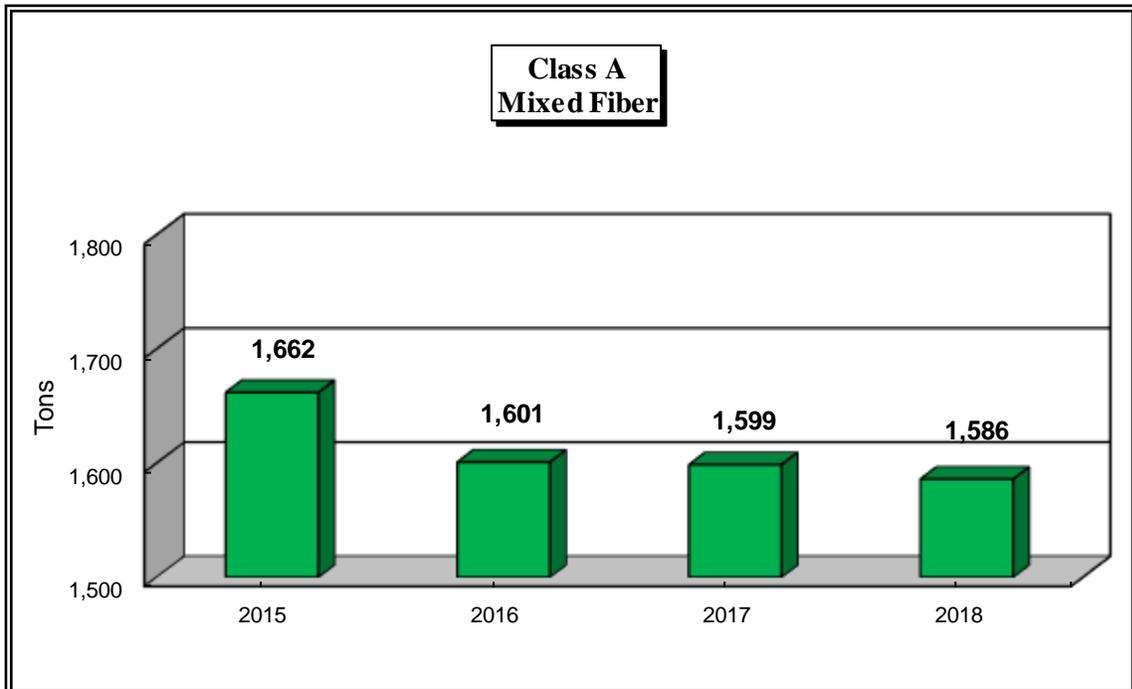
Sales of Class A recyclables are market driven and typically reflect the global economy. This was evident in 2018 with international demand remaining soft, especially the Asian markets. Some Asian countries have initiated extreme quality control measures for accepting recyclable materials which has resulted in market prices declining sharply. The demand and value of Class A materials for domestic mills have remained at moderate levels throughout the year. Regardless of the market conditions, the SCMUA's Class A recycling programs remains popular and has continued to serve Sussex County residents, businesses and municipalities for over 25 years. The SCMUA accepts both small and large quantities of recyclable material for processing, transporting and marketing on a daily basis.

It has become standard practice for consumers (i.e. homeowners, institutions and businesses) to commingle Class A materials (glass containers, aluminum cans, steel cans, plastic containers, gable-top and aseptic cartons). The SCMUA continues to accept these commingled materials from generators as part of the SCMUA's overall recycling program. The SCMUA commingled recycling program provides a convenient method for the public to bring in these materials commingled, rather than require that each commodity be source separated. By encouraging commingling of these materials, there is a propensity to divert more recyclables from the municipal solid waste stream since consumers find it convenient and have readily accepted commingled container recycling. The SCMUA expanded commingled container recycling program includes gable-topped and aseptic cartons. These carton types have long been used for packaging milk, juice, broth and other liquid food-related products. The addition of these cartons to the commingled containers collection program offers another opportunity for Sussex County residents and businesses to divert material from the solid waste stream (landfilling) and help improve Sussex County recycling rates.



The amount of Class A commingled container recyclables tonnage received at the SCMUA for 2018 was comparable to four prior years of tonnage figures; there was a slight increase of 27 tons for Class A containers compared to 2017. It should be noted that there are other Class A commingled container recycling markets available to Sussex County residents, both within and outside the county, thus SCMUA recycling totals represent only a portion of total Sussex County recycling tonnages.

The SCMUA has developed a mixed fiber recycling and marketing program with a number local fiber recycling vendors including Trinity and Recycle America. The SCMUA recycled/marketed 1,586 tons of Fiber in 2018, the fourth straight year of slight decline. The SCMUA has been successful to date in marketing recyclable fiber material due to the strategy of maintaining the segregation of the various fiber streams (i.e. newspaper, cardboard and mixed office paper). Both domestic and overseas markets pay a premium for source separated fiber material, thereby driving such fiber revenue price per ton upwards, and making it a more lucrative commodity to recycle.



SCMUA vendors in 2018 included the following Class A market outlets:

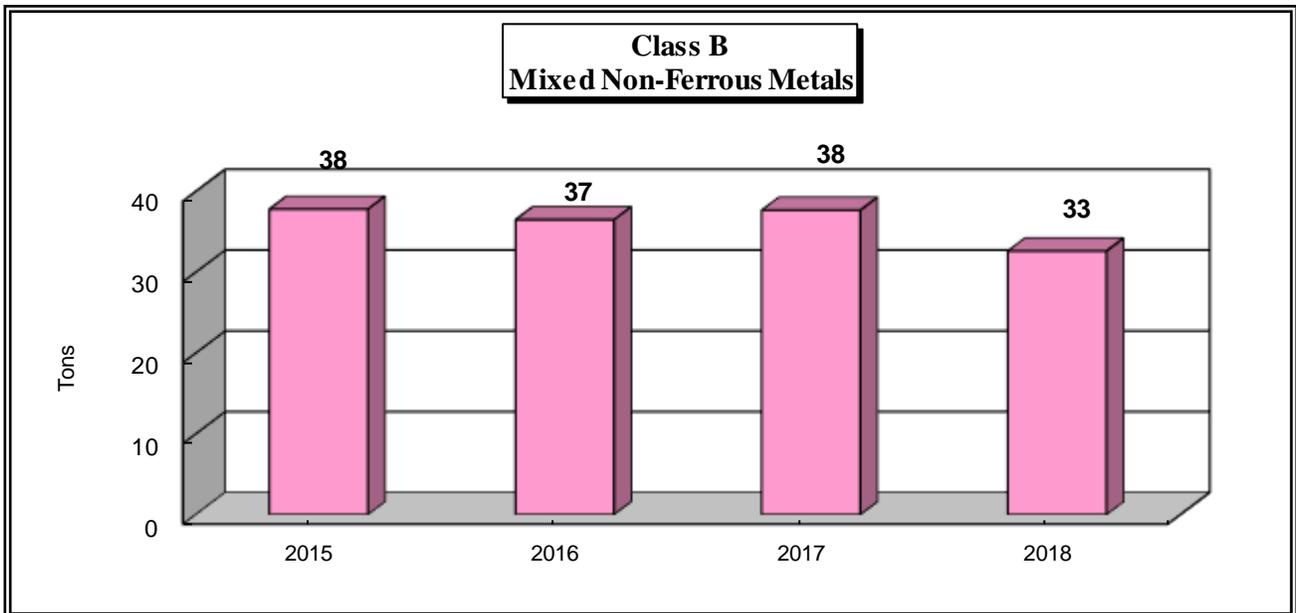
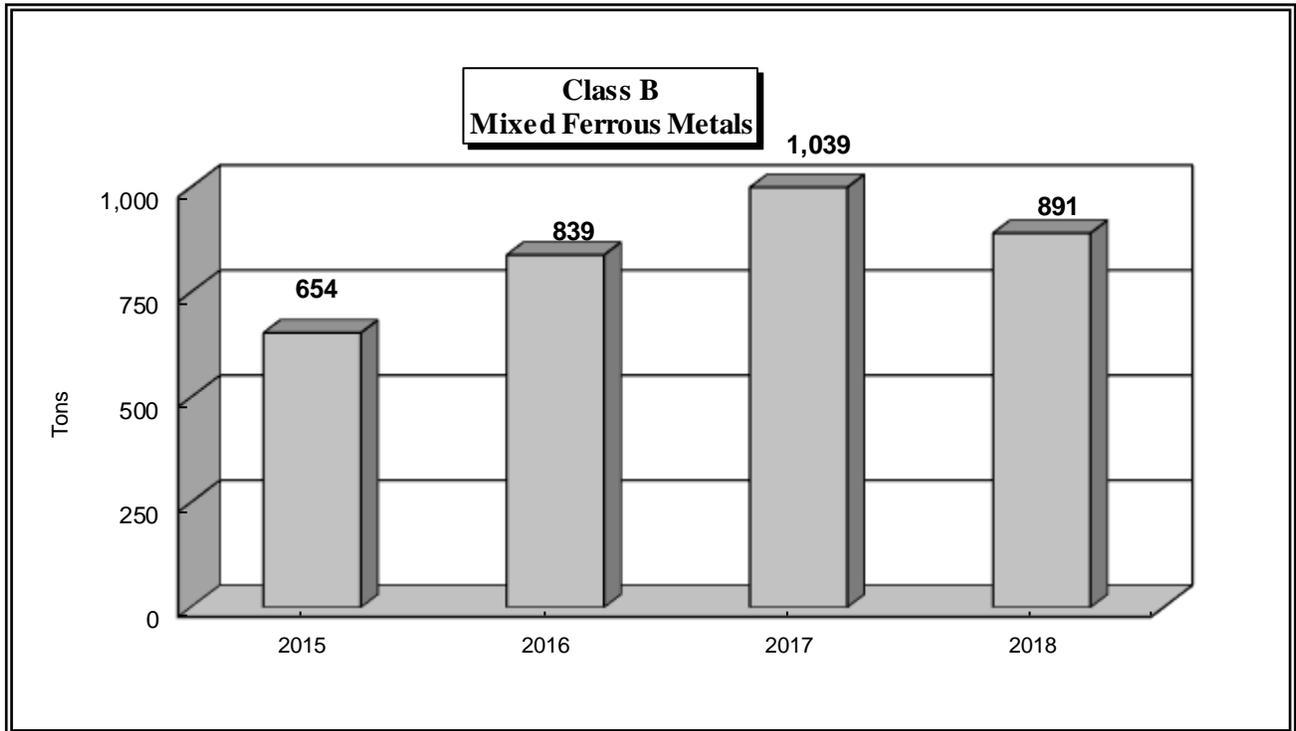
- Sims Municipal Recycling and Waste Management/Recycle America for commingled Class A materials;
- Trinity and Reliable Paper for cardboard, newspapers, & other mixed fiber
- Sims Municipal Recycling and Waste Management/Recycle America for Mixed Rigid Plastic

Price quotes are solicited from recycling market vendors on a monthly basis to ensure competitive pricing for the recyclable materials generated. While the SCMUA continues to explore alternative marketing arrangements with vendors to help reduce operation and maintenance expenses and to enhance revenues, it is important to note that the SCMUA does not collect or market "singlestream" recyclable material. Even though the majority of Sussex County municipalities have converted to singlestream curbside collection, the SCMUA has maintained a "dual-stream" collection program for its Class A recyclable materials. The SCMUA has maintained a dual stream recycling program wherein the separation of the fiber and container materials results in less contamination, and better marketability of these recyclables.

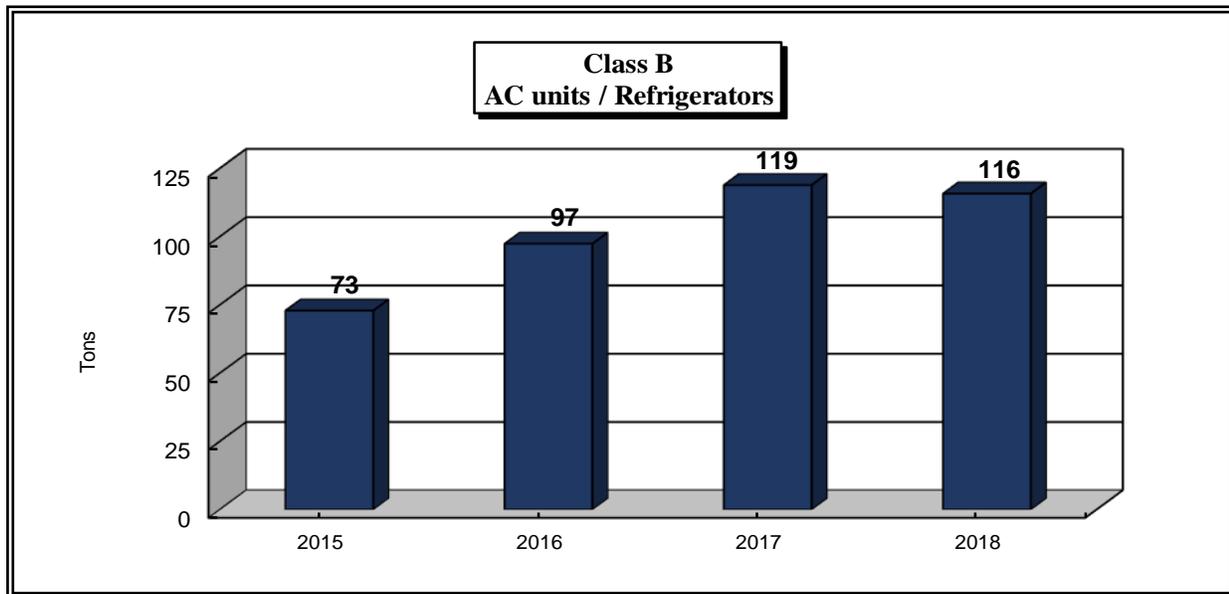
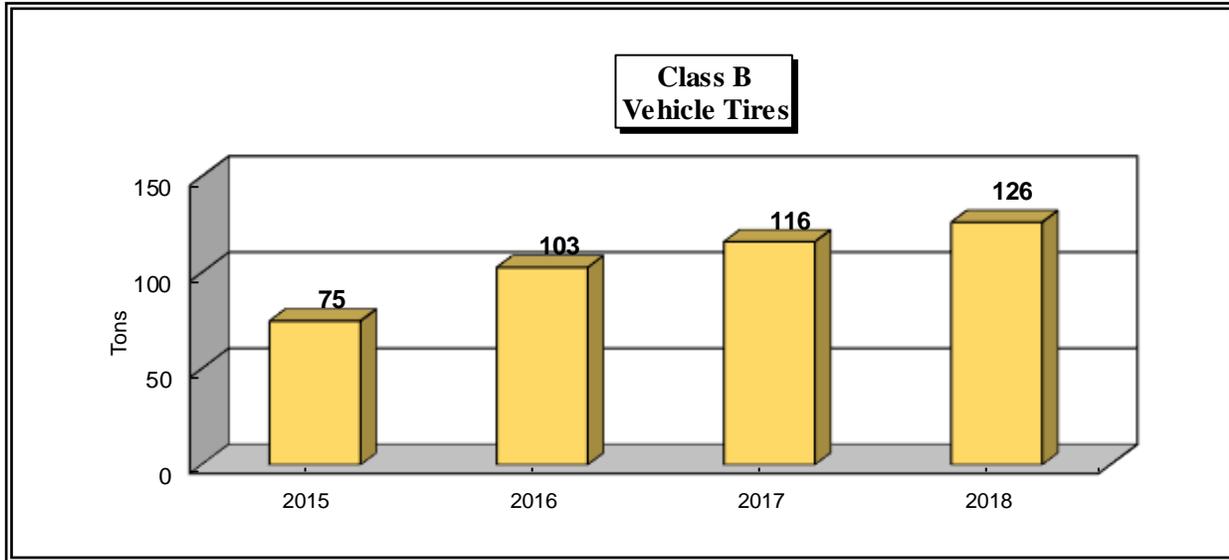
### **CLASS B RECYCLABLES**

***(Household Appliances, Ferrous and Non-Ferrous Metal, Tires, Propane Tanks, Other Plastics & Clean Wood)***

The SCMUA experienced a decrease (143 tons or 14%) in the overall volume of Class B non-traditional recyclable materials in 2018 (see following graphs), while scrap metal prices for ferrous (light iron) remained consistent throughout the year. Overseas markets continued to drive the demand for steel products in 2018, as well as domestic markets for this material. The market demand for non-ferrous (copper and aluminum) allowed for pricing to remain strong in 2018. It should be noted that most generators of these types of materials sell them at local salvage yards, rather than dispose at the SCMUA. Traditionally, recycling market rates directly impact the disposal of certain items, such as scrap metals, appliances, air conditioning units and refrigerators. When prices are high for these materials there is a greater incentive for consumers to bring them directly to salvage yards. In 2018 the SCMUA continued separating copper, brass and aluminum (non-ferrous) items from the scrap metals received. By sorting this material, the SCMUA has been able to maximize revenues for these commodities. Regardless of recycling market conditions, SCMUA staff has always separated both ferrous and non-ferrous metals from the solid waste stream to save landfill space, save natural resources and enhance revenues.



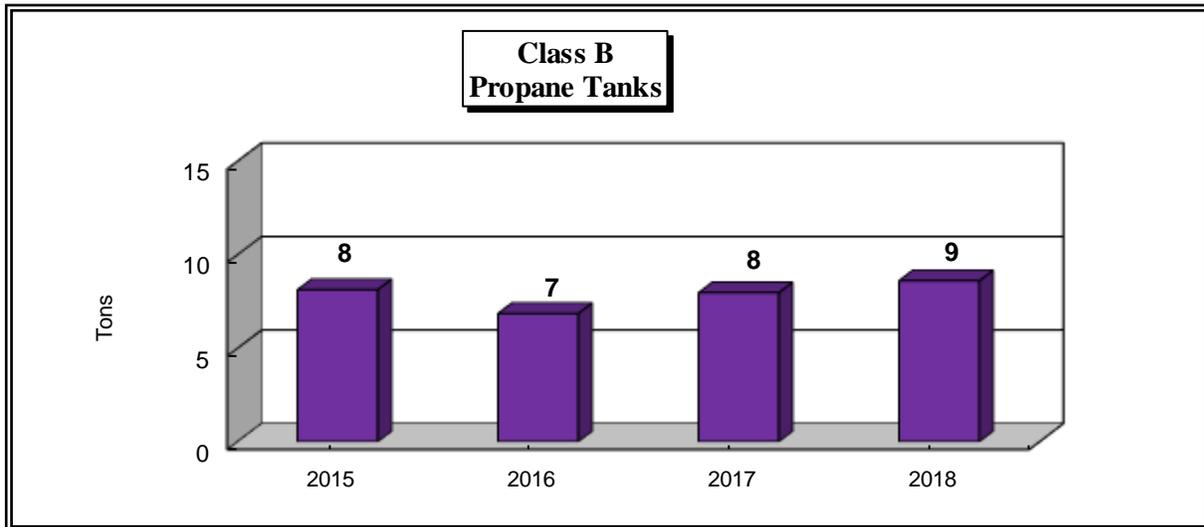
For 2018, the SCMUA collected/recycled approximately 126 tons of vehicle tires. This represents the fourth straight year of increase. At approximately 100 tires per ton, this translates to over 12,600 tires that were diverted from the landfill for recycling. The SCMUA contracts with Casings Tires of NJ for recycling of waste tires. Traditional tire recycling includes grinding the tires into chips for various reuse applications such as rubberized mulch which is used for landscaping and playgrounds.



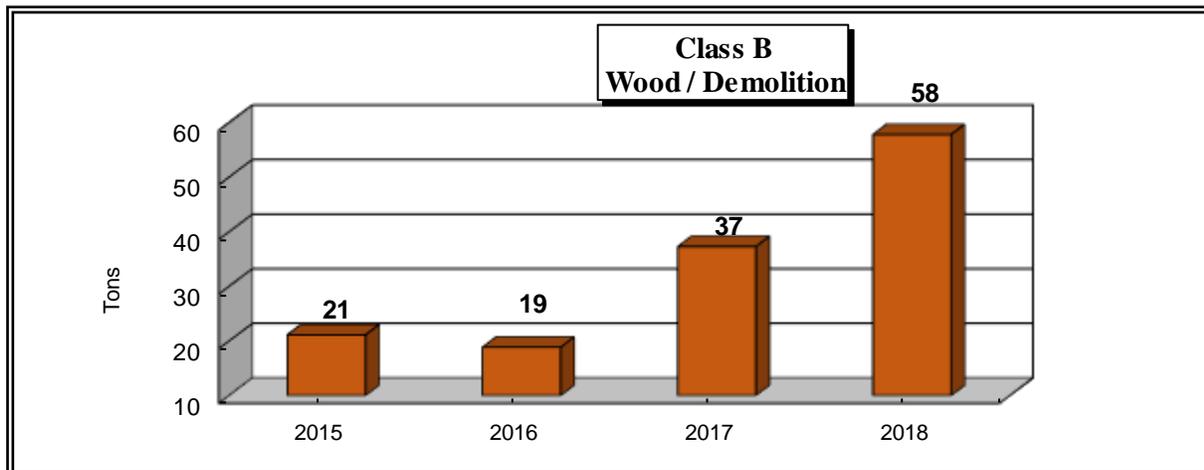
Sussex County residents, municipalities and businesses brought just under 116 tons of used refrigerators, dehumidifiers and air conditioning units to the SCMUA in 2018. Appliances received at the SCMUA are collected and processed by a scrap appliance vendor, Al's Appliance, Inc., removes all CFCs and PCBs and shreds the scrap steel for shipment to a mill. Scrap steel is then re-used to manufacture new products. Removal of CFL's and PCB's protects the environment while proper appliance recycling conserves energy, landfill space, and conserves natural resources.

The SCMUA also has a program to recycle propane tanks. The SCMUA collected/recycled approximately 8.6 tons of propane tanks in 2018. At approximately

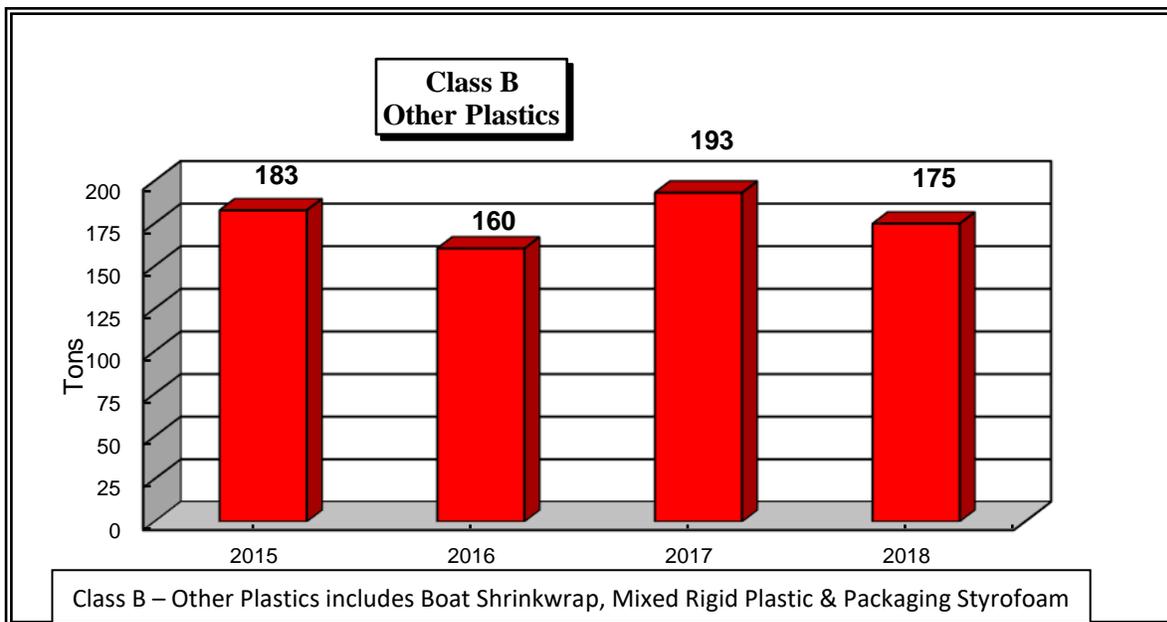
100 propane tanks per ton, this translates to about 860 propane tanks that were diverted from the solid waste stream for recycling in 2018. The high value of the various metals used to make up propane tanks, including steel and brass, developed a consistent and ongoing SCMUA marketing and revenue opportunity. The SCMUA contracts with a vendor, who pays the SCMUA to pick up the collected tanks, safely remove any unused propane gas, and recycle the containers. In 2019, we look forward to continuing with this beneficial program.



The collection of Clean Wood such as wood pallets and other demolition wood materials, such as unpainted fencing increased by about 20 tons (more than a 50% increase) from 2017 to 2018. There are a number of alternative in-county and out-of-county recycling facilities which accept and market these materials. These wood items were diverted from the waste stream prolonging our landfill life and conserving natural resources.



Mixed Rigid Plastic (MRP) Recycling - In 2018 the SCMUA continued recycling and marketing Mixed Rigid Plastic (MRP). Examples of MRP include plastic buckets 5-gallon sized or larger, plastic milk crates, kitty litter buckets, laundry baskets, pet carriers, lawn furniture, corrugated plastic signs, plastic toys including Little Tykes play houses, cars, trikes, big wheels, and household plastic items such as storage containers, tubs, shelving, etc. These plastic materials that are being collected for recycling previously ended up being landfilled. The MRP material is typically brought to the SCMUA in mixed loads of Type 13 waste at the Resident's Convenience Center. SCMUA staff removes the MRP while assisting SCMUA customers. The separated MRP material is stored separately and hauled to a local recycling market to be baled and processed for plastic manufacturing facilities feedstock. The benefits of diverting this type of material from the solid waste stream at the SCMUA include extending landfill life, providing a steady plastic feedstock for businesses, and generating additional revenue for the SCMUA. As an established recycling initiative at the SCMUA Landfill/Recycling Facility, the Mixed Rigid Plastic collection program has been a consistent success for diverting bulky material from the Landfill, and will continue in 2019.



Packaging Styrofoam (\*EPS) Recycling Program - \*Expanded Polystyrene (EPS) packaging material has become prevalent with e-commerce and bulk shipping, though there is limited local recycling access, especially from residential generators. To address this issue, the SCMUA partnered with Foam Cycle, LLC in October 2016 to implement their innovative and patent-pending container recycling system to collect, process and market the EPS to recycling companies. In its second year, the Foam Cycle system has been seamlessly integrated into operations of the facility, nearly doubling the amount of material collected from its inception. In 2018 almost 14,000 pounds of packaging EPS was diverted from the landfill and processed for recycling. The condensed EPS is then sold and shipped to an end user molding manufacturer, also within New Jersey. From

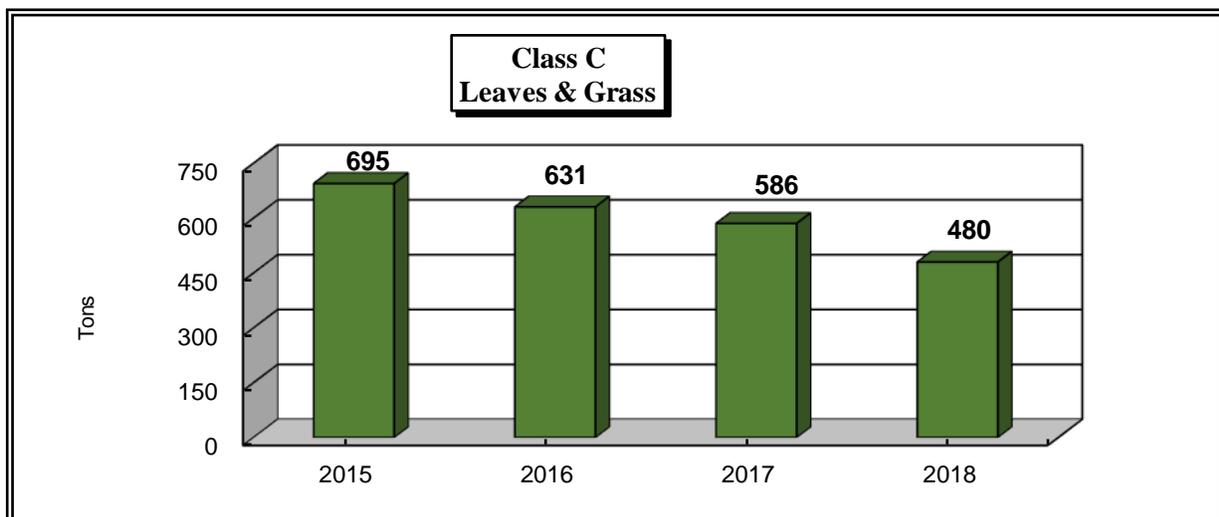
an economic perspective, the packaging EPS recycling program has been successful for the SCMUA in saving limited landfill space by diverting a former waste material, and generating a revenue stream by marketing high quality processed material. EPS has provided some of the highest per ton recycling market returns. The packaging EPS recycling program has been a welcome addition to the existing range of services for SCMUA customers.

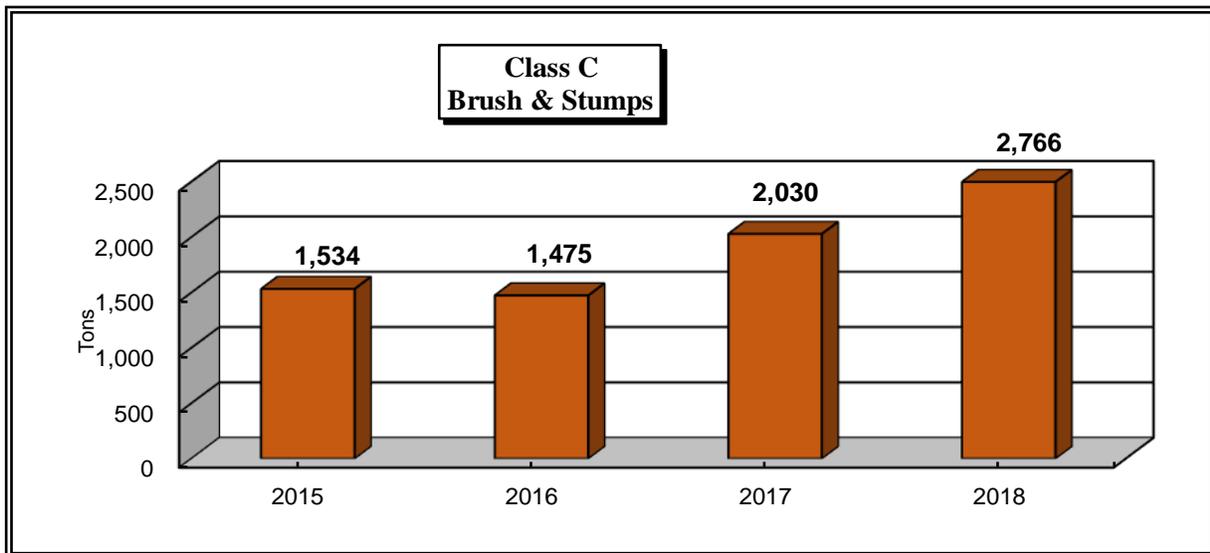
Class B Material vendors in 2018 included the following market outlets:

- Georges and Sims Metal Management for ferrous & non-ferrous scrap metals;
- Al's Appliance for refrigerators and air conditioners;
- Reliable Wood, Inc. for clean wood waste and stumps;
- Paraco Gas, Inc. for propane tanks;
- Casings Tires of New Jersey for tires;
- Princeton Mouldings, LLC for Packaging EPS
- Recycle America and Sims Municipal Recycling for Mixed Rigid Plastic

**CLASS C RECYCLABLES**  
***(Leaves, Grass Clippings, Brush, Tree Parts and Stumps)***

In 2018 the SCMUA's Class C Vegetative Waste Facility accepted and processed 3,246 tons of brush, stumps, leaves and grass clippings. The total volume of vegetative material received at the SCMUA had a significant overall increase in 2018 compared to 2017. Leaves and Grass tonnage decreased in 2018 compared to 2017, while Brush and Stumps received in 2018 showed a substantial increase compared to 2017. Overall, the total volume of vegetative waste showed a 24% increase. Brush, leaves and grass clippings are recycled on-site at the SCMUA. Residents & business may load the processed material (mulch and compost) at the vegetative waste area for their own use free of charge. If customers prefer, the SCMUA also produces and sells screened compost and colorized mulch (red and black) at \$20 per C.Y. In 2018, over 1,006 cubic yards of screened compost and colorized mulch was sold to the public. The SCMUA will continue to promote this program in 2019, thereby encouraging recycling of this vegetative waste which conserves landfill space and enhances revenues. In 2018, the Class C Facility generated \$153,821 in revenues from both vegetative waste disposal fees and the sale of mulch and compost materials.



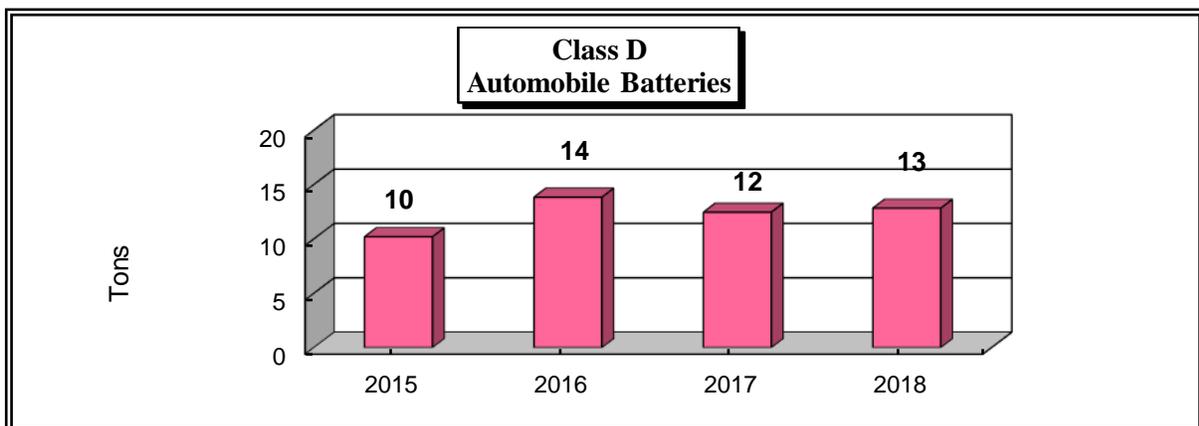


**CLASS D RECYCLABLES**

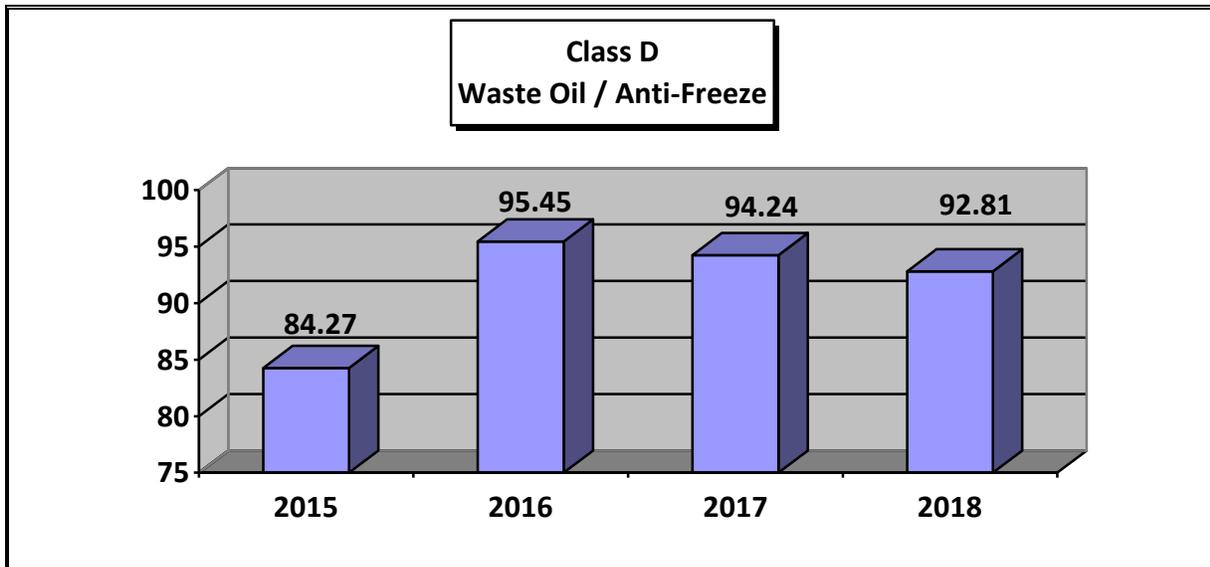
***(Automotive Batteries, Household Batteries, Used Motor Oil, Anti-Freeze, Consumer Electronics and Textiles)***

The majority of the Class D Recyclables category are materials which, if improperly handled, may pose an environmental hazard, and as such, require special attention by generators and the SCMUA. Class D Recyclables are segregated from the solid waste stream and managed in a careful manner. There was an overall decrease in Class D recyclable tonnage for 2018 as compared to 2017. A focus on consumer electronics (E-Waste) in 2018 is ongoing in conformance with NJ State Law regarding the disposal of Televisions, Computers, Scanners, Fax Machines, Cell Phones, etc. E-waste tonnages recycled by the SCMUA decreased slightly in 2018 compared to 2017. It is anticipated that E-Waste collection tonnage amounts will remain consistent over the next few years in response to both public education, and solid waste haulers not accepting these items.

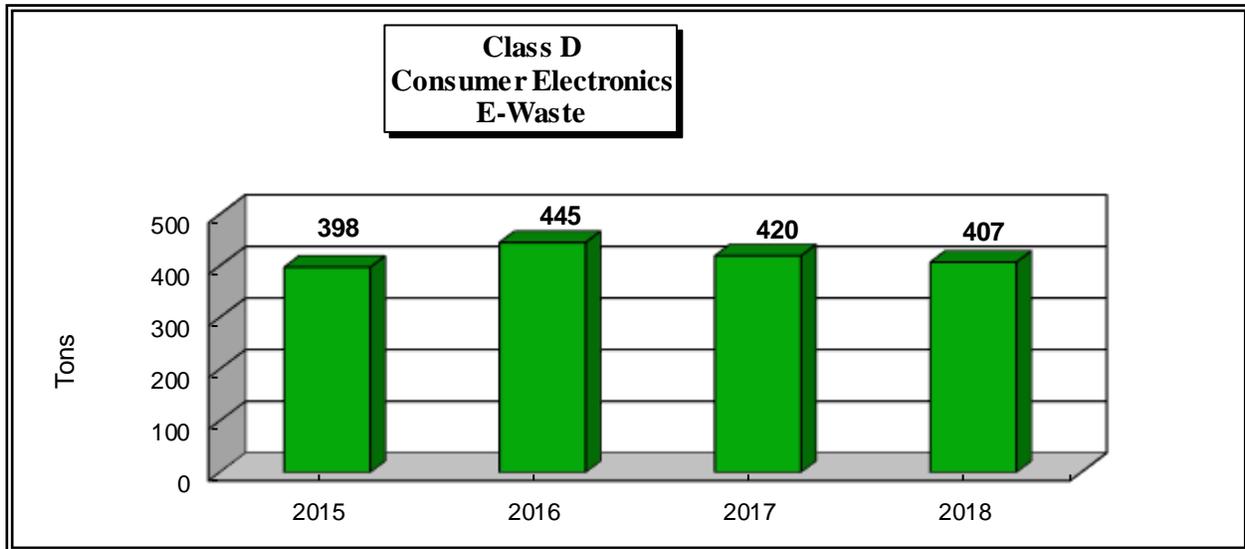
**Automotive Batteries** – In 2018 approximately 13 tons of automotive type batteries were collected for recycling at the SCMUA, a slight increase compared to 2017. Automotive batteries contain acid and lead which can pollute the environment and, if landfilled, can cause fires. The SCMUA contracts with responsible recyclers who properly handle these items and recover the components such as the acid, lead, and plastic housing which are recycled.



**Motor Oil and Anti-Freeze** – Slightly less than 93 tons (26,517 gallons) of used motor oil and antifreeze were recycled at the SCMUA. Both these items are of concern in that, if not handled properly, can pollute Sussex County lakes, streams and groundwater. Recyclers can reprocess both these items for reuse. It is also noteworthy to mention that the SCMUA owns and operates a used motor oil burner to heat the Solid Waste Facilities - Mobile Equipment Maintenance Garage. In 2018 the SCMUA “re-used” approximately 1,500 gallons or over 5 tons (included in above total) of waste motor oil to heat its maintenance garage. This reuse reduces SCMUA heating expenses while promoting recycling.



**E-Waste Program** - Since 2002 the SCMUA has been providing responsible disposal of consumer electronics (E-Waste), for Sussex County residents and businesses. Discarded consumer electronics could harm the environment if disposed of improperly. E-Waste contains heavy metals including; lead, mercury, nickel, cadmium and other hazardous materials. The SCMUA has a two-pronged approach to managing E-Waste at the Solid Waste Facility in an effort to prevent it being landfilled. On a daily basis, SCMUA employees segregate E-Waste from the solid waste stream while assisting customers at the Residents’ Convenience Center. In 2018 this effort segregated 223 tons of E-Waste for recycling. Additionally the SCMUA hosts special E-Waste Events each year for Sussex County residents, businesses and institutions. In 2018 the SCMUA sponsored four (4) free E-Waste events generating 185 tons of electronic equipment while serving 3,655 participants. The four E-Waste events plus regular daily drop-offs by residents at the Convenience Center resulted in a total of over 407 tons of electronic equipment collected and recycled at the SCMUA for 2018. The SCMUA partnered with Electronics Recyclers International (ERI) to provide for the four (4) no cost resident collection events in 2018. The ever-increasing development of new electronic devices being matched by the escalating demand of consumers’ needs to be offset by providing opportunities for safe collection and recycling.



**Household Batteries** - In response to U.S. Department of Transportation regulations, the SCMUA revised its Household Battery Collection Program. The DOT regulations mandated special preparation for recycling or disposal of certain rechargeable and other hazardous battery types, to prevent any short-circuiting during transport. Additionally, revised federal and state regulations indicate household type Alkaline (single use) Batteries fall below hazardous waste standards and are now considered disposable and should be discarded as normal household trash. As such, the SCMUA no longer collects Alkaline type batteries for recycling purposes. Residents, business and institutions should dispose of alkaline batteries with daily household waste. However, rechargeable batteries and other battery types that still contain mercury or other hazardous materials need to be properly handled, managed and recycled. The SCMUA will continue to accept (at no cost to the public) rechargeable batteries and batteries containing hazardous materials such as mercury, at the SCMUA's Recycling Center. The SCMUA ensures that these types of batteries are properly packaged and shipped to an authorized processing facility.

SCMUA vendors in 2018 included the following market outlets:

- Electronics Recyclers International (ERI), for E-Waste
- Maumee Express (MXI), Inc., for Household Hazardous Waste
- Maumee Express (MXI), Inc., for Household Batteries
- Loeffels Waste Oil Inc., for waste oil and antifreeze
- AMVETS, for textiles (donated clothing)

### **OTHER RECYCLED MATERIALS:**

**Street Sweepings:** Since 2004, NJ State regulations require that municipalities collect street sweepings on a regular basis as part of New Jersey's Stormwater Management Plan. In response to these State requirements, the SCMUA began accepting this material to provide public agencies a convenient, and NJDEP approved location to dispose of their street sweepings. In 2018, 8,457 tons of Sussex County generated street sweepings were accepted at the SCMUA Solid Waste Facility. Street Sweepings are used as Alternate Daily Cover (ADC) for SCMUA landfill operations. When applied as ADC on the landfill these street sweepings are considered "recycled" since they are used in a beneficial manner. This recycling program reduces the SCMUA's need to purchase "clean fill" for landfill cover, thereby saving resources and reducing operating expenses. The SCMUA keeps accurate reports on municipal street sweeping tonnage which is provided to the NJDEP.

**Household Hazardous Waste Program:** The SCMUA hosted two Household Hazardous Waste Collection Events in June and November 2018 for Sussex County residents. A total of 39 tons was collected while accommodating 1,730 participants. All of the Hazardous Waste is properly disposed (or recycled) under contract with a vendor licensed by the State of NJ. The contractor is responsible to segregate, pack and transport the hazardous material to the proper hazardous waste recycling or disposal facilities, thereby protecting both the SCMUA landfill and the environment from contamination. The SCMUA has hosted two (2) annual household hazardous waste events for over 25 years; in keeping with this tradition two household hazardous waste collection events are again planned for 2019.

### **OTHER SCMUA RECYCLING RELATED PROGRAMS & INFORMATION:**

Earth Day Event - As a way to promote environmental stewardship and spread valuable educational information about proper solid waste disposal and recycling, the SCMUA and the Wallkill River Watershed Management Program celebrated its 13<sup>th</sup> annual Earth-Energy Day Event in April. Sussex County residents and schools participated in activities designed to raise awareness regarding environmental issues such as hazardous waste management, recycling, watershed management, alternative energy, protection of natural resources, and other educational activities. Over 330 students from various Sussex County schools participated in the event, as well as, local volunteers.

Secure Document Destruction Program - For the past 13 years, the SCMUA has contracted with a local secure document destruction company, SK Paper Shred, to offer residents and business owners with secure and convenient paper shredding service. SK Shred conducts monthly shredding of documents at the SCMUA Solid Waste Facilities for a nominal fee to customers. At the conclusion of each event all shredded paper remains at the SCMUA for transport to a recycling facility. In 2018, more than 40 tons of paper was shredded/recycled for 1,980 customers who participated in these events.

American Flag Disposal Program - The SCMUA Recycling Center provides a designated container for used U.S. flags that are no longer needed, or suitable for display. The challenge was to find a proper disposal solution for American flags brought to the Recycling Center by Sussex County residents and businesses. Previously, accumulated flags were donated by the SCMUA to the American Legion Post for their annual Flag Retirement ceremony. With many flags now typically being made of nylon or polyester-based fabrics, the potential air and health hazards associated with burning the non-cotton flags has been a deterrent from conducting the traditional open pit burning of the flags. Derek and Kevin Cooke, proprietors of Abbey Glen Pet Memorial Park utilize their crematory at no charge to provide a proper and environmentally sound method to retire the flags. The NJDEP Division of Air and Hazardous Materials Enforcement issued an approval to the Abbey Glen Pet Memorial Park to combust the flags in a proper and respectful manner – the first of its kind state-wide. Celebrating 5 years as the only state-wide program of its kind, the annual Flag Retirement ceremony is conducted at Northern NJ Veteran’s Memorial Cemetery (NNJVMC) in Sparta, NJ, with representatives from Boy Scout and Girl Scout Troops, American Legions and Veteran’s organizations, along with local, county and state officials. In 2018, slightly under 1,300 pounds of U.S. flags were retired and as a result of this program, and over 4,750 pounds of flags collected at the SCMUA Recycling Center has been properly incinerated under State and American Legion guidelines, with the flag ashes retired in a place of honor at the NNJVMC.

Cell Phones for Soldiers Collection Program - The SCMUA provides special containers at both the Resident’s Convenience and Recycling Centers to collect used cell phones from Sussex County residents and businesses. All makes and model cell phones are accepted, including batteries and accessories. As part of this program, the collected cell phones are recycled and program proceeds are used to purchase prepaid calling cards for US military personnel serving abroad. In 2018, just under 247 pounds of cellphones were collected under the Cell Phones for Soldiers program.

Sharps and Medical Waste Disposal Programs - The SCMUA provides a monthly drop-off location for the proper disposal of sharps and regulated medical waste from home generators. In addition, the SCMUA continues to promote the Countywide Prescription Medication Disposal Program. Local law enforcement agencies collect expired, unused and unwanted prescription drugs for proper disposal/destruction. This program was developed by authorities to reduce the unauthorized accessibility of prescription drugs.

Boat Shrink Wrap Recycling Plus Program - For over ten years the SCMUA has organized a county-wide boat shrink wrap collection and recycling program. This program time period is March 30<sup>th</sup> – June 30<sup>th</sup>. The SCMUA provided 30-yard recycling containers for this program. These containers were stationed at Danforth’s Marina locations at Lake Mohawk and the Borough of Ogdensburg. Other participating boat stores were located in Frankford Township and Hopatcong Borough. By increasing recycling locations in Sussex County, it has allowed boat owners more convenience in

recycling this type of this material. In 2018 the SCMUA collected 10,640 pounds of Boat Shrink wrap material which was marketed at Global Recycling.

Fluorescent Lamp Collection Program - This program was started six years ago to provide a safe and convenient location to dispose of fluorescent bulbs in an environmentally safe manner. Over 9,880 lbs of fluorescent lamps were collected in 2018 as part of this program.

SCMUA Landfill/Recycling Facility Tours - Throughout 2018 regular educational presentations and tours were conducted for elementary schools, high schools and colleges, as well as scouting groups, and other organizations from Sussex County and surrounding communities, regarding the SCMUA Solid Waste & Recycling Facilities. In 2018, approximately 150 participants took part in tours of the SCMUA Landfill and Recycling Center to learn firsthand their impact on the environment, and strategies that could be adopted to increase the lifespan of the Landfill.

School Recycling Projects - Various environmental projects are developed on a regular basis with the Sussex County MUA, local school districts, and Municipal Recycling Coordinators. In 2018 the SCMUA in conjunction with local municipalities once again took part in a plastic film and bags collection program for participating Sussex County schools, to help promote the importance of proper waste disposal and recycling. The Sussex County School Plastic Film Recycling Challenge sponsored by the Trex Company, focuses on collecting clean and dry recyclable plastic film in order to keep it out of the landfill, and instilling school pride. Seven (7) participating schools competed within the county to recycle the most plastic film, and the winning school is awarded a Trex bench. The Challenge started on November 15, 2017 (America Recycles Day) and ended on April 22, 2018 (Earth Day). Into its 5<sup>th</sup> year for Sussex County, this challenge has been an excellent way of promoting less trash in our daily lives, encouraging more recycling, and is a highly effective educational opportunity for local students. It is a natural fit for the SCMUA and Municipal Recycling Coordinators to work together in developing school programs that highlight the core concepts of recycling awareness, integral to providing a sustainable future for Sussex County.

Municipal Recycling Coordinators – The SCMUA employs the Sussex County Recycling Coordinator who establishes and consults on the many County recycling programs. The Authority offers assistance to local municipalities with grant programs, ordinance updates, solid waste and recycling collection contracts. In February 2018 a Recycling Tonnage Workshop was conducted for local Municipal Recycling Coordinators to plan strategies for obtaining business and commercial recycling reports for their towns in an effort to efforts to improve the overall County recycling rate. In October 2018, the County Recycling Coordinator held an informational meeting for Municipal Recycling Coordinators on new recycling innovations, and updates on current solid waste and recycling regulations. The SCMUA regularly partners with local municipalities to provide education and outreach.

The SCMUA's Recycling programs owes its success, in large part, to the many residents and businesses of Sussex County who recognize that recycling is a necessary and beneficial solid waste management option. Recycling is a cost effective activity which conserves natural resources and extends landfill life. Sussex County recycling programs have only been successful due to the support of the Sussex County Board of Chosen Freeholders, the SCMUA Board of Commissioners, municipal officials and most importantly the public's participation each and every day.

Below is a comparison of vehicle traffic at the SCMUA for recent years (2015-2018) this graph indicates that during 2018, a monthly average of roughly 26,148 vehicles utilized the SCMUA - Solid Waste and Recycling Facilities.

