

## Sussex County Municipal Utilities Authority

# 2021 Recycling Report



# Introduction

In 2021, the Sussex County Municipal Utilities Authority (SCMUA) celebrated 50 years providing Sussex County residents and businesses with environmentally sound and cost-effective recycling services. While the pandemic and the “Stage 2 Landfill Expansion Project” provided unusual challenges in 2021, the SCMUA continued to demonstrate its commitment to recycling by ensuring continued operation and success of 2021 recycling programs and events.

## Recycling Programs

The SCMUA continued to provide robust recycling programs to Sussex County for the following New Jersey Department of Environmental Protection (NJDEP) recycling categories:

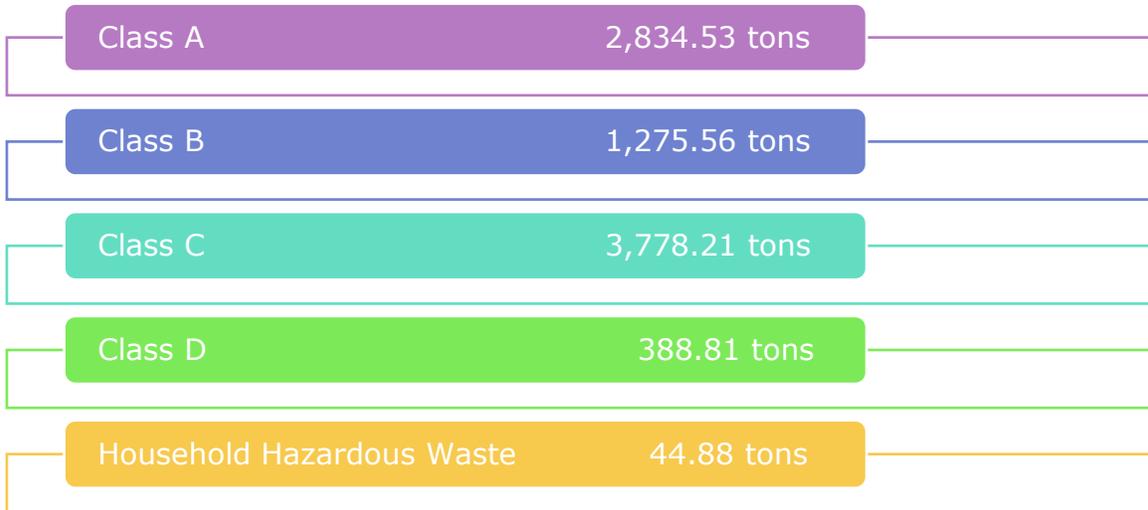
- ❖ Class A – commingled metal, glass and plastic containers, paper, and cardboard.
- ❖ Class B – wood pallets, tree parts/stumps, metals, tires, mixed rigid plastic and expanded polystyrene foam.
- ❖ Class C – yard trimmings and brush/leaves.
- ❖ Class D – used oil, anti-freeze, fluorescent bulbs, batteries, and consumer electronics.

In addition, the SCMUA hosted two Household Hazardous Waste events in the spring and fall of 2021, the tonnage of which is also included in the county total recycling rate.

The 2021 tonnage totals for each type of recyclable material presented in this report reflect only those materials recycled through the SCMUA’s Solid Waste facility. Sussex County municipalities report their annual recycling tonnage to NJDEP separately and totals may be found on the following NJDEP’s website:

<https://www.nj.gov/dep/dshw/recycling/stats.htm>

## 2021 SCMUA Total Recycling Tonnage



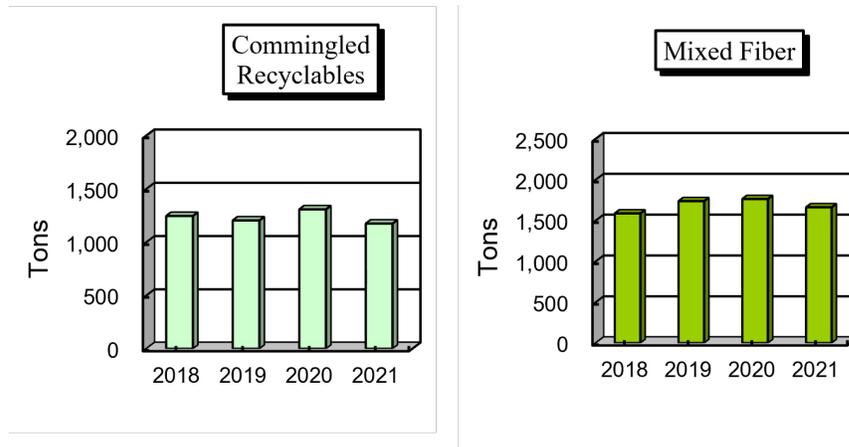
## Class A Recyclables

The SCMUA accepts commingled glass containers, aluminum cans, steel cans, plastic containers, and gable-top and aseptic cartons. Residents, institutions, and businesses find commingling of these Class A materials to be convenient, which results in more diversion of recyclables from the municipal solid waste stream (landfilling).

The SCMUA experienced a decrease in the amount of Class A commingled container recyclable tonnages in 2021 compared to the previous 3 years. Sussex County municipal haulers and residents have other Class A recycling markets available to them, both within Sussex County and outside the county, thus the SCMUA tonnage represents only a portion of the total for Sussex County.

The SCMUA maintains a Class A mixed fiber recycling program which strategically segregates various fiber streams for better marketing of each commodity. In 2021 there was an increased demand for fiber in the market due to the continued rise of e-commerce (cardboard),

siting of new US based paper mills and increased exports to India, Mexico, and Vietnam. Pricing for recovered fiber rose dramatically in response to the increase demand.



SCMUA vendors for Class A market outlets in 2021 were:

- ❖ Sims Municipal Recycling
- ❖ WM/Recycle America
- ❖ Trinity Recycling of New Jersey Inc.
- ❖ Reliable Paper Recycling
- ❖ Global Recycling Solutions, LLC

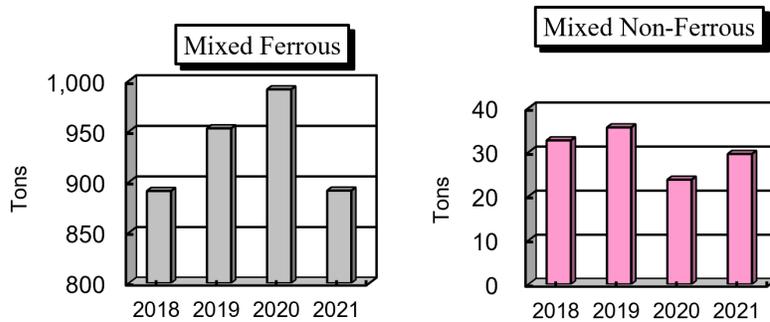
The SCMUA obtains monthly market pricing to ensure competitive pricing for recyclable materials. Though some Sussex County municipalities maintain “single stream” curbside collection, the SCMUA has maintained a “dual stream” collection program for its Class A recyclable materials. The dual stream recycling program separates fiber and container materials for better marketability of the recyclables.

## Class B Recyclables

The SCMUA Class B recyclables program includes tires, freon-containing appliances, ferrous and non-ferrous metals, propane tanks, mixed rigid plastic, expanded polystyrene foam packaging and clean

wood. The Class B program experienced a decrease of 121 tons of Class B recyclables in 2021 compared to 2020.

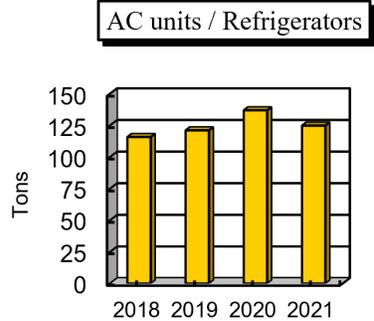
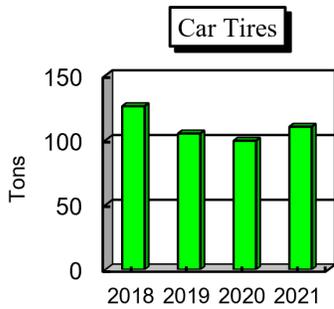
The market for metals experienced an increase due to a rise in prices of raw materials. The SCMUA separates copper, brass, and aluminum (non-ferrous) items from scrap metals collected to maximize revenues for each commodity.



The SCMUA collected and recycled over 110 tons of vehicle tires, diverting them from the landfill. The recycling vendors used by SCMUA for tire recycling in 2021 were:

- ❖ Casings Inc.
- ❖ Cavalier Environmental Compliance Services, Inc.
- ❖ George's Salvage

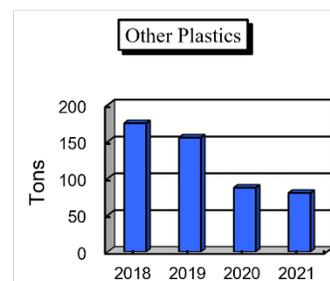
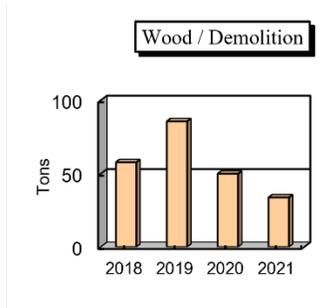
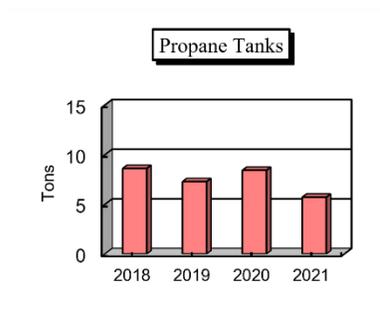
Sussex County residents, municipalities and businesses brought over 124 tons of used refrigerators, dehumidifiers, and air conditioners to the SCMUA in 2021. The recycling vendor, Al's Appliance & Scrap Removal Service, removed the CFC's and PCB's and shredded the scrap steel for shipment to a mill for re-use. Proper appliance recycling conserves landfill space, natural resources and protects the environment.



The SCMUA’s propane tank recycling program resulted in the collection and recycling of approximately 5.7 tons of metal through the vendor Paraco Gas. Over 33 tons of clean wood were diverted from the SCMUA’s solid waste stream and brought to Reliable Wood Products for recycling into mulch products.

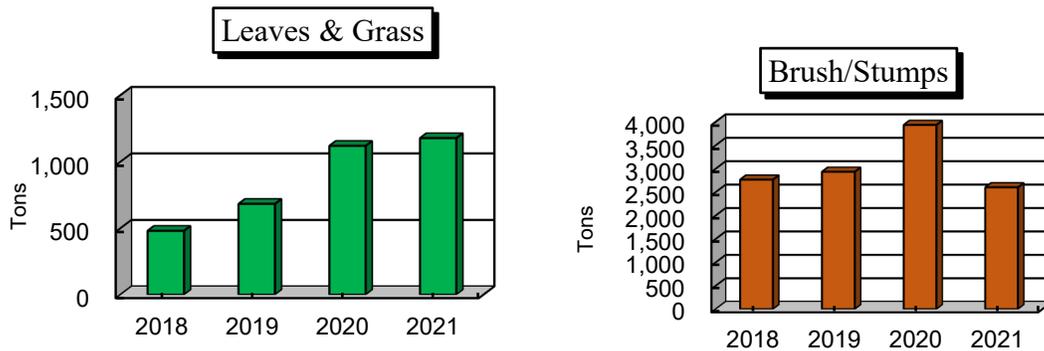
In 2021, the SCMUA continued recycling and marketing mixed rigid plastic which SCMUA staff was able to divert from waste loads at the Residents’ Convenience Center. Approximately 80 tons of rigid plastic items including milk crates, laundry baskets, lawn furniture, and plastic storage containers were recycled.

The SCMUA’s expanded polystyrene (EPS) recycling program collects foam packaging from residents, densifies the material on-site and sells the condensed material to a molding manufacturer. In 2021, the SCMUA recycled and sold over 8 tons of EPS to Princeton Mouldings, LLC, diverting the material from the landfill.



# Class C Recyclables

In 2021, the SCMUA’s Class C Vegetative Waste program received and processed 3,779 tons of brush, stumps, leaves and grass clippings. Brush, leaves, and grass clippings are recycled on-site at the SCMUA. Residents and businesses may load the recycled material (mulch and compost) for their own use free of charge. Screened compost and colorized mulch are also available for purchase at \$20 per cubic yard. SCMUA’s on-site Class C Recycling program generated over \$170,000 in revenue which offset the costs incurred to recycle clean wood and stumps.

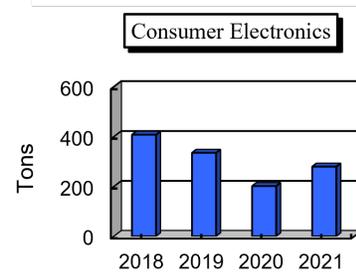
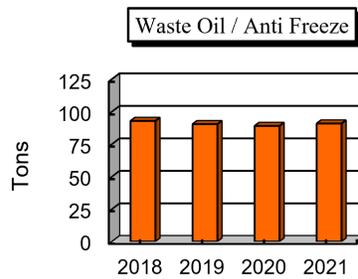
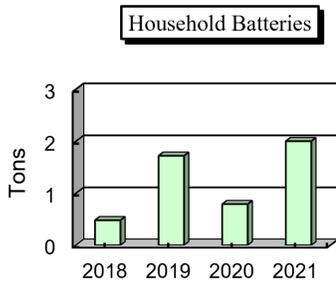
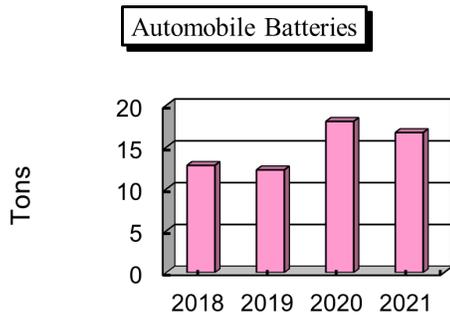


# Class D Recyclables

The SCMUA Class D recyclables program includes automotive and rechargeable batteries, used motor oil, anti-freeze, and consumer electronics. Over 388 tons of Class D recyclables were collected in 2021, with increases over the previous year for rechargeable batteries, anti-freeze, and consumer electronics.

Sussex County residents may bring rechargeable batteries, used oil and antifreeze to the SCMUA Recycling Center at no charge. Residents may also drop off certain consumer electronics for recycling at the Residents’ Convenience Center at no charge. These “Covered”

electronics include televisions, computers, fax machines and printers. The electronics are recycled to recover valuable materials including metals, plastic, and glass. In addition to the drop-off program, the SCMUA offered four Electronic waste collection events in 2021 at no charge.

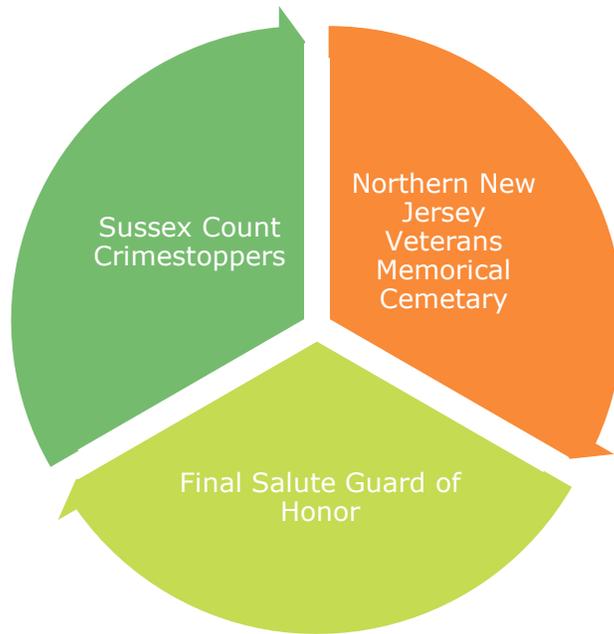


Class D Recyclable market vendors for 2021 were:

- ❖ Loeffel's Waste Oil Service, LLC
- ❖ Call2Recycle
- ❖ Northeast Battery
- ❖ Electronics Recyclers International, Inc.

## Additional Recycling Programs

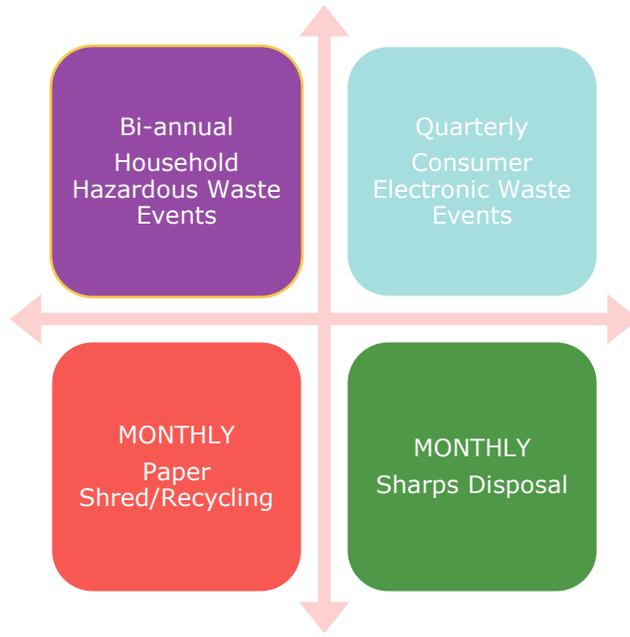
The SCMUA collected approximately 60 tons of clothing and textiles (woven and non-woven fabric) for recycling through a partnership with American Recycling Technologies. Revenue from the clothing and textile recycling benefits the following local organizations:



The SCMUA continued to participate in the “Cell Phones for Soldiers” program, providing collection bins for used phones that are recycled with proceeds used to purchase prepaid calling cards for US military personnel serving abroad. Approximately 236 pounds of cell phones were collected in 2021.

## **RECYCLING COLLECTION EVENTS**

The SCMUA held a full calendar of recyclable material and household hazardous waste collection events in 2021. Two “Household Hazardous Waste” events were held in the Spring and Fall of 2021 to provide residents a cost free, and environmentally sound method to dispose of flammable, toxic and corrosive materials. The SCMUA held quarterly “Electronic Waste” events to collect used consumer electronics for recycling at no charge to residents. On a monthly basis, residents were able to participate in secure document destruction at Paper Shred events and drop off home-generated sharps to a contracted medical waste vendor for proper disposal. SK Paper Shred and Orchard Hill Special Waste Management Inc. were the vendors for these monthly events.



<b>2021</b>	<b>PARTICIPANTS*</b>	<b>TONNAGE</b>
Household Hazardous Waste Events	1,553	43.0 tons
Electronic Waste Events	2,719	175.51 tons
Paper Shred/Recycling Events	1,752	46.59 tons
Sharps Disposal Events	201	0.51 tons

\*Estimated based on vehicle counts

# Recycling Education/Events

The SCMUA held its eighth annual “American Flag Retirement Ceremony” in March of 2021 at the Northern New Jersey Veterans Memorial Cemetery. The American Legion Post 86 led the ceremony for the disposal of 1,000 pounds of unserviceable flags that had been collected at the SCMUA. The flags were then properly combusted at the Abbey Glen crematory. The unique collection and disposal program was originally started by Renee Casapulla, Sussex County Recycling Coordinator who retired at the end of March 2021 after 16 years of dedication and leadership.

Due to the continued pandemic, the traditional on-site SCMUA Earth Day event was cancelled for 2021. However, the SCMUA created on-line Earth Day activity videos for Sussex County teachers to use as resources with their students.

Landfill and Recycling Center tours were suspended for 2021 due to the Phase 2 Landfill expansion project. The SCMUA was able to provide small-scale educational visits and hosted the Stillwater Daisy troop for an afternoon of hands-on activities. The Recycling Coordinator also presented a Recycling Update to the Branchville Businessmen’s Club in the fall of 2021.

The SCMUA also participated in the 2021 NJDEP/Call2Recycle “Avoid the Spark” campaign promoting safe battery recycling to Sussex County residents.

The SCMUA’s Recycling Coordinator hosted three recycling tonnage workshops and meetings in 2021 for the Sussex County Municipal Recycling Coordinators. The workshops and meetings provided opportunities to review regulatory updates, share innovative recycling program ideas and plan strategies to improve the County recycling rate.

# Summary

The SCMUA's Recycling Program continues to be successful due to the dedication and diligence of the SCMUA staff who maintain a steadfast commitment to the programs and events even during the pandemic and major construction project. The residents and businesses of Sussex County continue to recognize and embrace the importance of recycling as an integral activity to conserve natural resources and extend the County's landfill life. Sussex County recycling programs owe their success to the continued support of the Sussex County Board of Commissioners, the SCMUA Board of Commissioners, and municipal officials.