

APPLICATION FORM

All applications must include the following information. Separate applications must be submitted for each eligible program. **Deadline: June 3, 2019.** Please include this application form with electronic entry. If you do not receive an email confirming receipt of your entry within 3 days of submission, please contact Gage Harter.

PROGRAM INFORMATION

County: Page

Program Title: Recycling Challenges in Today's Markets

Program Category: Environmental

CONTACT INFORMATION

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Title: Solid Waste Operations Manager

Department: Page County Solid Waste

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SIGNATURE OF COUNTY ADMINISTRATOR OR DEPUTY/ASSISTANT COUNTY ADMINISTRATOR

Name: Amity Moler

Title: County Administrator

Signature: *Amity Moler*



Program Overview

Deteriorating recycling markets forced Page County Solid Waste Department to take a hard look at its recycling program. Under the old recycling practices, the Solid Waste picked up recycling containers from four resident drop off locations in the County and was spending up to \$34,000 a year in transportation costs to deliver its recyclable materials to processing plants with only a minimal amount of revenue generation in return. Our department's primary goal was to decrease costs associated with maintaining our resident drop off locations. Since implementation of the new practices, the recycling program has transformed from a small revenue generator with high costs into a large revenue generator with substantially lower costs.

Challenge/Financing

The Page County Solid Waste Department struggled for many years to reach its State mandated recycling goals in a cost-effective manner. In addition to the unique geographical challenges Page County faces, in the latter part of 2017, the recycling markets crashed and it became harder to find certified outlets for county's recycled material resulting in continually increasing transportation costs. In January of 2018, the landfill purchased and installed a used vertical baler. Baling all recyclable material has allowed the county to tap into larger vendors with the means to then pay higher returns on those commodities. Providing baled recyclables to vendor has eliminated all of the transportation cost associated with delivering those materials to



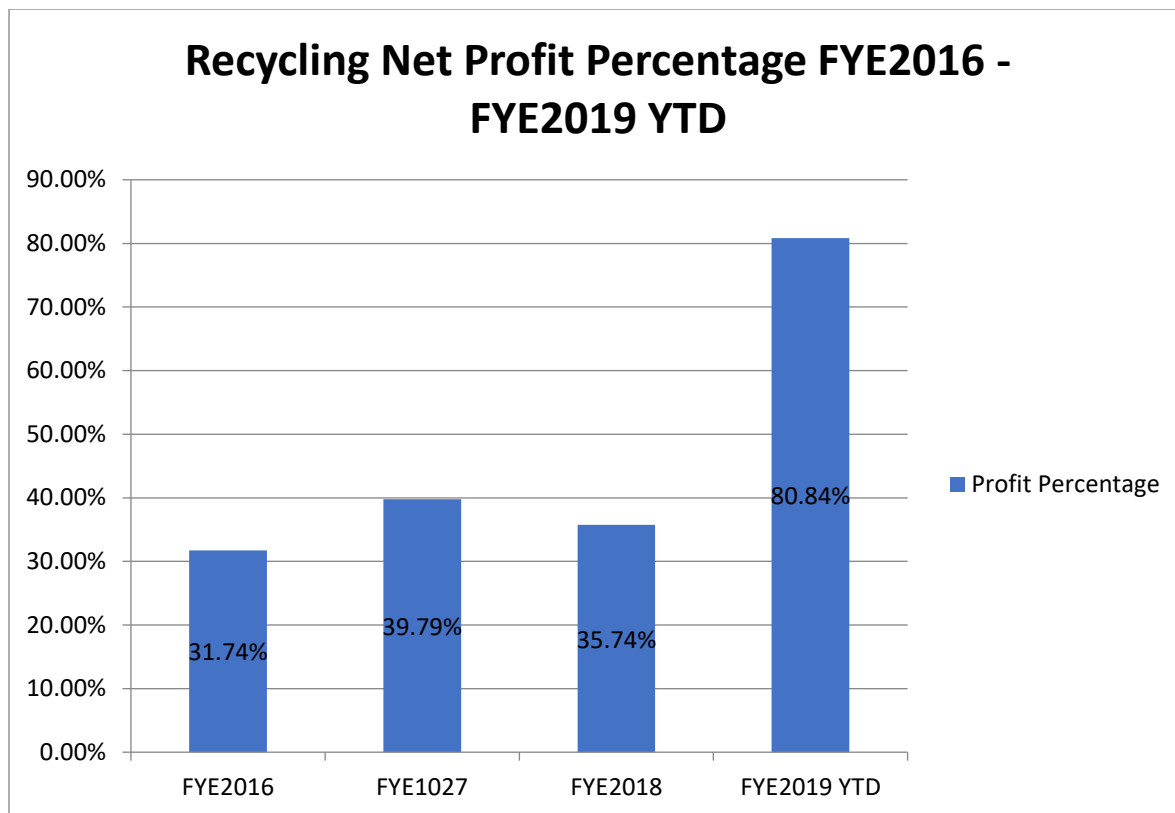
a processing plant. Vendors now provide an empty trailer that the department loads and assumes all of the transportation costs for that load. During this transition, it did become necessary to landfill 0.6% of our recyclable material.

While our primary goal was to decrease the transportation costs, we have also been able to capture more recyclable materials that were previously being landfilled by providing our school systems, shopping centers, and larger commercial customers with containers for their recycling.

Annually, the Department applies with the Commonwealth of Virginia for a “Litter Prevention / Recycling Program” grant. A portion of the money from this grant was used to purchase the baler and make the needed repairs. The Department uses inmate labor on a daily basis to help with resident waste drop-off and baling recyclable materials.

Results

Since the Department reformed their practices, it has increased the total tons of material being recycled, while increasing the amount of revenue generated and decreasing cost. The chart below shows the facility profit margins based on Fiscal Year. The data shown for FYE 2019 is only representative of 7 months and is projected to increase throughout the remainder of the year. The drop in 2018 was attributed to the purchase and maintenance of the new baler.



Going forward, the Department would like to expand its recycling program by further educating the public. The public education portion is twofold; focusing on educating school aged children and re-educating adults to properly recycle and encourage reducing and reusing. Raptor Hill Falconry has an education program focusing on litter prevention and litter’s effect on wildlife, where she brings a few feathered friends to interact with elementary students. The staff had its first adult education event at the local Earth Day Celebration, where we plan to set up a booth focusing on small behavior changes and the big impacts they have on our environment. We will be giving away reusable grocery bags and silicone straws. During the Earth Day event, the staff was approached about being invited to speak at several other environmental groups in the area and speaking with their participants about the proper way to recycle and behaviors they



can adapted to continue to improve recycling participation. The facility is also working with T-rex Corporation on a plastic bag recycling program that can be implemented in the schools and the County Offices.