

April 16, 2010

Chet Sergent Northern Nevada Recycling Program Coordinator  
Nevada Division of Environmental Protection  
901 South Stewart Avenue, Suite 4001  
Carson City, Nevada 89701-5249

Dear Mr. Sergent,

The 2009 Clark County Recycling Report is now complete. For calendar year 2009, 452,944 tons were recycled, down 118,772 tons, or 20.77%, from 2008. The recycling rate (tons recycled/tons generated) is down 1.73 percentage points or 9.14%. Factors affecting the recycling rate include commodity and energy prices, which influence commercial participation, and collection convenience and public attitude, which influence residential participation.

Although recycling rates were depressed in 2008 due to a drop in worldwide demand for recyclables, 2009 saw a further drop. The decrease in 2009 was partially offset by a concurrent drop in total tons of MSW generated as well. Although the exact reasons for these declines are not clear, it seems reasonable that the national economic decline has decreased consumption (and thus the amount of waste to be recycled) and recycling efforts, where not directly profitable, may have been reduced to save labor and disposal expense.

The reported recycling rate is lower than actual, due to difficulties in the collection of data from the myriad of retail establishments that recycle through out-of-state shipping hubs and intra-company shipping networks rather than local recycling centers or materials recovery facilities. Additionally, suspected increases in off-book recycling to California by unlicensed, unpermitted recyclers of aluminum and plastic beverage containers is also unreported. Although, it is difficult to determine how much recycling is not being reported, a range of one to two percentage points is likely.

Residential recycling has in the past made up only about 1.5% of all MSW recycling in Clark County. However the data suggests that this rate may have increased to as high as 5-6% in 2009. This is likely due to several pilot recycling studies being conducted in a number of areas in metropolitan Clark County. In 2007, the Clark County Board of Commissioners requested Republic Services, the franchised curbside waste collector, to institute these pilot projects based on recommendations from the Nevada Recycling Advisory Committee. Since then the cities of Henderson, Las Vegas, and North Las Vegas have followed suit. The pilot projects are testing the effects of various combinations of waste and recyclable (single-container) collection frequency on recycling rates, costs, and customer satisfaction. Final results may be available later this year. While preliminary results show recycling rates ranging from 20-30%, these rates are not yet considered definitive and could be higher or lower than actual rates if the program were implemented metropolitan area-wide.

Commercial recycling has historically constituted the bulk (~95+%) of recycling activities by weight although as stated this may have declined. Thus the recycling rate depends in large part on commodity prices and transportation and landfilling costs. Landfilling costs are relatively stable and quite low as compared nationally, commodity prices over the near-term are less predictable. Thus our recycling rate will likely rise or fall with fluctuations in commodity prices and transportations costs.

Year-to-Year Changes by Category

<b>Recyclable</b>	<b>Total Tons</b>	<b>Change from 2008</b>	<b>Change from 2007</b>
<b>Glass</b>	5,557	+70.5%	+64.79%
<b>Metals</b>	206,369	-30.24%	-37.69%
<b>Organics</b>	55,013	-21.09%	-45.22%
<b>Paper</b>	161,551	-8.82%	-6.61%
<b>Plastic</b>	16,620	-19.95%	-34.67%
<b>Special Waste</b>	3,729	-9.01%	+8.66%
<b>Textiles</b>	2,853	+56.28%	+60.22%

Notable Notes:

- 2009 Recycling Rate: 17.19% (2008: 18.92%, 2007: 19.95%)
- 2009 Total Tons Recycled: 452,944 (2008: 571,716, 2007: 622,072)
- 2009 Waste Generated: 2.6 million tons (2008: 3.0 million, 2007: 3.1 million)<sup>i</sup>
- 2009 Waste Generated per person per day: 7.39 pounds (2008: 8.34. 2007: 8.56)<sup>ii</sup>

It has been our pleasure to prepare this report. If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact us.

Sincerely,

Dennis Campbell, RS  
Environmental Health Manager

Glenn Savage, REHS  
Environmental Health Director

Enclosure 1. 2009 Clark County Recycling Report

Cc: 1. Kathryn Fergus, Southern Nevada Recycling Program Coordinator,  
NDEP, 2030 East Flamingo Road, Las Vegas, Nevada 89119

<sup>i</sup> Based on data made available by the Nevada Division of Environmental Protection

<sup>ii</sup> Based on population data from the Nevada State Demographer, accessed 4/15/2010 at <http://cber.unlv.edu/-pop.html>.

County Name: Clark County

17.19%

18.97%

REPORTING PERIOD: 1/1/09 - 12/31/09

RECYCLED MSW	# OF TONS	2008	% Change
<b>Paper</b>			
Corrugated cardboard	106,170.48	109,055.15	
Newspaper	29,208.21	30,446.43	
Office paper	16,491.22	12,899.01	
Magazines	1,231.31	6,189.92	
Telephone books	694.06	1,403.90	
Mixed paper	7,755.78	17,193.17	
Other paper		0	
<b>Paper Total</b>	<b>161,551.06</b>	<b>177,187.58</b>	-8.82%
<b>Metals</b>			
Aluminum containers	1,454.19	2,247.11	
Tin/steel containers	5,667.19	2,382.06	
Ferrous scrap metals	180,264.54	228,887.03	
Non-ferrous scrap metals	12,024.75	19,573.44	
Appliances (white goods)	6,985.09	42,771.00	
Mixed metal	0.00	0	
<b>Metals Total</b>	<b>206,395.76</b>	<b>295,860.64</b>	-30.24%
<b>Plastic</b>			
Plastic (PET)	2,899.41	1,799.79	
Plastic (HDPE)	3,397.38	4,554.32	
Mixed plastic	2,567.60	4,121.13	
Plastic film	2,475.92	4,313.38	
Polystyrene	103.89	69.00	
Other (PVC, LDPE, PP)	5,175.84	5,904.89	
<b>Plastic Total</b>	<b>16,620.05</b>	<b>20,762.50</b>	-19.95%
<b>Glass</b>			
Clear	1,278.33	1,199.00	
Green	1,229.64	1,003.00	
Amber/Brown	2,316.89	930.51	
Mixed glass	731.84	126.00	
Other glass	0.00	0.00	
<b>Glass Total</b>	<b>5,556.70</b>	<b>3,258.51</b>	70.53%
<b>Organic Material</b>			
Yard debris	13,197.41	19,324.87	
Food waste	26,292.43	24,998.05	
BioSolids	3,300.00	0.00	
Restaurant grease	7,439.85	15,209.67	
Rendered animal matter	22.50	3,317.77	
Pallets/Wood	8060.54	6,869.69	
<b>Organic Material Total</b>	<b>55,012.73</b>	<b>69,720.05</b>	-21.09%
<b>Special Waste</b>			
Used tires	3,682.59	4,090.19	
Paint	24.00	0.00	
Fluorescent Bulbs	22.59	8.29	
Lamp Ballasts	0.09	0.00	
Mercury Devices and Waste	0.00	0.00	
Household Hazardous Waste	0.00	0.00	
<b>Special Waste Total</b>	<b>3,729.27</b>	<b>4,098.48</b>	-9.01%
<b>Textiles</b>			
Textiles	236.00	469.50	
Carpet/Carpet Pad	2,617.42	1,356.37	
<b>Textiles Total</b>	<b>2,853.42</b>	<b>1,825.87</b>	56.28%
<b>Other Recycled MSW</b>			
Toner Cartridges	1.87	7.13	
Cell Phones	0.79	0.52	
Filters	228.15	293.70	
Transformers and Electrical Equip	0.00	0.00	
Computer E-Waste	994.31	693.33	
<b>Other Rec. Materials Total</b>	<b>1,225.12</b>	<b>994.68</b>	23.17%
<b>TOTAL RECYCLED MSW</b>	<b>452,944.10</b>	<b>573,708.31</b>	-21.05%

County Name: Clark County

17.22%

19.44%

REPORTING PERIOD: 1/1/09 - 12/31/09

		2008		
CONSTRUCTION & DEMOLITION DEBRIS (C & D)		# OF TONS		
Asphalt	0.00	4,087.28		
Concrete	0.00	0.00		
Carpet	0.00	0.00		
Carpet padding	0.00	100.00		
Drywall	135.00	766.37		
Wood	603.81	12,286.70		
Plastic buckets	52.45	46.85		
Other (specify)	0.00	0.00		
Other (specify)	0.00	0.00		
Other (specify)	0.00	0.00		
Other (specify)	0.00	0.00		
<b>CONSTRUCTION &amp; DEMOLITION DEBRIS TOTAL</b>	<b>791.26</b>	<b>17,287.20</b>		-95%
<b>RECYCLED MSW AND C &amp; D GRAND TOTAL</b>	<b>453,735.36</b>	<b>590,995.52</b>		

Total MSW disposed of in the municipality: \* 2,181,722 2,449,878 -11%

Total MSW generated in municipality: \*\* 2,634,666 3,023,586

\* This number can be found in the spreadsheet at the following link: <http://nevadarecycles.gov/main/forms.htm>

\*\* Total MSW generated is the sum of recycled MSW (tabulated above) plus the quantity of MSW disposed of in a landfill, which was reported as generated in the municipality.