



Sustainability and Recycling E-Newsletter

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August 2023



After months of snow and rain, summer is finally here! August in Montana means trips to the lake, hiking, fishing, and soaking up as much sunshine as possible. It also means time mowing the lawn and trimming that overgrown tree in the backyard.

This fiscal year, over 3,000 tons of yard waste, including grass clippings, tree branches, and leaves, was brought to the City of Helena's Transfer Station. It was then mixed with over 2,900 tons of biosolids from the Wastewater Treatment Plant and processed into compost. This waste costs upwards of \$94,000 to process, but is then made available to the community for purchase at the Lewis and Clark County Landfill for \$60 a ton.

When you dispose of yard waste in your neighborhood garbage can it isn't diverted and instead goes into the landfill.

Please dispose of yard waste by bringing it to the designated areas at the Transfer Station, or composting it on your own property.

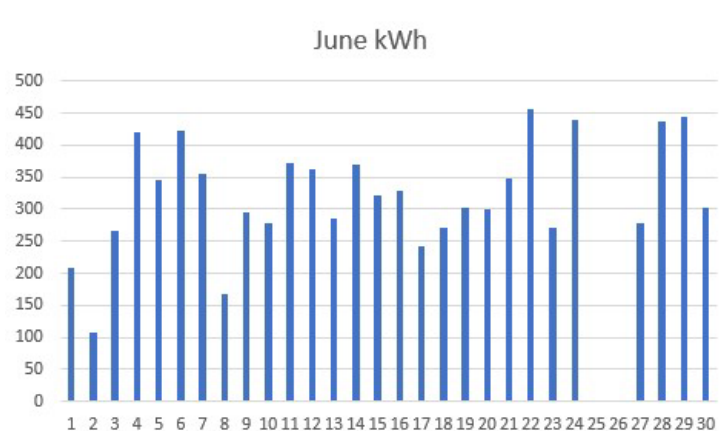


City of Helena's First Large Scale Solar Project Complete!

A 50kW system was installed at the City's Transportation Shop, located at 3001 E Lyndale. The system is approximately 170 feet in length and contains over 125 solar panels. Installation of the project took roughly 80 days. Site work began in mid-April and the project was completed at the end of June. The system is estimated to produce enough electricity to satisfy approximately 1/3 of the Shop's historic annual electrical use.

During the month of June, the system produced 9,009 kWh and has produced a total of 17,106 kWh to date.

The City is now having a Sustainability Audit/Plan conducted. This Audit/Plan will provide the City with concrete data of where they are with energy usage and a feasible roadmap of where they can go, in order to realistically progress toward its sustainability goals.





Please remember to practice proper recycling techniques. This means not leaving your bag of recyclables outside of the bins, like the ones shown in the picture above. This attracts vermin and creates more work for our drivers. Recycle right!

[READ MORE ON OUR WEBSITE](#)

Diversion Weights

June 30th concluded the City's fiscal year. From July 1, 2022 to June 30th 2023, 8,227 tons of waste was diverted from the landfill! Here is that breakdown:

| Household* | White Goods | Cardboard ** | Electronic Waste | Automotive* | Green Waste* |
|------------|-------------|--------------|------------------|-------------|--------------|
| 531 tons | 555 tons | 981 tons | 6 tons | 155 tons | 5,999 tons |

*Household Expanded, including Market Prices

| Aluminum | Tin | Glass | Plastic | Paper |
|---------------|--------------|---------------|----------------|--------------|
| 31 tons | 16 tons | 238 tons | 58 tons | 188 tons |
| \$800 per ton | \$30 per ton | -\$50 per ton | -\$175 per ton | \$30 per ton |

*Automotive Expanded:

| Tires | Batteries | Motor Oil | Antifreeze |
|---------|-----------|-----------|------------|
| 82 tons | 15 tons | 43 tons | 15 tons |

*Green Waste Expanded:

| Grass & Leaves | Wood Chips | Bio-Solids | Christmas Trees |
|----------------|------------|------------|-----------------|
| 1,117 tons | 1,910 tons | 2,961 tons | 11 tons |

** Current Market price for Cardboard is -\$25 per ton



City of Helena
316 N. Park Ave.