

Vision

The Benton County Regional Solid Waste Management District, Boston Mountain Regional Solid Waste Management District and Northwest Arkansas Council embrace the recycling and circular movement of valuable recovered materials as a critical component in its sustainable economic development and environmental protection. Over the next several years, these organizations and their community partners will facilitate and grow a circular economy that captures more recyclable materials, supports local jobs and communities, conserves crucial landfill space, and aligns with the region's culture of innovation, pragmatism and safeguarding our natural resources.

Implementation

Short term (during 2022):

- Enable regional discussion, collaboration and learning by creating a durable network of community and business stakeholders who work jointly toward the shared goal of increasing and improving recycling programs.
- Foster public transparency and trust, provide guidance to end markets and inform future regional goals by compiling and sharing Northwest Arkansas recycling data.
- Create consistent and frequent communication between recycling programs and residents in order to promote increased recycling by the public.
- Create more consistency among public recycling programs by investigating how to begin accepting recyclable glass and other challenging materials in more communities.
- Seek ways to increase recycling volumes and efficiency in programs throughout Benton, Madison and Washington counties, recognizing community priorities require individual and localized plans.
- Help cities implement best practices as they approve or extend waste hauling contracts with recycling services.

Intermediate term:

- By the end of 2023, set and monitor achievable waste recovery and reduction targets, ensuring fiscal and environmental accountability for years to come.
- By the end of 2024, lay a foundation for increased processing capacity for recyclable materials with modern technology and facilities in order to meet future needs.

Longer term:

- By the end of 2025, expand access to sound, cost-effective recycling programs in small communities and in multifamily housing around Northwest Arkansas.
- By the end of 2026, create secondary and post-secondary learning opportunities for students and industries interested in resource management and sustainable packaging and products, including by incorporating instruction programs and testing laboratories into local recycling facilities.