

## **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.