



## Greater Laingsburg Recyclers

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### **Greater Laingsburg Recyclers (GLR) Project Proposal**

#### **Presentation to Townships**

The Greater Laingsburg Recyclers seek to help the community reduce its solid waste by greatly expanding its recycling program. For 31 years the GLR have coordinated and staffed a monthly recycling drop-off site that has rescued millions of pounds of waste from landfills and redirected it into resources for new products. From the early days of its operations this program has been run entirely by volunteers and funded almost entirely by donations from participants. Recent changes, one being the pending loss of the current site for our monthly drive, moved us to host a community forum on the future of waste reduction in the Greater Laingsburg Area. Out of that engaging community conversation have emerged new energy and ideas and a stronger community commitment. The following proposal is built on that re-energized community spirit.

We propose the establishment of a permanent recycling site to be located on our school district's property near its building and grounds department, located on Woodbury Rd. The facility would be an approximately 40' x 60' drive-thru drop-off site that could be open more frequently, would make the physical work of unloading and loading vehicles easier, provide storage space for sorted materials, provide the ability to mechanically bale and load sorted products on to trucks, and provide space for other potential waste reduction efforts like household repair clinics, tool lending or other community sharing projects. This proposal also includes the necessary site improvements to allow adequate traffic control, photovoltaics to power the operations, a baler, and electric hi-lo for moving bales. By being open more frequently we anticipate that we can double or triple the volume of recyclables on a monthly basis.

Laingsburg Community Schools will own the facility, the City of Laingsburg will be the fiduciary, and the Greater Laingsburg Recyclers will organize the volunteer staffing under the proposal we are submitting to the EGLE department of the State of Michigan. Businesses that support the Center for an annual fee will have 24/7 access to the center to drop off their sorted materials. Revenue will be generated by a combination of donations from participants, business fees, sale of materials, and support from local governmental units including Shiawassee and Clinton counties. We believe this community-owned collaboration is a model for how especially rural communities can develop effective and sustainable waste reduction efforts. Our 31 years of experience and community building affirms that belief as does many conversations with recycling professionals in the region.

- Our proposed budget is approximately \$100,000 (we are awaiting final bids) to provide the needed resources to complete this project. The grant requires a 20% match (in this case, approximately \$20,000), which we must raise on our own. One activity we are implementing to help us to achieve this goal is to submit requests to Shiawassee and Clinton counties, the cities of Laingsburg, Owosso and Perry, the townships of Victor, Bath, Ovid, Woodhull, Sciota, Bennington, and Perry, and other options noted above.
- Benefits to the above-named cities and townships:
  - We average 150 or more vehicles dropping off recyclables at our monthly drives. With the completion of this project and increased accessibility we anticipate that this number will easily double and perhaps triple. The majority of these participants come from the City of Laingsburg and its surrounding townships and communities. Your support of this project reduces the amount of waste going into landfills and provides your residents with recycling services close to where they live.
  - Initial conversations with Shiawassee and Clinton county officials have been quite favorable (“Exciting proposal”), with one county committee already approving, via unanimous vote, a request for several thousand dollars toward this project. Approval by their full Board of Commissioners is pending.
- We are asking each of the above-named townships to consider a one-time commitment of \$2,000 toward our 20% match and, starting in 2021, an annual commitment of \$2,000 for operating costs.
- The EGLE Grant Application specifies that any amount that we can raise above the 20% match increases our chances of being able to receive this grant from the state. Our goal is to raise \$25,000 - \$30,000 to help make our application more appealing.
- Your support of this noble project would have a significant impact on both the environment and the residents you represent.

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