

MARC Solid Waste Management District 2025 Integrated Solid Waste Management Plan

The Mid-America Regional Council Solid Waste Management District (MARC SWMD) works with local governments to divert waste from landfills in the five-county Kansas City region. This is accomplished through a grant program, outreach and education, the regional household hazardous waste program and regional solid waste planning.

This plan was prepared and submitted according to the procedures specified in Missouri Revised Statutes sections 260.220 and 260.325. It is organized to respond sequentially to the 14 points specified in 260.325. This plan was prepared after review of the 1991 Model Plan provided by the Missouri Department of Natural Resources (MDNR) in the absence of a more recent model plan or state plan to reference.

The MARC SWMD prepared responses to address the required 14 statutory directives, seen below.

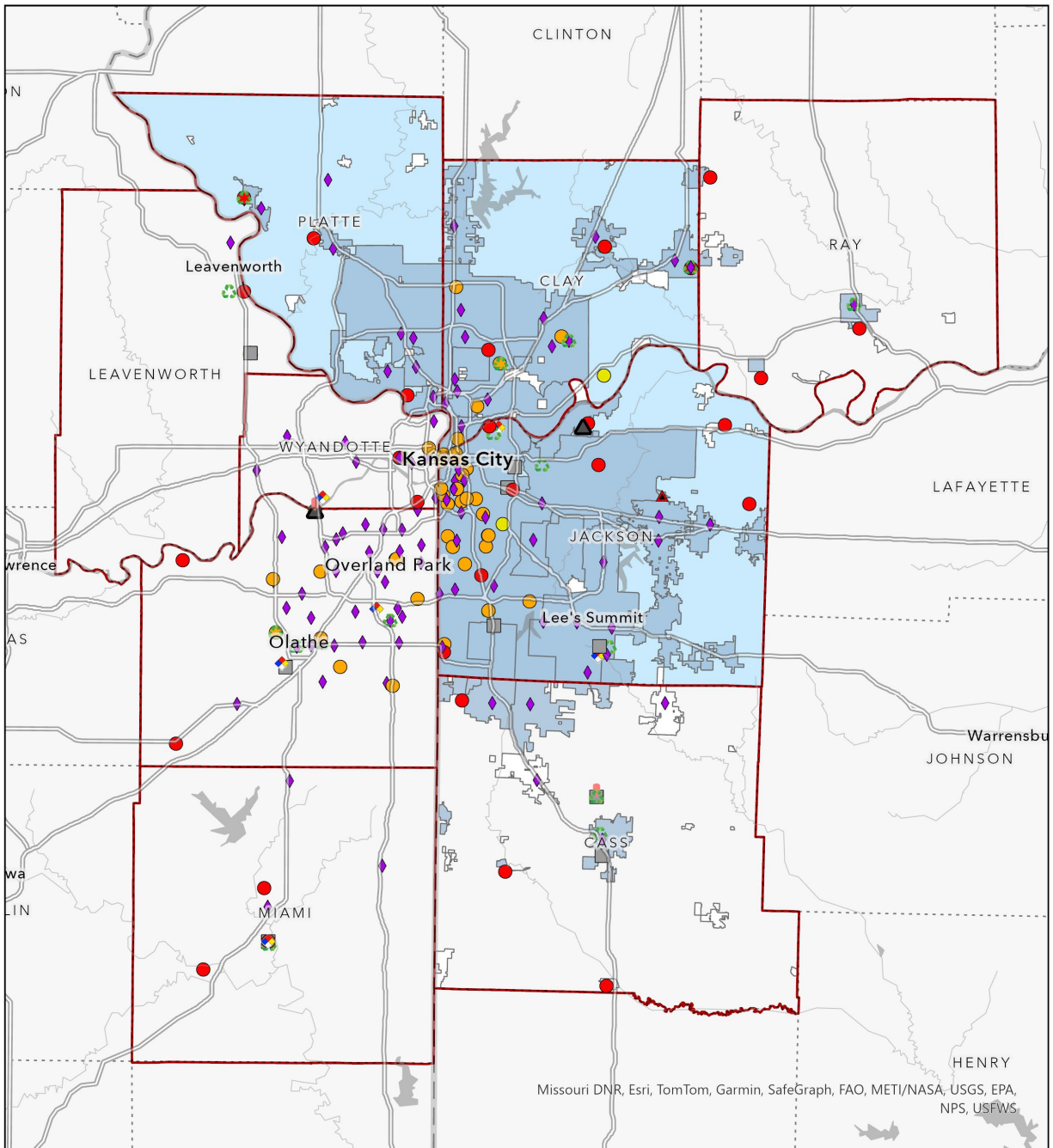
1) Delineate areas within the district where solid waste management systems are in existence

The MARC SWMD offers online public access to all diversion options available in the district by compiling and regularly updating information on RecycleSpot.org.

RecycleSpot.org is an online resource that displays information about local haulers, recycling drop-off locations, guidance on what can go into curbside recycling bins, and an extensive list of organizations and businesses that will accept a wide range of items for repurposing or recycling.

Additionally, the website provides information about yard waste collection and drop-off locations, and hazardous household waste (HHW) drop-offs and collection events. All of these locations can be found using the search function on RecycleSpot.org. The site also includes information on trash services, area landfills and transfer stations. The district updates the database of services annually.

The public can also call 816-474-8326, the district's hotline for recycling information, to talk to a staff person directly.



Solid Waste Management Facilities



0 3.75 7.5 15 Miles

Facility Type

- | | | | | |
|---|---------------------------|--|------------------|---|
| Food Waste - Drop off, Kiosks, Bin Swap | Glass Dropoff | Landfill - Construction and Demolition | Transfer Station | Household Hazardous Waste MO Member Community |
| Yard Waste Drop off and Processing | Recycling Dropoff | Landfill - Municipal Solid Waste | | Household Hazardous Waste MO Non-Member Community |
| Food Waste - Compost Processing | Household Hazardous Waste | Material Recovery | | Household Hazardous Waste MO County |

2) Reasonably conform to the rules and regulations adopted by the department for implementation of sections 260.200 to 260.345

The SWMD was formed in 1991 with Cass, Clay, Jackson and Platte counties. Ray County was added shortly thereafter. A Management Council composed of elected officials, or their designees, was formed and approved bylaws that created an Executive Board with appointed representatives from the five counties and elected representatives for communities greater and less than 10,000 in population. An Integrated Waste Management Plan was drafted and approved by the community representatives and submitted to the MDNR. Through administrative decree, the formal plan requirement was replaced with a bi-annual inventory of services available to residents in the district.

Up-to-date membership of the Management Council and Executive Board is posted on the MARC website along with meeting schedules, agendas and minutes, once approved. The district complies with RSMo 260.200 to 260.345 and refers to statute for guidance with operations and grants for city and county programs and services to reach the goal of 40 percent diversion from landfills.

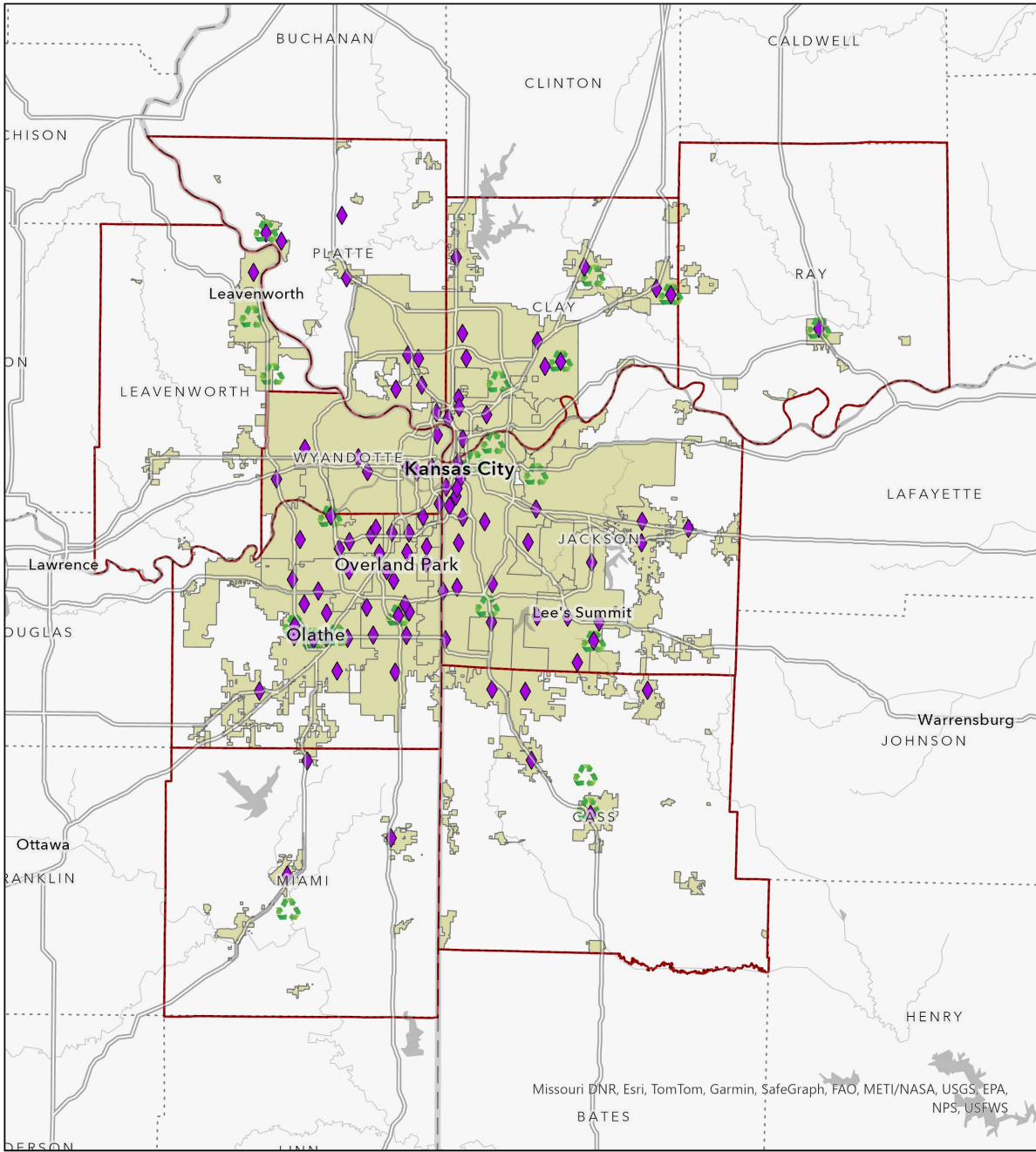
3) Delineate provisions for the collection of recyclable materials or collection points for recyclable materials

Most single-family residences in the district have access to solid waste pickup services that can include curbside pickup of co-mingled recyclables including paper, cardboard, aluminum, tin cans and selected plastic containers. Residents of multifamily housing have access to community recycling drop-off locations for common recyclables. Each of the five counties has at least one recycling drop-off location. Most recyclables are transported to one of two Material Recovery Facilities (MRFs) in the metro area.

Glass is collected by Ripple Glass at multiple drop-off locations, which are visible at convenient sites such as grocery store parking lots.

High-value metals are purchased from consumers who take them to multiple scrap dealers and other collection points for recovery and remanufacturing. There is a robust metals recycling market in the region.

Commercial, institutional and industrial facilities have access to numerous paid collection services that will transport these recyclable materials to the MRFs in the district.



Glass and Community Recycling Dropoff Locations

4) Delineate provisions for the collection of compostable materials or collection points for compostable materials

Most residential hauling services in the district offer yard waste collection on a seasonal basis, which is often supplemented after severe weather events that increase the need for tree debris disposal. There are multiple yard waste drop-off locations throughout the district that serve both residential and commercial sectors. Small towns may offer drop-off locations for residents only. Most yard waste collection points also shred leaves and brush onsite for mulch.

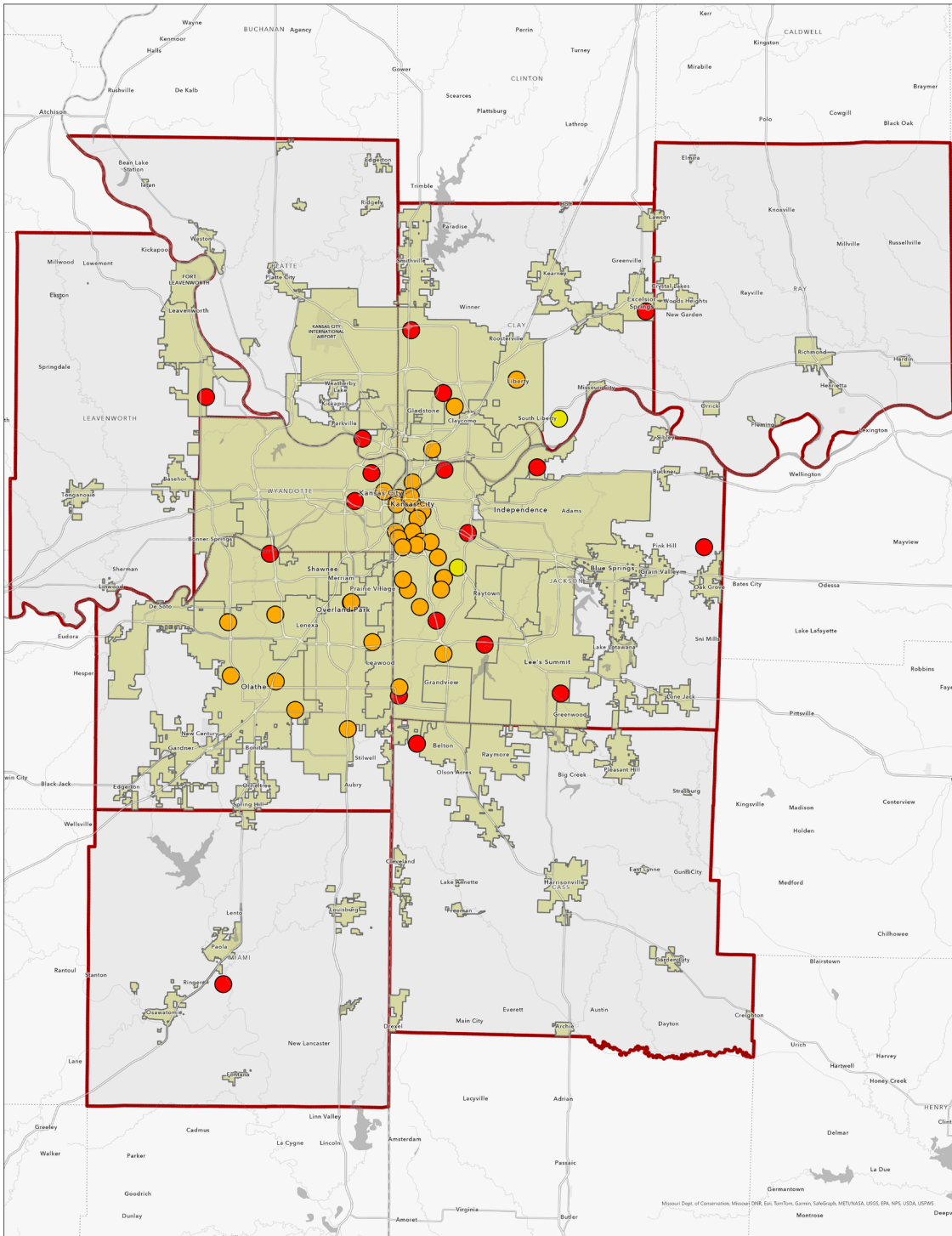
Residential and commercial sectors have multiple services to choose from for drop off and/or pick up of food waste. These services are listed on the Kansas City Food Wise website: KCFoodwise.org. This program is a regional effort to reduce food waste, increase access to healthy food and build a sustainable food system that benefits residents, communities and the planet.

The district has emphasized prevention of food waste in public outreach and education efforts. An educational campaign was developed by the Kansas City Food Wise Advisory Committee. Well-designed materials are available to partners for display and distribution at educational events.

Second only to prevention are the efforts to rescue food, both prepared and fresh produce, to provide pantries, kitchens and other meal distribution programs. Food rescue also addresses the lack of access to healthy food in the region. Food rescue in the district is reliant on organizations such as Kanbe's Markets and Pete's Garden which the district supports through partnerships and/ or grant funding.

Food waste composting in the district is reliant on three organizations that collect and process food waste: Missouri Organic Recycling, KC Can Compost and Compost Collective KC. In addition to supporting these organizations through partnerships and/or grant funding, the district drives the implementation of the Kansas City [Regional Food Loss and Waste Reduction Action Plan](#). This plan aims to educate and remove barriers to backyard and community composting to meet the widespread local need for composting capacity.

See www.kcfoodwise.org for more information.



Organic Waste Dropoff and Compost Processing

-  Food Waste - Drop off, Kiosks, Bin Swap
-  Yard Waste Drop off and Processing
-  Food Waste - Compost Processing
-  City Boundaries
-  Regional Counties



0 3.75 7.5 15 Miles

(5) Delineate provisions for the separation of household waste and other small quantities of hazardous waste at the source or prior to disposal

The SWMD has facilitated a community-based HHW collection program since 1997. All residents have access to the safe disposal of unwanted household hazardous products.

The program is funded by communities joining the program. Membership allows residents of the paying community year-round access to two facilities — one in Kansas City and the other in Lee's Summit — and any of the mobile collection events held April through October. There is no limit to the usage of the program.

The membership fee is determined by the HHW Task Force, which includes municipal staff members. Each year, district staff evaluates the previous year's program and its cost. With the data, the task force recommends a per-capita fee to the Executive Board in September for the following year. In 2024 and 2025, the rate was \$1.13 per capita. Funds are used to pay disposal fees charged by the HHW collection facilities.

Each October, district staff invite all municipalities and counties to participate in the regional program. Membership continues to increase as residents and local government staff recognize the value of the service.

If a community joins, an intergovernmental agreement is signed and the district then invoices the community. District staff is responsible for creating the brochure that includes facility information and the dates and locations of the mobile collection events for that year. Brochures are provided to all participating communities.

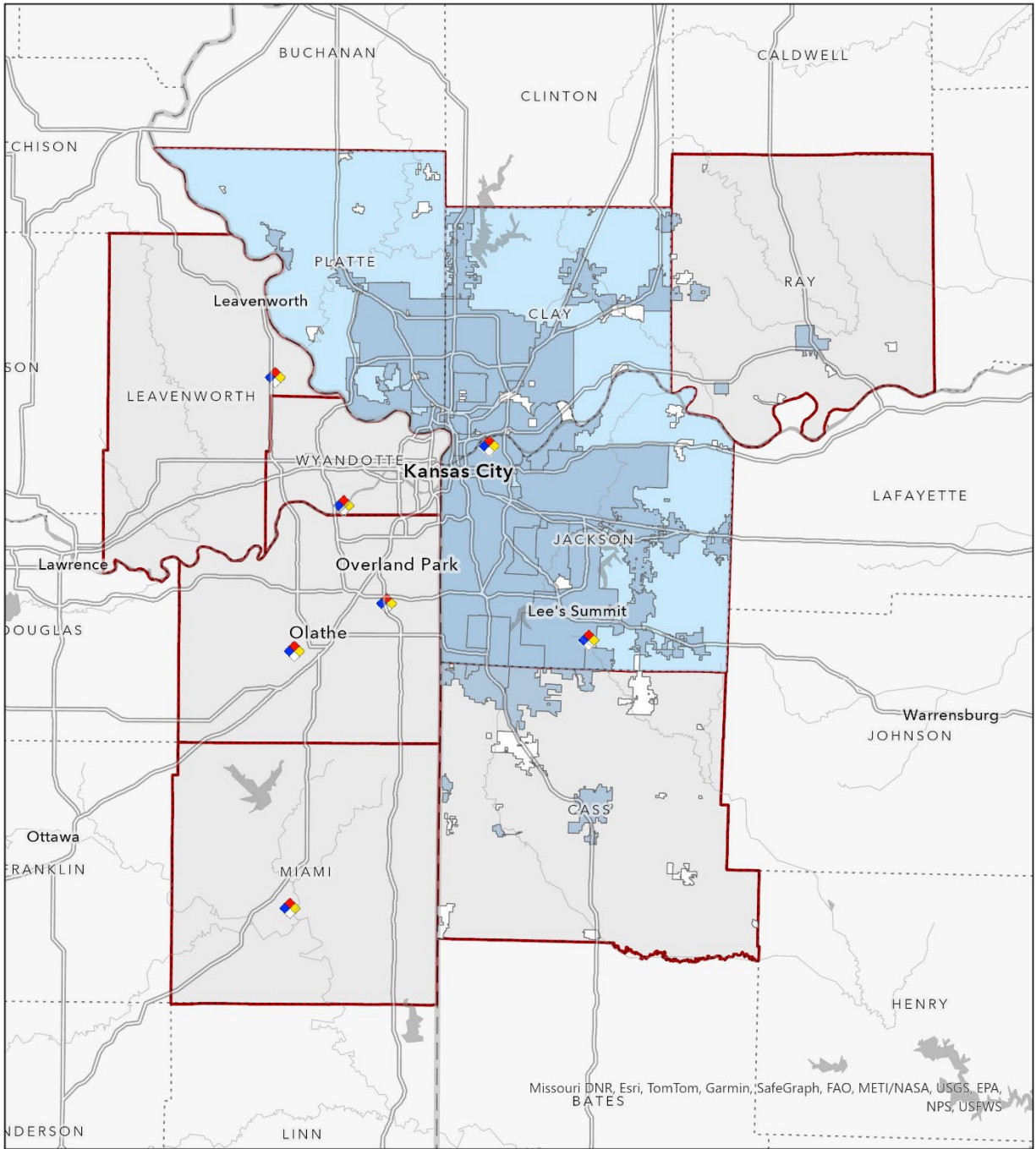
Communities of population less than 500 may piggyback on the membership of their respective county, if the county joins.

If a community opts to not join the program, those residents may utilize the Lee's Summit facility for a per-pound fee.

District staff coordinates mobile collection events with host and nearby communities. Planning involves securing equipment, volunteers and promotion. The district is responsible for advertising the event in local newspapers. Events last four hours from 8 a.m. to 12 p.m. Typically, about 11 events are held each year.

Quarterly reports are shared with all members and include how many cars were served and how many pounds of HHW were collected from each individual community for that quarter. Details on mobile events and materials are included.

In 1997, there were 21 participating communities. In 2025, 36 communities joined the program, out of a total of 53 possible members.



Household Hazardous Waste Missouri Membership and Drop-off Facility Locations

- Household Hazardous Waste MO Member Community
- Household Hazardous Waste MO Non-Member Community
- Household Hazardous Waste MO County

Household Hazardous Waste Public Drop-off Facilities



0 4.5 9 18 Miles

(6) Delineate provisions for the orderly extension of solid waste management services in a manner consistent with the needs of the district, including economic impact; and in a manner which will minimize degradation of the waters or air of the state, prevent public nuisances or health hazards, promote recycling and waste minimization, and otherwise provide for the safe and sanitary management of solid waste

The district has always advocated for local governments that do not provide solid waste hauling directly to use their authority to license solid waste hauling companies and preferably contract for solid waste hauling in their communities. This exercise of local authority provides accountability and provides an opportunity to negotiate rates and services with the hauler.

The Missouri governmental provision of home rule gives local government the independence to determine local actions. Therefore, state authority over local matters is discouraged. Regional authority over local matters is encouraged. Solid waste management districts help coordinate regional services and infrastructure, reducing the need for municipalities to duplicate efforts by supporting collective action on a county or multi-county level.

Additionally, over the last 30 years, the privatization of government services is evident in solid waste management services. Landfills were once mostly government owned, particularly by counties or cities. Trash service, e.g. solid waste hauling, was primarily performed by local government. Today, few municipalities in the Kansas City region provide waste hauling to residents, although two continue to offer this service: Kansas City, Missouri, and Platte City. Private companies own all the regional landfills, except for the municipal landfill in St. Joseph.

Three large national/multi-national companies provide most of the solid waste hauling services available to residents and businesses. These large private companies also own and operate the two MRFs located within the district. There are numerous local hauling companies that compete with these larger companies for hauling contracts.

(7) Take into consideration existing comprehensive plans, population trend projections, engineering and economics so as to delineate those portions of the district which may reasonably be expected to be served by a solid waste management system

Residential development on former agriculture land increases the distance from recycling sites and travel distance for solid waste haulers. Transfer stations consolidate solid waste for longer hauls to landfills outside of the district. All transfer stations in the district are privately owned and operated, with the exception of Lee's Summit which owns a transfer station that is privately operation. Residential development to the north, east and south of the urban core will necessitate the construction of transfer stations in areas not currently served by existing infrastructure. Without additional landfills in the district, transfer stations will meet the need to consolidate loads for longer transportation to landfills in Missouri and also across the state line to Kansas. Currently, there are no transfer stations in the northern portion of the district, and haulers must travel longer distances to unload smaller trash trucks, construction dumpsters and trailers.

The opportunity to divert recyclables and reuseable materials at transfer stations would increase diversion options. Future expansion of transfer stations should include other diversion services that are currently impeded by the MDNR permitting process. Current projections of near-zero population growth still indicate a need for expanded services due to the increase in multifamily housing units, which are not served by curbside recycling collection. Reduced population density of single-family housing will impact hauling costs.

Potential industrial growth could provide opportunities to locate solid waste processing facilities that would increase the value of recyclables sorted at the MRFs in the district. Additional MRFs may be needed closer to new residential developments in rural areas. Sugar Creek and Lake City are potential sites for processing facilities and manufacturing of recovered materials that are not currently being collected and processed locally.

(8) Specify how the district will achieve a reduction in solid waste placed in sanitary landfills through waste minimization, reduction and recycling

District programs and services showcase opportunities for waste reduction in multiple ways. Since the district's creation, over \$15 million has been awarded through annual grants to create infrastructure and services to help divert a wide variety of materials.

Grants also provide education about recycling and waste minimization. Outreach and education provided by the district facilitates higher recycling rates, reduced contamination of recyclables and expanded food waste diversion. The RecycleSpot.org website provides this information to the public.

The district's Regional Hazardous Household Waste Program provides environmentally sound diversion of hazardous materials. The district has taken a leadership role in advancing product stewardship legislation to recover paint waste — and eventually batteries and mattresses — from the waste stream.

The district provided educational workshops in 2025 on the circular economy, focusing on design and waste minimization that brought fresh ideas and renewed enthusiasm to the waste diversion effort. An organization named Circular KC formed to foster initiatives to bring new vision to waste reduction and reuse of materials to the region. Regular meetings have been helpful to grantees and other partners to identify opportunities to enhance diversion of materials through reuse, repair, regeneration and collection/processing for recycling.

(9) Establish a timetable, with milestones, for the reduction of solid waste placed in a landfill through waste minimization, reduction and recycling

Year	
1991	District formed
1993	First grants awarded.
1993	Bridging The Gap and Missouri Organic Recycling awarded first grants
1994	Integrated Solid Waste Management Plan
1997	Regional Household Hazardous Waste Collection Program established
1999	Habitat Restore Kansas City formed
2003	Strategic Directions and Policy Recommendations for Solid Waste Management in the Bistate Kansas City Metropolitan Region completed
2006	RecycleSpot.org created
2006	Ripple Glass feasibility study completed
2008	Solid Waste Services Nine-County Community Survey completed
2009	Strategy for Sustainable Solid Waste Management Plan completed
2011	By-Products Synergy (BPS) Initiative
2012	MARC SWMD Recycling Survey completed
2012	Benchmarking Recycling Study completed
2014	Mattress Recycling in the KC region through grant funding
2017	Scraps KC first grant
2018	Missouri Product Stewardship Council formed
2020	Kanbe's Markets first grant
2020	KC Can Compost first grant
2023	Kansas City Food Wise program established
2023	Flourish Furniture Bank first grant
2024	Landfill Capacity Study of MARC Region completed
2024	KCMO paves 5 miles with scrap tire asphalt blend
2024	Kanbe's Markets diverts \$1 million pounds of produce from landfills
2024	Flourish Furniture Bank reclaimed and redistributed over 355 tons of household goods
2024	Sleepyhead Beds reclaimed over 600 mattresses for reuse
2024	KC Reuse Study by Hannah Zimmerman, a Harvard sustainability capstone project, is completed
2024	District grant dollars awarded reaches \$15 million
2025	Material Flow Study by Metabolic completed

(10) Establish an education program to inform the public about responsible waste management practices.

The district uses an array of engaging education tools and strategies to inform the public about responsible waste management:

- Since 2006, RecycleSpot.org has been the Kansas City metro area's one-stop spot for waste reduction information. With over 1,800 service providers and locations, RecycleSpot.org helps approximately 88,000 thousand users a year find places to recycle, reuse, donate and compost items, while providing educational materials, tips, and information on local events and the latest news.
- With over 7,800 followers, the district's Facebook page provides simple tips on how to reduce, reuse and recycle waste every day.
- The district's recycling hotline, 816-474-8326, is answered by district staff, and is a great way to help people find the information they need by talking to a real person.
- The district regularly provides in-person outreach in the form of public presentations and tabling and has developed a number of resources including the Recycle Better and Recycle Plastics Better flyers and RecycleSpot.org magnets to help the public increase and improve their recycling habits.
- Since 2015, the Recycle More At Work partnership has helped over 100 businesses, local governments, nonprofit organizations, schools and churches start or improve recycling at their workplaces.
- Every year, the district puts together a comprehensive outreach plan to promote its programs and services utilizing a strategic combination of earned, owned, social and paid (digital, outdoor, print, radio and television) media.

Since 2021, the district has coordinated Kansas City Food Wise, a regional effort to reduce food waste, increase access to healthy food and build a vibrant food system. KCFoodWise.org is the central hub of the program and features:

- The Food System Map designed to build connections among all the individuals and organizations that are part of our regional food system.
- Get Involved updates about volunteer and job opportunities, as well as the latest news and events.
- Take Action information on simple ways to reduce food waste and save money.
- The Plan (Regional Food Loss and Waste Reduction Action Plan), which provides a comprehensive set of solutions designed to reduce the amount of food that is wasted and sent to landfills in the Kansas City region. It takes a holistic “field to fork” approach, addressing food waste wherever it is created along the food supply chain utilizing the following key strategies: food waste prevention, rescue and recycling.

(11) Establish procedures to minimize the introduction of small quantities of hazardous waste, including household hazardous waste, into the solid waste stream

In addition to the Regional Hazardous Household Waste program administered by the district, there are other initiatives to divert toxic and hazardous items from the waste stream.

- Electronic waste events have been coordinated by the district, and funding has been provided to facilitate offering them in areas without local services to collect these items. Additional battery collection is desirable, and future efforts to provide drop-off locations is a priority.
- RecycleSpot.org features environmentally beneficial options for disposing of motor vehicle fluids, light bulbs, batteries, electronics, medicines, smoke detectors and other dangerous waste streams. When the Missouri Product Stewardship Council (MO PSC) was established in 2018, priority focus materials included pharmaceuticals. An extensive statewide educational program was designed and included messages about the proper disposal of leftover medicine using social media and postcards. Additionally, a map was created that shows pharmacies statewide that accept leftover medicine. This map is continually updated and available on the [Mid-America Regional Council website](#).
- Today, the MO PSC is working to bring battery Extended Producer Responsibility (EPR) to Missouri. This product stewardship law would increase access points for residents and businesses to drop off old batteries at no charge.
- The district distributes [Safe Alternatives to Household Chemicals](#) information at all HHW mobile collection events, on RecycleSpot.org, and at multiple public outreach events.

(12) Establish a timed schedule and proposed method of financing for the development, construction and operation of the planned solid waste management system together with the estimated cost thereof

Approximately \$500 million annually is spent in the region on the current solid waste collection, hauling and disposal system. This includes the available curbside recycling and sorting of materials. It does not include the current cost of other diversion services that are outside of the solid waste hauling and disposal system.

Public and private partnerships for infrastructure — such as new landfills, transfer stations and material recovery facilities that might be needed — will require state and federal collaborations for financing. Other than zoning and some permit requirements,, local governments are not the principal developer or investor in these expanded solid waste services. The private sector has become not only the operator of these services, but also the developer and ownerthat decides where to locate these new investments.

Future progress in expanding solid waste services to rural and underserved areas will require collaborations with private sector companies and local not-for-profit organizations to establish locally accessible facilities and services.

(13) Identify methods by which rural households that are not served by a regular solid waste collection service may participate in waste reduction, recycling and resource recovery efforts within the district.

Counties and cities occasionally provide drop-off and clean-up events for residents. Most services include trash, tires and yard waste drop-off. There is an opportunity to build on these events by partnering with local organizations to offer additional services such as mattress reuse, donations to Habitat ReStore, electronics recycling, and donations of general household goods and clothing to a local thrift store.

Additionally, HHW collection events are held in rural locations through the MARC Solid Waste Management District.

If Missouri passes EPR laws for paint, batteries and mattresses, drop-off locations would increase and reduce the cost burden for local governments to manage the end of life for these materials.

(14) Include such other reasonable information as the department shall require

The following diversion strategies are included in future planning efforts:

1. Waste reduction

- a. Increase food rescue by capturing edible produce that would otherwise be landfilled and preparing it to feed people.
- b. Replace single-use plastics with durable food service containers, cups and tableware at events.

2. Reuse

- a. Provide repair options for household goods such as lamps and vacuum cleaners.
- b. Facilitate collection, repair and redistribution of furniture.
- c. Develop Reuse Hubs within the district to expand local options for repair and resale. This could include the reuse of clothing and textiles with a sewing lab, creative reuse centers for teachers and artists, and maker spaces.

3. Recycling

- a. Encourage local governments to revise road specs to utilize scrap tires in asphalt paving.
- b. Encourage or create businesses that process recovered materials for use in manufacturing products locally.
- c. Expand drop-off recycling centers in the district.

4. Regeneration

- a. Expand local composting capacity to divert food waste and recover nutrients for urban farming, and community and household gardens.
- b. Locally produce soil-enhancing biochar and microbially active inoculants to greatly expand local food production.
- c. Transform wood waste, biosolids and other organic materials into biochar and energy.

5. Recovery

- a. Avoid waste disposal without recovering energy embedded in the materials for local use.

6. Responsibility

- a. Enact Product Stewardship Laws to make disposing of paint, batteries and mattresses easier and more convenient.