



"Working towards a sustainable future in our own backyard."

Municipality Update April 1, 2021

A year ago, we came to you with a request for support for the Greater Laingsburg Recyclers (GLR) effort to build a permanent recycling center in Laingsburg that would serve Shiawassee and Clinton counties; the cities of Laingsburg, Perry, Morrice, Ovid, Bath, and Owosso; and Sciota, Victor, Bath Charter, Perry, Bennington, Middlebury, Owosso Charter, Ovid, and Woodhull townships. Today we are very close to being able to break ground to make this dream a reality. However, we have one more hurdle before we break out the shovels. But first -

Many good things have happened since April 2020, which we would like to share:

- A formal agreement has been established between GLR (running the operation), Laingsburg Schools (providing the land next to the maintenance building), and the City of Laingsburg (the fiduciary).
- A building design is ready and updated bids are being collected.
- Great news: Our Michigan EGLE grant application has been approved for \$50,000.
- More great news: We have received a \$17,000 grant from the Cook Family Foundation.
- We have a website (<https://recyclelaingsburg.wixsite.com/mysite>) and a Facebook page (<https://www.facebook.com/greaterlaingsburgrecyclers/>) and are actively engaging the public.
- We have an active GoFundMe Campaign ([gofundme.com](https://www.gofundme.com) and search Laingsburg Recyclers) that has raised over \$10,000 as of 3-28-21. (Some donations have come in the form of checks so are not shown in the GFM online total).
- We have a donor willing to match up to \$7,500, giving a potential total of \$15,000.
- Finally, we are exploring additional funding options via the State of Michigan NextCycle Program.

We are also very grateful for the following current commitments from local governmental units:

<u>Gov. Unit</u>	<u>for Building Cost</u>	<u>for Annual Operating Fund</u>
✓ Shiawassee County	\$7,000	
✓ Clinton County	\$6,000	\$1,000
✓ City of Laingsburg	\$5,000	Serving as Fiduciary
✓ Woodhull Township	\$2,000	\$1,000
✓ Victor Township	\$2,000	\$2,000
✓ GLR	\$1,000	
✓ <u>Laingsburg Schools Donating property for site location</u>		
Totals	\$23,000	\$5,000

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We have experienced a few 'set-backs' and a lot of new learning along the way:

- Our EGLE grant request was for \$90,600, but we received \$50,000.
- Recent increases in building materials/labor costs, and better understanding from extensive discussions with successful recycling operations (local government and university programs) have led to improvements in our plans for the facility, mostly in configuration, size and equipment – all of which will enable us to increase the effectiveness and cost efficiency of the operation. These include safety equipment for our volunteers and some equipment such as a bailer and forklift that will help us increase storage and thereby greatly reduce shipping costs. We continue to seek opportunities to work with local businesses to recycle materials or use recycled material in new products.
- These fundamental improvements have increased the Total Project Costs from \$115,000 to \$140,000 (not all of which is needed immediately to 'jump-start' the initial construction).

Based on these numbers, we need to raise an additional \$25,000.

Now that we are very close to successfully launching this community project, we are returning to ask if you would consider increasing the amount you pledged last year for building costs and annual operating costs, or to consider making an initial pledge.

Our Needs:

1. Commitments to the shortfall for the building and equipment phase (estimated \$25,000)
2. Commitments to the annual support for our operating expenses (estimated to be \$18,000 *without* figuring in any potential income from sales of materials)

Our challenge to each city/township: Consider pledging \$2,000 to \$5,000 for the building phase and a similar amount for the annual operating fund.

Our challenge to Shiawassee and Clinton counties: Consider \$5,000 to \$10,000 toward completion of the building and \$4,000 to \$6,000 a year for annual operating fund.

We know these are complicated times for everyone, and appreciate the trust you showed in us last year when we approached you with our plans. We have worked hard to earn that trust. We feel we have a strong business case (and a strong business plan) for this project that will benefit all of our communities.

We invite you to actively participate in and support this broader community effort! Many thanks for your thoughtful and deliberate consideration.