

KNOX COUNTY



PROJECT PROFILE 6

SEPT. 2025

COMPANY NAME/ LOCATION

Knox County SWMD
810 S.17th Street, Vincennes, Indiana,
47591

AMOUNT FUNDED

The company received \$154,376 from the RMDP Grant Program in August 2023 towards the purchase of equipment, building improvements, and new educational materials for a new drive-thru recycling collection center. Knox County matched the grant awarded, bringing the total cost of the project to more than \$308,750.

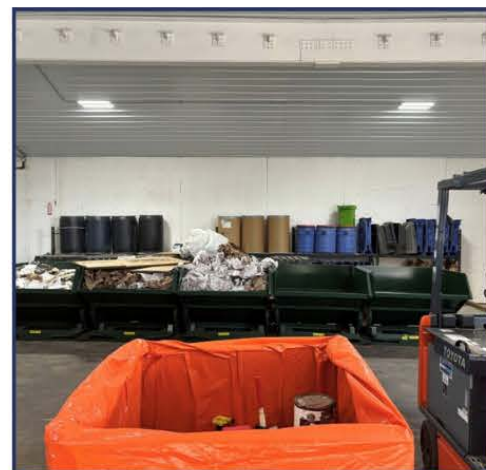
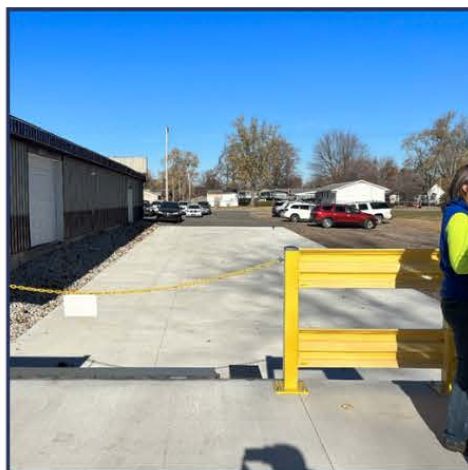
PROJECT SUMMARY

Knox County SWMD is a recycling hub for households and businesses in southwest Indiana. At the time Knox County applied for the RMDP grant, they needed a facility makeover to meet the increased demand for recycling in the county. By remodeling an old warehouse into a drive-thru recycling center, Knox County SWMD was able to expand the type of recyclables they accept and expand public operating hours from one day to five days a week. The grant funding helped Knox County purchase a vertical baler, fork truck and pallet jack, steel dumping hoppers, a new loading dock, educational materials, and more.

KNOX COUNTY DOUBLES RECYCLING OUTPUT

Knox County Solid Waste Management District was created by the state of Indiana in 1991 to help achieve Indiana's recycling and environmental goals. The new recycling center location was not designed to be a recycling center and much of the equipment and concrete was worn down and structurally unsound. The SWMD was only open one day a week, their loading dock needed repaired, the hydraulic dock plate and electrical equipment needed upgrades, and new recycling carts were due.

Their solution: redesign the old warehouse space into a drive-thru recycling facility!



In August 2023 Knox County began their repairs by addressing building upgrades. In February 2024, the warehouse had new equipment and was open for business. The recycling center offers recycling for cardboard, plastics #1 (PET), #2 (HDPE), and #5 (PP), magazines, paper, steel, and aluminum, all which would otherwise be sent to a landfill. The types of recycling materials accepted also expanded to include glass, hardback books, and latex paints. The method Knox County uses to recycle has also changed. Instead of single stream recycling containers, they work directly with recyclers and processors to source separate the material, which lowers the risk of contamination.

The new Knox County SWMD recycling center is making a difference in their community. The center is now open five days a week and each type of recyclable accepted has at least doubled in output since renovations were completed. Michelle Smith, the Executive Director of Knox County SWMD, reports that yearly recycling rates have increased from 159 tons in 2022 to 358 tons in 2024! The RMDP grant allowed them to hire a new full-time and part-time staff position, making the total three full-time employees and three part-time employees. This new facility is boosting the success of recycling in Knox County and ensuring that residents, schools, and businesses alike can all recycle properly!