



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

DATE: 10/16/23

Contact: Steve Faber, Communications and Marketing Manager, 616-821-8006

Kent County Department of Public Works to make upgrades to recycling center

Recycling center to close for duration of upgrades

Grand Rapids, MI – The **Kent County Department of Public Works** (DPW) is upgrading and replacing equipment at the county’s Recycling and Education Center to improve efficiency and keep equipment up to date. The upgrades will take place Oct. 24-31, during which the facility at 977 Wealthy St. SW will be closed and unable to accept recyclable materials for processing.

“The upgrades made at the Recycling and Education Center will help ensure our equipment is up to date and the facility is running as efficiently as possible to meet the recycling needs of West Michigan communities,” said **Isaac Thaler**, resource recovery and recycling manager with the Kent County Department of Public Works. “Maintaining the health of our recycling facility now will prevent unplanned and unwanted closures when equipment breaks and allows us to continue delivering high-quality services now and long into the future.”

The Recycling & Education Center serves as the primary materials recovery facility for residential recyclables generated in homes throughout West Michigan. Materials from curbside recycling bins are sorted and processed so they can be turned into new products like cereal boxes, glass bottles, toys, packaging, clothing and more.

The upgrades and improvements include replacing conveyer belts, rebuilding a bailer, installing a new glass cleanup system, and replacing some equipment that has reached the end of its usable life. These improvements will allow for a faster and more efficient system.

During the closure, materials will be redirected to the Waste to Energy Facility. The residential drop off window at the Recycling and Education Center will remain open and that material will be stored until the plant is operating again.

Because the materials will be diverted to the Waste to Energy Facility, the DPW encourages residents to hold on to their recyclable materials during the closure, if possible, to help ensure recyclable materials are processed.

The Kent County Department of Public Works provides municipal solid waste disposal services to ensure the effective removal, storage and disposal of residential and commercial solid waste through various facilities and programs, including Waste-to-Energy, the Recycling and Education Center, North Kent Transfer Station and South Kent Landfill.

#