

Renew Michigan’s Environment

A Proposal to Replace the Clean Michigan Initiative Bond and Address Waste Management and Recycling Needs

Michigan’s Clean Michigan Initiative Bond, which has paid for environmental clean-up across our state, has expired. Yet Michigan continues to need a robust approach to addressing clean-up of contaminated sites and addressing how we manage waste. Our residents deserve a comprehensive approach to addressing these important environmental issues.

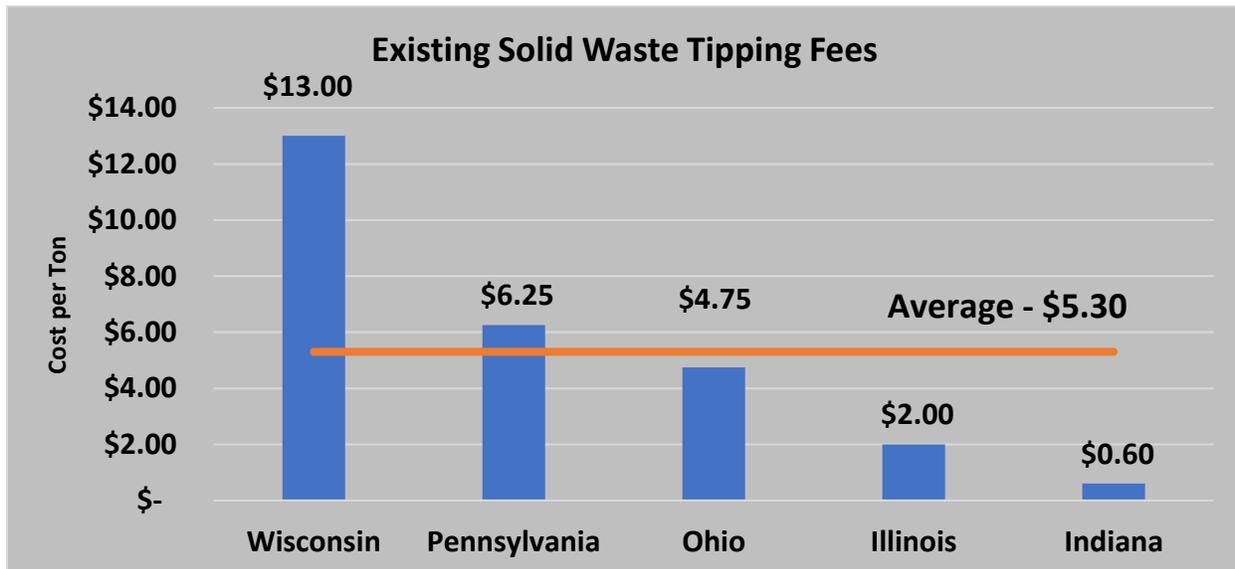
Background

In the ‘80s and ‘90s, communities across the entire state of Michigan were struggling with thousands of contaminated properties that were threatening the health of our citizens and our environment. In response, the citizens of Michigan voters passed the [Clean Michigan Initiative \(CMI\)](#) bond in 1998 by 63%. The \$675 million allocation for environmental and natural resources protection programs that would clean up and redevelop sites containing contaminated water and soil, reduce lead hazards, and improve state parks. **Despite the Clean Michigan Initiative success, Michigan still faces over 3,000 known contaminated sites across the state with no existing liable party to remediate them.** In addition, even though the \$675 million has been depleted, Michigan taxpayers will continue to pay on the bond through the year 2040 and cost over \$1 billion.

In addition, Michigan needs to improve how we manage benign waste items to maximize our landfill capacity. **Today, we only recycle 15% of our waste, which is the lowest recycling rate in the Great Lakes basin, leaving behind valuable material that could be better used in Michigan manufacturing processes.** In Michigan alone, 17 million tons of trash is disposed of each year, the equivalent of 7,700 football fields. In addition, 24% of all waste disposed in Michigan comes from out of state

Governor’s Proposal

To help sustainably fund these critical environmental needs, the Governor is proposing to increase the current fee to dispose waste in landfills from \$0.12/cubic yard (\$0.36/ton) to \$4.75/ton. These fees in Midwest states range from \$0.36 to \$13.25 per ton, with Michigan at the bottom of the list. Many would argue that our current cost structure for dumping trash is actually “inviting” out-of-state trash.



This increase would generate \$79 million annually to fund critical environmental protection activities while greatly enhancing Michigan’s recycling efforts and solid waste management planning initiatives.

Benefits:

- Michigan could clean up 300 existing contaminated sites per year as well as additional emergent contaminated sites as they are discovered thereby increasing local property values.
- With increased efforts to redevelop blighted communities across the state comes the need to assure the material in abandoned properties is properly disposed. The Governor’s proposal provides additional support for asbestos removal oversight and landfill gas monitoring to assure materials are properly managed and monitored.
- This proposal would also help Michigan raise our dismally low recycling rate (currently 15%) to triple our rate to 45% by creating the necessary infrastructure for communities and industry to manage additional recycled materials.
- This proposal would also increase the state’s monitoring of our water quality to support real-time monitoring and removal of contamination from beaches, lakes, and streams for materials that might be running off into nearby ground and surface waters.
- The proposal would address a backlog of state park infrastructure needs to support state park projects including park clean-up and utility upgrades.

Michigan’s Environmental Needs - \$79 million annually

Program Category	Annual Amount
I. <u>Remediate and redevelop existing and future contaminated sites</u> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Clean up 300 sites annually, in all 83 counties• Address emerging contaminants	\$45 million
II. <u>Water Quality Monitoring</u> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Monitor beaches• Reduce phosphorous in Lake Erie• Remove contamination in rivers, lakes and streams	\$5 million
III. <u>State Park Infrastructure</u> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Address infrastructure backlog	\$5 million
IV. <u>Solid Waste Management</u> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Enhance solid waste planning for local governments• Increase asbestos removal oversight for blighted communities	\$9 million
V. <u>Recycling Programs to double Michigan’s recycling rate</u> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Provide grants to local governments and nonprofits for recycling infrastructure, market development initiatives, and education and outreach	\$15 million

To grow Michigan’s economic future, we must reliably invest in our most critical environmental needs of today while also advancing our performance in public health and environmental protection.