

Gustavus Disposal & Recycling Center (DRC) Quarterly Staff Report

Ian Barrier, DRC Manager/ Operator

February, 2026

General Operations and Management

General operations and management haven't changed since my last report other than dealing with cold temperatures in December and then an epic snowstorm over the holidays and into January which turned into a special situation from my perspective. In December during the sustained cold spell we relied heavily on our block heaters, fuel additive, and battery chargers to keep equipment functioning and often crossed our fingers when firing up the baler in the morning. Some machines like the alligator shears would not function at all due to thick, cold hydraulic oil causing it to trip the breaker. Happy to report nothing broke. (Other than the food waste quonset collapsing) After the epic snowstorm; activities at the DRC crawled to a halt much like the rest of the town. I had never quite experienced such a heavy snowfall in such a short time before and soon I realized this amount of snow was barely manageable with our A770 skid steer even though it is the biggest skid steer in town. For snow removal our only attachments are our buckets which can only be used to push snow ahead of the machine and this has lead me to think it might be time to get an actual plow because a blade can be angled to push snow to the side and doesn't get packed with snow and ice during use. Other than plowing the DRC, I remained on call to plow first responders driveways and was happy to help when requested to do so. Syd and I also shoveled the roofs at City Hall, the pavilion at Salmon River Park, and the roof at the DRC. Some minor shoveling was done at the Community Chest as well.

Labor

After things settled down around town regarding the snow I had an opportunity to take some time off that was definitively needed. Since I have taken my position as manager (and even before) it has been difficult to take any time off due to how busy the DRC becomes during the summer, and a lack of reliable help during winter to cover for me. With Syd here I was able to take that opportunity without being worried about the state of the DRC.

Annual Report

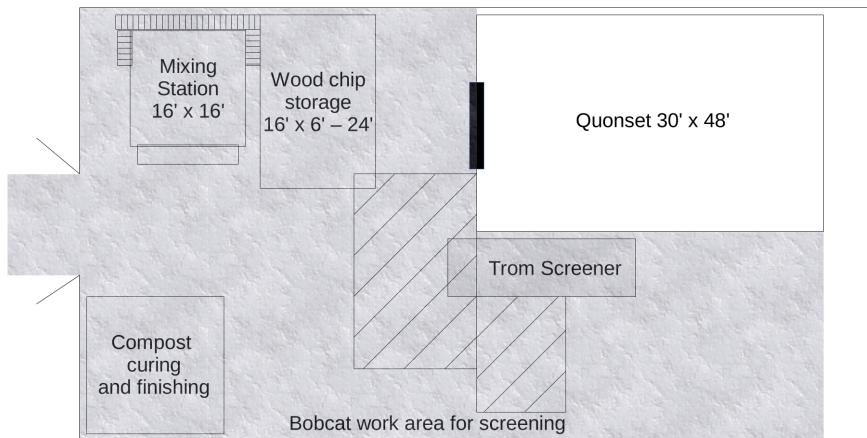
At the bottom of my quarterly report is our annual report for the fiscal year of 2025. Our annual report gives council and my other readers to see how much material are we processing, what recycling streams were focal points for the year, and the return from those streams. Something relatively new that I have been including in my our annual report is "Recycling Shipped Per Fiscal Year" dating back to FY08 and this gives us a general idea of how the waste stream is changing in Gustavus. The most noticeable trend in this data that I have noticed is the uptick in scrap metal that we have been receiving over the last few years with FY25 totaling 92,597 pounds of scrap. It is worth mentioning that timing our shipments can have a large impact on this report; and scrap metal is the perfect example of how concentrated load timing can create dramatic spike in data as you see. With this said, it can be assumed that FY26 will have a much lower amount of scrap recycling shipped because in FY25 we had two scrap shipments back to back that in theory one of the shipments could have been done during the next fiscal year; hopefully that is clear.

Community Chest

This has been a very productive quarter for the Community Chest and they have been receiving a lot of good feedback lately. The public has noticed the place appears cleaner and less cluttered with happier volunteers. I have had Syd working at the CC on Wednesdays to help with organization, sorting of goods, and receiving and providing in person feedback to and from/between the public, volunteers, and myself as management. I worked on creating a general handbook for the volunteers with standards for all the tasks at the CC and everyone appears content with that. I also have been asking volunteers who frequently work when the CC is open to the public to sign a volunteer agreement. We have also created a Facebook page for the CC to post items for sale; the CC and I are still working on how to handle access before we start using it frequently. Likely Syd and I will be the only ones with access for now and volunteers will have to inform us of what to post. During this period I was also in communication with the White Elephant in Sitka, another volunteer ran thrift shop. One thing that they do in regards to donations is having a "STOP" & "GO" sign to tell the public when they are or are not receiving donations. I'm waiting for a steady hand to finish painting the letters on the sign, so it isn't up yet; but keep an eye out!

Quonset

During the snowstorm our food waste quonset collapsed. It really wasn't a surprise considering its condition and that Paul Berry had been trying to get the compost yard upgraded since 2016. Looking at Paul's original proposal; Paul mainly wanted a good work surface because the ground around the DRC turns into mud very quickly and makes managing a tidy yard with compost piles difficult. Paul's original idea was to use D1 over rock as a work surface but in my opinion it would eventually get mixed with material from the composting operation. Further down the road the project evolved to include an actual building and things proceeded to become more complicated with the use of grants and the addition of a truck with a wood chipper which continued to increase the cost and so on and so forth. Jumping ahead into the present day with the current situation at the DRC the option I see as best for the DRC is to pave the yard and add more concrete "eco blocks" to create separate bays for our materials. This is a simple yet effective solution that can be easily expanded upon in the future and will satisfy the needs of Gustavus and the DRC. It also shouldn't require any engineering which appears to be the biggest expense with any of our projects and that should please the public. This is very similar to many other composting programs as well according to the research I have done.



Gustavus Disposal & Recycling Center
Food Waste Composting Yard

Scale 1" = 20' (1:20)

Overall size of yard 60' wide x 110' long (6,600 sq ft)

5/6/16 PNB

Gray area is where the cover soil is to be removed, the ground compacted and 18" to 24" of rock applied with a final 8" cap of D1. Final cap should be slightly higher than surrounding ground to encourage water to shed.

Surface area to receive rock is 4,840 sq ft. Assuming 2' thick total rock volume is 9,680 cu ft or 358.5 cu yards.

Compost

I have seen people discussing compost on social media or often asking questions about what we take as compost; often related to animal products from subsistence hunting & gathering. Therefor I want to clarify that we do accept animal carcasses, bones, and hides for composting. If you need to dispose of a whole animal larger than a chicken; please contact us first at the office (697-2118) and we can likely find a solution for your case, just don't dump it in the hopper please (This has not happened just to clarify) Dairy products are also okay to compost in our operation. If you have questions, please ask.

Final Remarks

As always council members, the public, and other city staff are always invited to visit the landfill to ask questions or request a tour to have a fuller understanding of how and why we operate the way we do.

The End, thank you.

Report compiled by ian.barrier@gustavus-ak.gov

02/04/2026

City of Gustavus, Alaska
Disposal & Recycling Center (DRC)
Fiscal Year 2025 (July 1, 2024 - June 30, 2025)
Annual Report of Waste Processing, Income & Expenses

What the DRC Received from the Community

- 224,914 pounds of recyclable waste, (*exported or re-used*) ~55.50% of total.
- 175,495 pounds of non-recyclable waste, (*placed in the mound*) ~44.5%.
- 107 pounds of household hazardous waste collected ~0.0%.

Total of 400,516 pounds of waste (~200 tons). Our diversion rate is ~55.50%¹.

- Ash, Construction/ Demolition (C/D) waste & Sheetrock – ~128 cubic yards
Ash, Sheetrock and C/D waste does not pass over the scale and is therefore not included in the above totals or in the diversion rate. The cubic yard total is uncompressed material.
- The DRC was open to the public on 168 days. Total number of days receiving waste was 223.
- 6,099 customer transactions (Trash Flow tickets).
- Peak activity occurred on 08/17/2024 with 87 inbound loads weighing a total of 6,821 lbs.

What the DRC Recycled

Exported Recyclables

	Pounds Recycled	Value	
Aluminum Beverage Cans	13,798	\$8383.10	Number of shipping events
Tin Cans	11,422	\$665.73	GST – JNU shipping charges
Scrap Metal	92,597	-\$945.00	JNU – SEA shipping charges
Irony Aluminum	3,911	\$1486.18	GST – SEA shipping charges
Cardboard	17,966	\$626.60	Trucking Charges
Copper Wire	1,508	\$1296.88	Demurrage Fees
Mixed Paper & Books	11,047	\$301.05	Total shipping charges
White Sheet Paper	0	\$0.00	Total return
Type 1 – PETE Plastic	3,174	\$0.00	
Type 2 – HDPE Plastic	2,063	\$0.00	
CRT & LCD TV's	2,657	-\$697.17	
Circuit Boards & E-Waste	1,750	\$391.05	
Totals	165,291	\$11,508.45	

Note: Due to the frequency of how often certain recyclables are shipped, some materials such as batteries, e-waste or non-ferrous metals are stockpiled and are shipped less frequently. What was received in a year does not equal what was shipped in a year.

Locally Recycled Materials

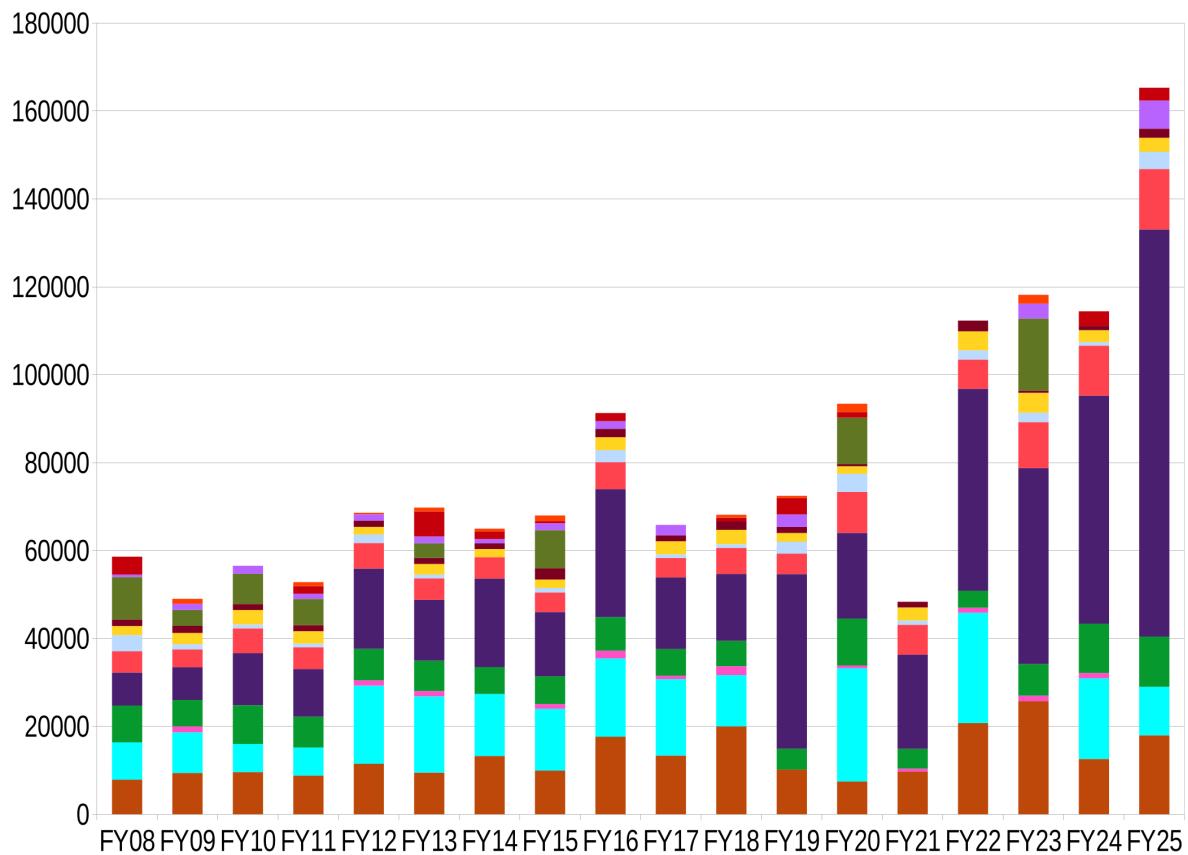
74,960 pounds of food waste was composted (composted food waste cures for 6 to 9 months)

- Approximately 21.90 cubic yards of marketable compost from the previous year was sold (some remaining) generating a return of \$4,206.

25,200 pounds of glass bottles and jars were pulverized and land-spread.

¹ Recyclables recovered from deliveries of non-recyclable waste is not recorded in the diversion rate.

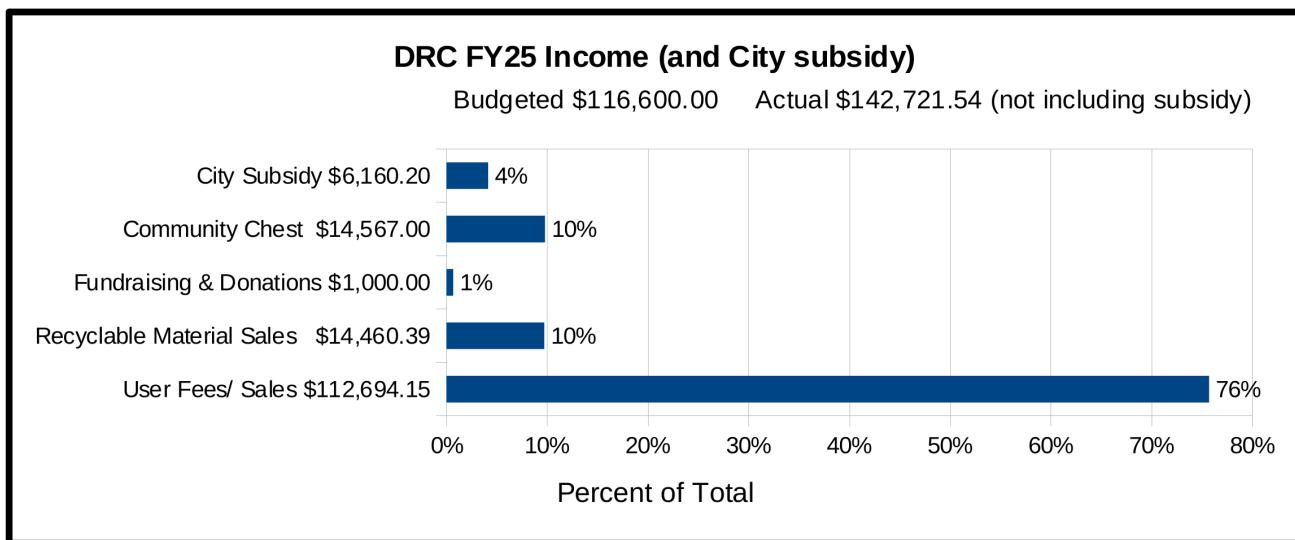
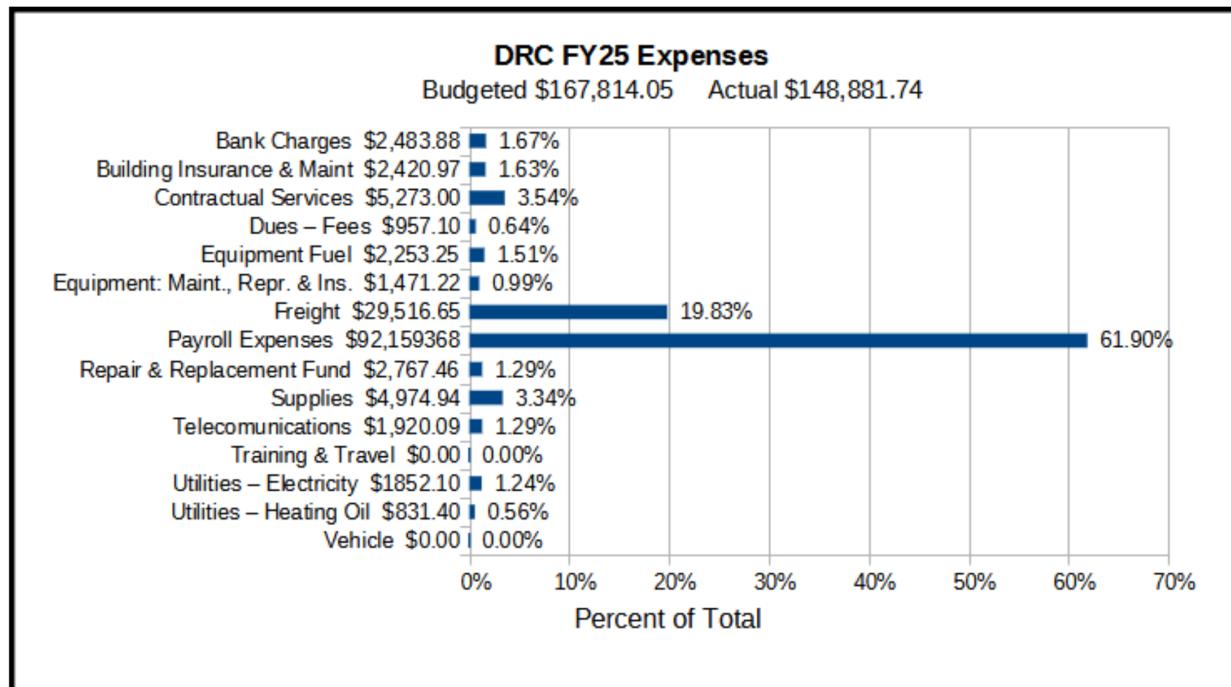
Recycling Shipped Per Fiscal Year



In FY25 the DRC shipped an exceptional amount of ferrous scrap metal with a total weight of 92,597 pounds. The upward tick in ferrous scrap can be attributed to the timing of shipments and the acceptance of larger, bulkier, and more complex items such as fuel tanks, misc commercial scrap, and automotive scrap that would often be refused in the past.

Where the Money to Operate the DRC is Spent

The average cost for processing each pound of waste received by the facility is \$0.37 per pound (rounded). This average does not include waste that does not flow across the scale: Sheetrock, Ash and C/D waste, estimated at ~128 cubic yards (uncompressed).



Where the Money to Operate the DRC Comes From

Financial and Miscellaneous Notes

The DRC completed the fiscal year within budget. Income was \$26,121.54 greater than budgeted and expenses were \$18,932.31 less than budgeted resulting in an actual City subsidy of \$6,160.20 for the DRC.

Reserved

Compost sales (\$4,206) and thrift sales at the DRC (\$65.00) are included in “User Fees/ Sales” income.

There was a total of 2,785.75 hours of paid labor at the DRC: 1822.50 hours by the Manager/Operator (includes PTO) and 963.25 hours by the DRC Temporary Labor Pool.

The Pool had 2 members respectively all of which were active at various times. There was 1 regular position employee during FY25.

Non-revenue waste streams (recyclable and non-recyclable) picked up by or delivered to the DRC include:

Account	Pounds waste	Account	Pounds
Community Chest	4,805	Marine Facilities	743
Fire Department	2,450	City Hall / SR Park	1,168
Litter	1,110	Library	563
Fish Waste Bin	454		
Total pounds waste	11,267		

Community Chest statistics for the fiscal year

The Community Chest does not record the volume (or weight) of the merchandise that is sold and reused by the community (and consequently kept out of the landfill), so there is no direct measure of this very important benefit.

- Open or had transactions on 115 days
- Peak sales of \$425.00 on 07-06-2024
- Peak income of \$1194.00 on 05-28-2025 due to a \$1000.00 donation
- Total income: \$14,567.00
- 4,805 pounds (2.40 tons) waste hauled to DRC
- Total sales minus major expenses (electricity \$415.69, heating oil \$638.69 & waste \$1,131.90) equals an approximate net income of \$12,380.72
- Several donations of usable items to out-of-town charitable organizations

City of Gustavus
DRC FY25

July 2024 through June 2025

	Jul '24 - Jun 25	Budget	\$ Over Budget	% of Budget
Ordinary Income/Expense				
Total Income	142,682.39	116,600.00	26,082.39	122.37%
Gross Profit	142,682.39	116,600.00	26,082.39	122.37%
Expense				
Bank Service Charges	2,483.88	3,000.00	-516.12	82.8%
Building	2,420.97	2,500.00	-79.03	96.84%
Contractual Services	5,273.00	5,000.00	273.00	105.46%
Dues/Fees	957.10	1,200.00	-242.90	79.76%
Equipment	7,050.15	11,342.80	-4,292.65	62.16%
Events & Celebrations	0.00	500.00	-500.00	0.0%
Freight/Shipping	29,516.65	32,000.00	-2,483.35	92.24%
Occupational Health	0.00	500.00	-500.00	0.0%
Payroll Expenses	92,159.68	97,403.79	-5,244.11	94.62%
Repair & Replacement Fund	2,767.46	2,767.46	0.00	100.0%
Supplies	4,974.94	4,500.00	474.94	110.55%
Telecommunications	1,920.09	1,200.00	720.09	160.01%
Training	0.00	1,200.00	-1,200.00	0.0%
Travel	0.00	1,200.00	-1,200.00	0.0%
Utilities	2,683.50	3,300.00	-616.50	81.32%
Vehicle	240.07	200.00	40.07	120.04%
Total Expense	152,447.49	167,814.05	-15,366.56	90.84%
Net Ordinary Income	-8,055.10	-51,214.05	43,158.95	15.73%
Net Income	-8,055.10	-51,214.05	43,158.95	15.73%