

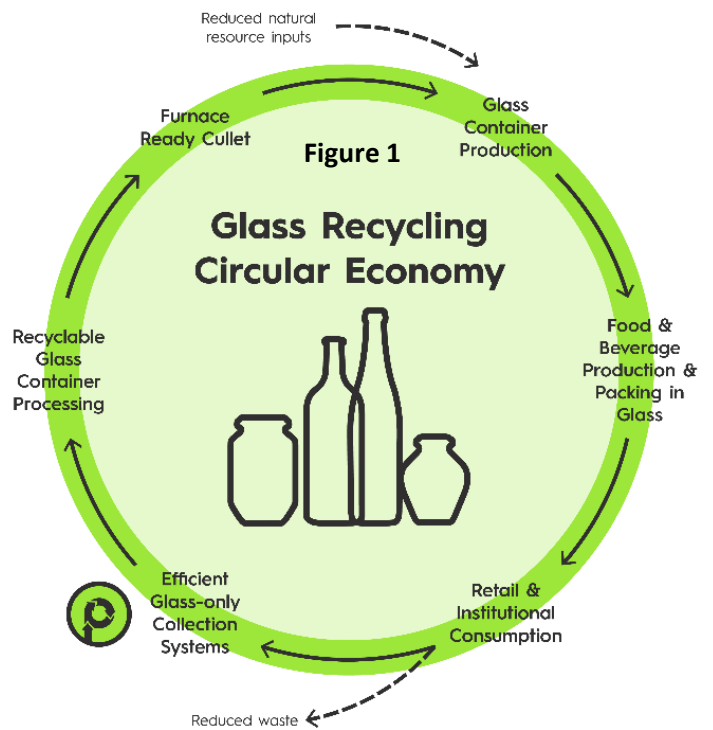
# Erie County Glass Recycling Pilot Project – Progress Report | March 5, 2021



At the end of January, Prism Glass Recycling distributed 15 glass recycling drop-boxes to kick off the Erie County Glass Recycling Pilot Project. This project is conducted in partnership with the Erie County Recycling Program, Erie Area Council of Governments, [CAP Glass Recycling](#) and the [Glass Recycling Foundation](#).

**Focus:** Developing a better infrastructure for glass recycling in the region will contribute to building a more circular economy for glass container manufacturing (Figure 1). The glass manufacturing industry emphasizes circularity in their sustainability efforts as presented by Owens-Illinois' (O-I) Chief Sustainability and Corporate Affairs Officer to the Council of the Great Lakes Region - <https://www.o-i.com/news/oi-randy-burns-chief-sustainability-council-of-great-lakes-region-circular-economy/>.

O-I, headquartered in Perrysburg, OH is one of the world's leading glass packaging manufacturers. [CAP Glass Recycling](#), a partner in this pilot project, is also a strategic partner of O-I. Most, if not all, of the glass collected through this project makes its way to one of the O-I glass container manufacturing plants in western PA, thus supporting a regional circular economy.



**AF Dobler Hose & Ladder Co.**  
Highest fill volume at 4,000 lbs.

**Fill Rates:** Despite the cold temps and snow flurries, residents filled five boxes in 35 days diverting 18,160 pounds (9.1 tons) of recyclable glass containers from the landfill (Table 1) [avg wt.: 3,632 lbs., avg. days in service: 26]. The other 10 boxes are filling steadily with four of them on their way to be ready for exchange within the coming weeks (Figure 2). Underutilized locations will be reassessed for possible relocation at the end of March.

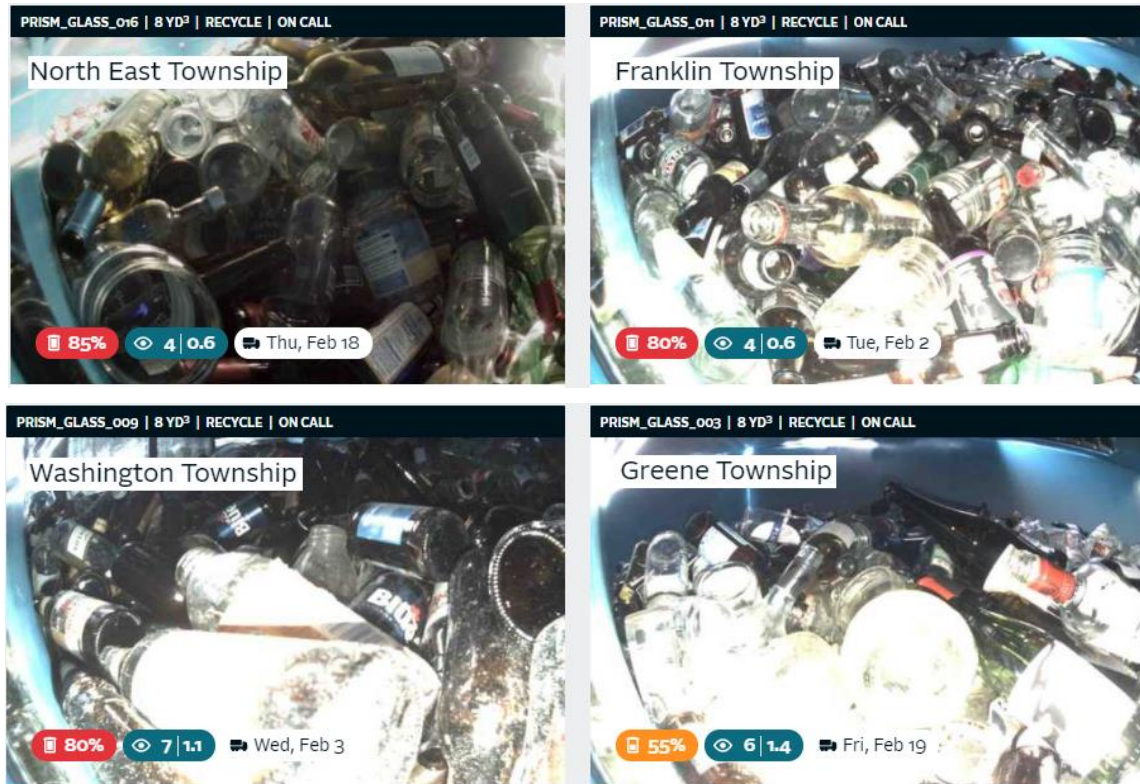
**Table 1: First month volumes**

Location (days in service)	Lbs.
North East Township (21)	2,980
West Erie Plaza (28)	3,480
Dobler Hose & Ladder (31)	4,000
Harborcreek Township (35)	3,920
City of Erie, Glenwood Park (35)	3,780



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Figure 2: Drop-box inside camera images (3/5/2021, 1:15PM)



**Contamination:** The main form of contamination is plastic bags, cardboard beverage cartons or boxes containing recyclable glass in all the drop-boxes. There have been other items such as general household trash, flat glass and non-soda lime glass (i.e. Pyrex), but this has been very limited. Continued public awareness and messaging via social media and other communication channels can mitigate these issues.

**Tampering:** There was one incident of tampering where an unknown person opened the drop-box rear door latch. This person did not undo the safety chain, which prevented the door from swinging fully open and contents spilling out. To mitigate this type of tampering, all containers will have a padlock on the safety chain to prevent the door from opening.

### Promotion:

- Social media – <https://www.facebook.com/prismrecycling> - please share posts on your social media accounts to spread awareness about and promote this project. There are currently 408 followers. The goal is to surpass 2,000 within 6 months.
- Flyer for municipalities (Attachment A) – If any municipality would like 1/3<sup>rd</sup> page flyers to send out with municipal bills or other mail correspondence to residents, please send an email to [info@prismrecycling.com](mailto:info@prismrecycling.com) with the number of flyers needed by March 22<sup>nd</sup>. Prism will arrange for the printing and delivery these to you by March 26<sup>th</sup>.
- Local Media – two ETN articles [here](#) and [here](#), and one Jet-TV coverage [here](#)
- Trade Media – [Waste Advantage Magazine](#) & [Recycling Today](#)

**Expansion:** Contact Prism to learn more and begin a conversation about hosting a drop-box free of charge through the end of the year at [info@prismrecycling.com](mailto:info@prismrecycling.com).

**Feedback:** Thoughts, concerns, questions, etc. are welcome. Send a message to [info@prismrecycling.com](mailto:info@prismrecycling.com).