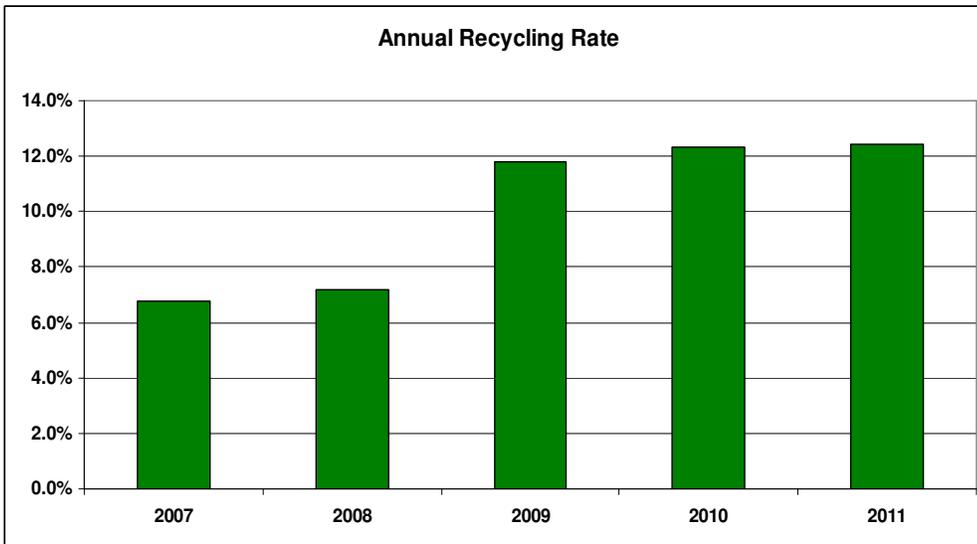
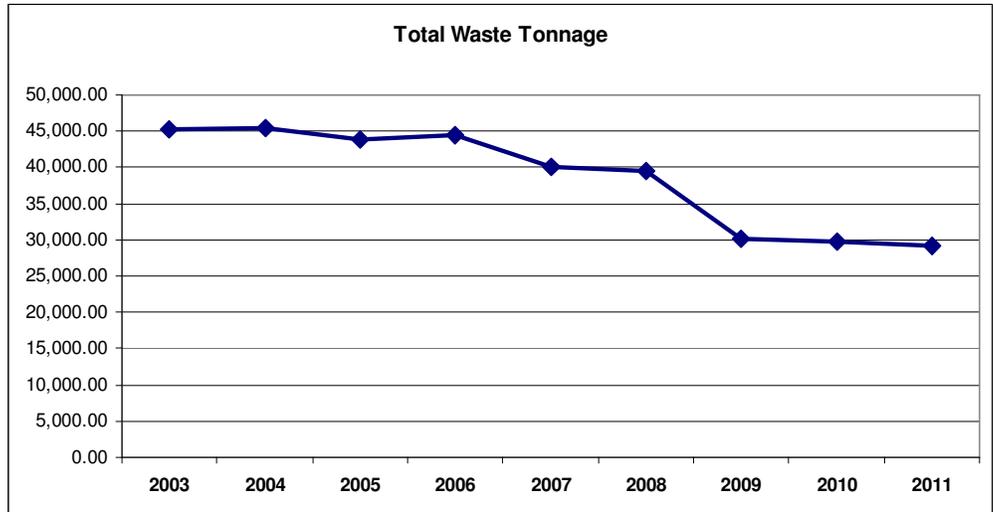


As shown in the graph on the right, the total solid waste tonnage disposed of has dropped considerably since the City of Lowell moved to the 64-gallon cart system in March of 2009. In 2003 the City disposed of over 45,000 tons of solid waste. After several years of modest declines the total tonnage **dropped 25%** when the new system went into effect. In the two years following the change, the solid waste tonnage has continued to drop. In 2011 the total tonnage was 29,234 tons, well below the peak of 45,280.



The current waste collection system features dual-stream recycling, which allows recyclables to be collected, provided they are sorted into two categories. Paper, bottles, cans, and other items can be diverted from the waste stream, benefitting the environment and reducing the City's waste disposal cost. As a result our **recycling rate has almost doubled**, to a high of **12.4%** in calendar year 2011. While the increase is notable, the City is still

looking for ways to increase its recycling rate. The Enforcement Coordinator in the Solid Waste and Recycling Office reaches out to residents and conducts research on their recycling habits. Beyond the City's current recycling participants, extending the program to condo dwellers downtown and more closely monitoring recycling in schools could raise the rate further. The City is setting a recycling rate goal of 17% for the coming fiscal year.