

THOMPSONVILLE — A waste transfer station in Thompsonville is providing an in-county solution to waste management. Owner Cory Brown said the name and location are the same as a waste transfer station that closed in 2016, which was leased by American Waste. After it closed, Benzie County residents had to take waste out of the county or wait for trash pick-up days organized by townships or Benzie County Solid Waste and Recycling. “We handle construction debris and municipal waste,” Brown said. “We also take things like old couches, electronics and appliances.”

Northern Disposal charges per item or cubic yard for disposal, depending on the items. The station also sells purple trash bags people can fill and bring to the station for disposal. “We collect and sort the trash here at the facility,” Brown said. “We try to 'minimize' or recycle as much as we can. We collect metal and sort plastics and cardboard. We try to take as little to the landfill as possible.”

Brown said the transfer station is approved by the Michigan Office of Environment, Great Lakes and Energy. While the transfer station does not handle enough waste to need to be permitted by EGLE, it does have to follow EGLE guidelines. “We went to the Benzie County Board of Commissioners to get their blessing,” Brown said. “They provided us a letter of support.”

Brown said he purchased the property from the owner of the previous Northern Disposal business because he thought the community needed a local waste transfer station.

Northern Disposal has been in operation since June, Brown said. Northern Disposal also offers roll-off dumpster services, which Brown said were available before he opened the transfer station. “We decided to open the transfer station because disposal costs were high,” Brown said. “We also got a lot of requests from people who wanted a local transfer station.”

Brown said his previous business, CSB Industries, was a vacuum truck service, and that cleaning out city streets created a lot of waste. He sold that business and used the proceeds to purchase the property for Northern Disposal.

Brown said he hopes his business would help lower the amount of trash going to landfills and aid Benzie County’s citizens.