



VOLUME 7, ISSUE 4  
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# The Waste Not

## OUR VISION

*“To provide competitive, cost-effective and environmentally sound management systems for solid waste, and recyclable and hazardous materials for Brown County communities, residents, businesses and industry.”*

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## Safety First

The Solid Waste industry has the 5th highest fatality rate in the country. This tops police officers and firefighters.

In 2016, there were 113 fatal incidents including both workers and members of the public. Forty-six

solid waste employees died and 75 members of the public died. The majority were killed in vehicle accidents.

So far in 2017 there have been 82 related fatalities. Of these 58 were members of the public and 24 were solid waste workers.

Accidents happen when waste haulers and public citizens are distracted by cell phones, not wearing the proper personal protective equipment and not being cautious of their surroundings. In 2016, Brown County made it mandatory that safety vests must be worn while unloading material inside our transfer station buildings. The more likely you are to be seen the safer you will be.

The Solid Waste industry has been working very hard to lower this number each year and make the industry a safer place to work. In 2013 Wisconsin enacted a road safety law to encourage cautious driving near sanitation trucks. The city of Green Bay Public Works Department got on board with this law and placed Slow Down To Get Around stickers on all of their collection trucks. The law encourages drivers to slow down around solid waste vehicles.

Brown County takes safety very seriously and has encouraged safer habits for its employees, haulers and customers. Smoking is prohibited anywhere near the Recycling Transfer Station or waste transfer station. It is important to stay off your cell phone and to instead, be very cautious and aware of your surroundings. We require anyone inside a building wear a safety vest so you can be seen!

The goal of the Solid Waste industry is to increase safety measures for workers and the public and to make the industry safer.



# The Changing Global Recycling Market

By Mark Walter

For well over 20 years, Wisconsin's recycling industry has adapted to changing markets, laws and technology. We are once again facing a major challenge.

In July 2017, China announced a new policy, called "National Sword" that severely restricts importation of recyclables into their country effective January 1, 2018. This policy is partially a response to the amount of recyclables coming into China that were mixed with other garbage, and partially an effort by the Chinese government to force their industries to use more recyclables from within their country. Since China is a key global market for recycled materials this policy is causing a market disruption for certain recyclables in the U.S. In 2016, China imported 55% of the world's recovered paper and cardboard and 51% of the world's plastic scrap.

Wisconsin is part of a global recycling economy, providing recyclable commodities to manufacturers who use our recyclables to create new products. While Wisconsin will feel the ripple effect of tightening global markets, many state recyclables flow to regional domestic markets rather than international outlets. We are fortunate that Green Bay and the Fox Valley are home to many paper companies such as Fox River Fiber, Georgia Pacific, Green Bay Packaging and SCA Mills that are happy to accept as much recovered paper as we can send their way. While there has been some drop in the amount we are paid for our recovered paper, we still have a stronger market than many areas of the country. Plastic markets are more diverse and are spread out throughout the country and the world.

How does this affect us? Manufacturers who use recyclables need clean feedstock, just like any other manufacturer. And high quality material is more likely to find a market. In the short term, some plastics may have to be landfilled until new markets develop. Our recycling programs have always been some of the best programs in the country, but the changing markets mean that we have to be even more diligent in our efforts to keep non-recyclable material out of our recycling carts. The best way to help our recycling program is to know what is acceptable in the curbside bin and always keep plastic bags, food, clothing and other household garbage out of your recycling bin.



# Brown County Port & Resource Recovery Project Updates

## Waste Transfer Station Entrance Redesign

Next time you visit the Waste Transfer Station you will notice a few changes. As you drive into the entrance there will be two lanes to choose from. We encourage you to choose the lane with the shortest line. From there the lanes will alternate driving onto the scale. During the busy times of the year at the Waste Transfer Station, which lately, has been all the time, there have been vehicles occasionally lining up on the highway. We have been working very hard to find a solution to this problem. Creating these lanes to queue vehicles inside the Waste Transfer Station area was the first step. There will be other changes coming soon to make our process faster and your visit smoother.

Another change to the Waste Transfer Station you will see when you drive around to the transfer station building is there will be two signs directing you to use the appropriate lane. One lane is assigned to small vehicles, hand unloading, vehicles with trailers, shingles, clean wood. The second lane is assigned to dump trucks, roll-off trucks, route trucks and auto dump trailers. Both lanes will be assigned their own color. When you get to the front of the lane you will watch for the loader operator to direct you to the correct door based on your sign's color.

If you have any questions about changes that have been made please call us at (920) 492-4950 and we will be happy to explain them.

## Recycling Transfer Station Concrete Floor

In September 2017, the Brown County Recycling Transfer Station tip floor was replaced. The process was very smooth and efficient. We would like to thank Advanced Disposal for allowing us to use their tip floor during this time as well as our municipal and business partners for their cooperation and patience.



## Did You Know?

To avoid the fee for disposing of latex based paint you can empty or dry your paint cans. Using kitty litter or newspaper will dry out paint. Or you can apply another coat to that wall! Once your paint can is dry it can be placed in the garbage.

Steel paint cans that are completely EMPTY and dry can be taken to a scrap metal dealer for recycling.



## The Problem with e-Cigarettes

The Solid Waste industry has problems across the country with disposal of e-Cigarettes. This item is constantly disposed of improperly. When an e-cigarette is placed in the garbage or recycling the pressure and heat can cause them to spark and spontaneously start a fire. This could happen in your garbage or recycling bin at home, in the collection truck that picks it up, at the transfer station or at the landfill or recycling facility.

To safely dispose of e-cigarettes the lithium ion battery inside should be safely removed and disposed of at the Brown County Hazardous Material Recovery Facility or any other battery recycler. The remaining part of the e-cigarette can then be safely disposed of in your household garbage.

Lithium ion batteries can be found in items such as powered tools, cordless phones, smart phones and laptops. In some of these items the battery is easily removed; if so, bring the battery to a battery recycler or our Hazardous Material Recovery Facility. If the battery is not easily removed you are able to bring the whole unit to the Hazardous Material Recovery Facility for proper disposal.

To dispose of lithium ion batteries, as well as all other batteries, either search “battery recycling” or bring them to the Hazardous Material Recovery Facility at 2561 S. Broadway, Thursday from noon—6:00 pm or Saturday from 8:00 am—2:00 pm.



### Follow Us

For facts, general information and ideas on how to reduce waste, follow us on Facebook, Twitter and Pinterest! [We post information you want to know several times a week.](#)

If you are interested in reading more about a resource recovery topic online or in our newsletter let us know! We would love to hear from you.

Email us at [bc\\_resource\\_recovery@co.brown.wi.us](mailto:bc_resource_recovery@co.brown.wi.us) with your idea and we will post it or include it in our next newsletter.



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