



VOLUME 8, ISSUE 4  
FALL 2018

## OUR VISION

*“To provide Brown County municipal, commercial and industrial customers cost-effective and sustainable solid waste management systems with the focus on resource recovery primarily through recycling, repurposing and energy recovery.”*

**Editor:**  
**Patti Cole**

**Contributors:**  
**Chris Blan**  
**Patti Cole**  
**Mark Walter**

## INSIDE THIS ISSUE:

Battling Battery Fires	2
Hazardous Material Recovery Hours	2
America Recycles Day	2
Are You Recycling Right?	3
C&D No Longer Recycled	3
Road-E-O Post-poned	3
FAQs	4

# The Waste Not

## The Importance of Sorting Recyclables

Proper sorting of recyclables is critical in order to recover usable materials from the waste stream and to reduce what goes into landfills. Keeping trash out of the recycling stream ensures that when bales of recyclables are sold, they will meet the quality standards of the manufacturers who purchase the baled material and will command a premium price. The more we earn, the more we are able to lower the cost of recycling for our communities.

**What can you do to improve the quality of recyclables?** The sorting process begins at home when residents screen the items that are tossed into their curbside bins. Knowing what to put into your bin and, more importantly, what NOT to put in your bin is one of the most important steps in the sorting process. Many municipalities will not pick up recycling carts that have non-recyclable items in them. Plastic bags and styrofoam are two of the most common problems, but so are ropes, hoses, clothing and furniture. If they are not put into the curbside bins in the first place, the amount of subsequent sorting can be greatly reduced saving time and money.

**After recycling is picked up at your home or business,** route trucks bring the recycling to the Brown County Recycling Transfer Station on South Broadway in Ashwaubenon where it is unloaded into the building. The material is compacted into semi trailers and trucked to the Tri-County Material Recovery Facility in Appleton where the materials sorting process begins.



There, the materials are loaded onto conveyor belts where employees in pre-sort lines manually remove large metal, plastic or paper items as well as anything that might be harmful including plastic bags, sharps, rope and trash. Glass is removed early in the process to prevent damage to the conveyor belts and equipment.

The sorting process continues mechanically with a series of disc screens that separate the paper from the containers. Magnets remove metal cans and containers while high-tech machines further sort the plastic and aluminum items automatically. Human sorting is required to separate out trash and recyclables that the machinery misses. The filtered recyclable materials are accumulated in hoppers until there's enough to be compacted into bales.

The bales of recyclables are then sold and shipped to facilities around the Midwest. If there is too much trash in the bales, the bales will be rejected by the buyers, and may end up in landfills regardless of all that costly processing. If the bales are of sufficient quality, they will be used to manufacture new products.

Recycling is a team effort that starts at home ensuring that more materials can be recovered and kept out of landfills. [www.browncountyrecycling.org](http://www.browncountyrecycling.org)

## Battling Battery Fires



Recycling and solid waste facilities are experiencing an increase in fire incidents. At least 289 fires were reported in solid waste facilities in the United States and Canada in 2017. Since only incidents that get to the point where the authorities are called get reported that means that the number of unreported fires is even higher. From collection trucks to processing facilities, there are more than 1,700 fire incidents annually. In the first four months of 2018 alone, there has been a 93 percent increase in reported fire incidents over the same period last year.

While these yearly increases could be part of a normal cycle, the statistics indicate that flammable or hazardous materials are contaminating recycling loads, and are passing through waste and recycling streams in environments that are hotter and dryer than they have been in the past. In addition, there is an increased inventory of waste being stockpiled in single locations for longer amounts of time because of China's recycling restrictions. Yes, Chinese import policies are listed as a risk factor for facility fires in the United States. More specifically, **Lithium-ion batteries have been found to be one of the main culprits causing the fires.** When batteries break, they spark fires, putting people - employees and the public - unnecessarily at risk.

To combat the risk of fire in recycling facilities operations are being adjusted to account for the likelihood of volatile material in waste with ever more vigilant personnel watching for problems. At the same time, educational efforts are focused on the crucial need to remove the amount of volatile material in recycling and waste facilities.



Lithium batteries must be handled with caution and NOT put into garbage or recycling. Don't contaminate a healthy recycling stream; only recycle what is accepted. Since placing batteries—specifically lithium batteries—in your recycling and trash containers causes a dangerous situation, we need to change our waste and recycling behavior. We need to share this information and **stop recycling things that should not be put in your curbside cart.**

The battle against battery fires is everyone's battle. The more that people Recycle Right, the safer facilities will be.

## Hazardous Material Recovery Hours

The Hazardous Material Recovery Facility is **no longer open on Tuesdays**. This summer, from June 5 to October 30, the Facility offered additional residential collection hours on Tuesdays as a pilot program. With the end of the pilot, we're evaluating how well it worked and whether expanded hours on Tuesdays will become a permanent part of our schedule. Our hours:

**Thursdays 12:00 Noon - 6:00 pm**  
**Saturdays 8:00 am - 2:00 pm**

## America Recycles Day 2018

November 15th is **America Recycles Day** when we recognize our nation's progress on recycling and pledge to continue to recycle. The national recycling rate has more than tripled over the last 30 years to the current rate of 35 percent. This steady growth has created jobs and wages for American-supported community and reuse activities. Recycling reduces the amount of waste sent to landfills, conserves valuable natural resources, prevents pollution and saves energy.



Go to the **America Recycles Day** website to find out what you can do. <https://americarecyclesday.org/>

## Are You Recycling Right?



How do you know what to put into each of your bins so that you Recycle Right? You can follow a few rules. Know before you throw. Separate trash and hazardous material from recycling. If you're not sure whether something can be recycled, check our website or call to find out. When in doubt, throw it out.



### RECYCLE

Know how to **Recycle Right**. Plastic and glass bottles, steel and aluminum cans, paper and cardboard are all recyclable.



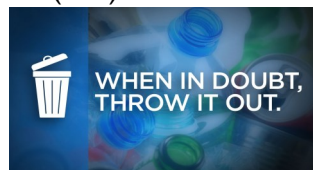
### SEPARATE

Keep dangerous items (like propane tanks, needles, lithium ion batteries and electronics) out of your recycling and your waste.



### DON'T KNOW?

Keep trash (like foods, liquids and plastic bags) out of your recycling. Find out more at [www.browncountyrecycling.org](http://www.browncountyrecycling.org) or call (920) 492-4950



## C&D No Longer Accepted For Recycling



Beginning **October 20<sup>th</sup>**, Brown County is no longer accepting mixed Construction and Demolition (C&D) debris for **recycling** due to poor recycling markets.

Brown County will continue to accept C&D for **disposal** at the Gate Rate at the **Waste Transfer Station** located at 3734 West Mason Street.

**2018 Road-E-O**

Wisconsin Badger Chapter **SWANA**  
Society of Waste Association of North America

Test Your Equipment Skills Against the Best Operators in the State

Join the SWANA Badger Chapter for its first ever Road-E-O!

Three equipment courses highlighting:  
Bulldozers, Front Loaders, and Backhoes

**POSTPONED until spring**

Appleton, WI

Pre-registration required  
Limited to 75 participants

Go to [www.swana-wi.org/roadeo](http://www.swana-wi.org/roadeo) for details and to register.

## FAQs

**APPLIANCES** — Take to the Waste Transfer Station to be recycled.

**MOWERS and OTHER POWER EQUIPMENT** — Remove all fluids and batteries. Take to the Waste Transfer Station to be recycled.

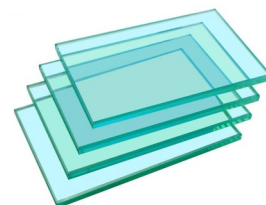


**GRILLS** — Disconnect the propane tank. Take the propane tank to the Hazardous Material Recovery Facility. Take the grill to Waste Transfer Station to be recycled.

**GLASS, BOTTLES** — Put in your recycling bin

**GLASS, DRINKING** — If they are in good shape, donate to Goodwill, Salvation Army or St Vincent de Paul. Put in your garbage if broken.

**GLASS, WINDOW** — If it unbroken, check with Habitat ReStore for recycling options. Otherwise take to Waste Transfer Station for disposal.



**MIRRORS** — Take to the Waste Transfer Station for disposal.

**LANDSCAPING ROCK AND SAND** — Check with a landscaping company for disposal options.

**METAL** — Bring scrap metal to the Waste Transfer Station to be recycled.

**PLASTIC BAGS** — Take to a local retail store's drop-off site to be recycled.

**WATER FILTERS** — Recycle through the manufacturer or retailer. See their websites for instructions. If the manufacturer doesn't have a recycling program, water filters can be thrown in the trash.



### HOLIDAY HOURS

#### Recycling Transfer Station

**Closed Nov. 22, Dec. 25, Jan. 1**

**Open Nov. 23, 24,**

**Open Dec. 24, 29, 31, Jan. 6**

Mon.-Fri. 7:30 am - 4:00 pm

Sat. 8:00 am - 2:00 pm

#### Hazardous Material Recovery

**Closed Nov. 22-24,**

**Dec. 24, 25, 29, 31, Jan. 1**

**Open Jan. 6**

Thurs. noon - 6:00 pm

Sat. 8:00 am - 2:00 pm



#### Waste Transfer Station

**Closed Nov. 22, Dec. 25, Jan. 1**

**Open Nov. 23, 24,**

**Open Dec. 24, 29, 31, Jan. 6**

**Until December 31:**

Mon. - Fri. 7:00 am - 4:00 pm

Sat. 7:30 am - 2:00 pm

**January 1—March 31:**

Mon. - Fri. 7:30 am - 4:00 pm

Sat. 7:30 am - noon

**Follow Us**—on [Facebook](#), [Twitter](#) and [Pinterest](#)!

We post information several times a week.

If you want to learn more about a resource recovery topic let us know! Email us your idea and we'll post it online or include it in our next newsletter:

[bc\\_resource\\_recovery@co.brown.wi.us](mailto:bc_resource_recovery@co.brown.wi.us)



## Brown County Port & Resource Recovery Department

### Recycling Transfer Station

### Hazardous Materials Recovery Facility

2561 S. Broadway | Green Bay, WI 54304

### Waste Transfer Station

3734 W. Mason | Green Bay, WI 54155

Phone: 920-492-4950 Fax: 920-492-4957

E-mail: [bc\\_resource\\_recovery@co.brown.wi.us](mailto:bc_resource_recovery@co.brown.wi.us)

Website: [www.BrownCountyRecycling.org](http://www.BrownCountyRecycling.org)

### Department Contacts

Dean Haen, Director

Chad Doverspike, Operations Manager

Mark Walter, Business Development Manager

Chris Blan, Resource Recovery Technician

Ben Hintz, Resource Recovery Technician

Sheri McAllister, Account Clerk

Patti Cole, Clerk /Typist II

