



**BROWN COUNTY
PORT & SOLID WASTE
DEPARTMENT**

Our Vision:

To provide competitive, cost-effective and environmentally sound management systems for solid waste and recyclable materials for Brown County customers.

Inside this issue:

- Bill Proposes to Protect Sanitation Workers 2
- Brown County Waste Stream Committee 2
- Food Waste 3
- What To Do With Pizza Boxes 4
- Compost Bins 4

Editor:
Mark Walter
Contributors:
Chad Doverspike
Jon Logan

The Waste Not

Recycling & Solid Waste Issues in Brown County

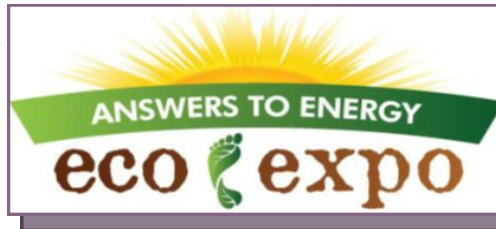
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Answers to Energy Eco Expo to be held at Shopko Hall

The first Answers to Energy Eco Expo will be held on Saturday, May 11, from 9 am to 4 pm at Shopko Hall. The expo will provide information on how to make affordable, small changes in your everyday life to save money by conserving energy as well as making better choices for the health of your family, community, and the environment.

By bringing together throughout the area, access to products and different areas of sustainability, and life. Specifically, there



on geothermal heating and cooling, energy efficient appliances, natural health, solar power, wind power, energy efficient homebuilding, sustainability products and services, recycling, automobiles and other transportation in energy efficiency.

many resources you will have access to products and different areas of energy conservation, including an eco-friendly will be information

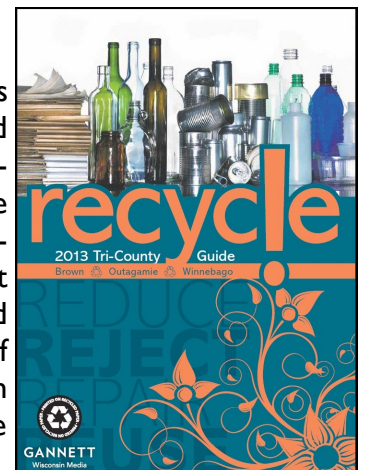
Thanks to the NatureWise Renewable Energy program, Shopko Hall will be powered entirely by natural, renewable energy during the event. This will make the Answers to Energy Eco Expo the first "green event" utilizing renewable energy at the Brown County Veterans Memorial Complex. Find out more about renewable energy through the variety of hourly seminars available on the NatureWise Main Stage at the expo.

The expo is meant for anyone who is interested in saving money on their energy bill, learning more about what being "eco-friendly" means or reducing their carbon footprint. Tips, seminars and demonstrations will take place all day.

Admission is \$5 (13 & older). More information can be found at www.ecoexpowi.com

2013 Recycling Guide Now Available

The 2013 edition of the *Tri-County Recycling Guide* is now available as a reference for all your recycling and disposal questions whether you live in Green Bay, Appleton or Oshkosh. The *Guide* is a comprehensive source of information on recycling, household hazardous waste, composting, and electronics recycling. It includes lists of where you can dispose of your yard waste, old oil, expired medications and used sharps. If you missed it in your newspaper on April 13, you can download a copy from our website www.BrownCountyRecycling.org



DID YOU KNOW?

By recycling one ton (2,000 lbs.) of paper, we save: 17 trees; 6,953 gallons of water; 463 gallons of oil; 587 pounds of air pollution; 3.06 cubic yards of landfill space and 4,077 Kilowatt hours of energy.



“Slow Down to Get Around” Bill to Protect Sanitation Workers

A bill to protect sanitation workers in Wisconsin was introduced in the Wisconsin Legislature this spring. The “Slow Down to Get Around” bill (AB 159/SB 145) doubles the fines for moving violations committed while going around sanitation trucks providing sanitation workers with the same safety protections extended to highway maintenance and construction workers.

The principal working area for sanitation workers collecting recyclables or garbage are our public roads. Sanitation workers frequently begin their daily task well before sunrise, working long hours to ensure waste and recycling is collected, regardless of weather conditions. They play a critical role in the protection of not only our environment, but also public health.

While companies and organizations across the solid waste industry implement comprehensive safety programs, requiring workers to wear high-visibility, reflective gear and trucks to have safety beacons, motorists disregarding the safety of these workers puts each worker in peril.

This bill is strongly supported by Wisconsin’s solid waste associations – The Associated Recyclers of Wisconsin (AROW), Badger chapter of the Solid Waste Association of North America (SWANA), and the Wisconsin Counties Solid Waste Management Association (WCSWMA).

Brown County Waste Stream Committee

The Brown County Waste Stream Committee is one of four economic development committees created in March 2012 by Brown County Executive Troy Streckenbach to focus on establishing an attainable business plan and long-term strategy of redirecting the amount of waste going into landfills, and turning it into marketable, saleable materials thus positioning Brown County to be environmentally sustainable and economically beneficial.

The Committee began meeting monthly in April 2012 with the vision being for Brown County to repurpose the maximum amount possible from the existing waste stream into beneficial re-use opportunities. Criteria to be satisfied include: reduce the amount going into landfills with minimum capital expenditures, while maintaining the lowest possible costs for users of the service and find the best options for the environment.

The Committee, comprised of individuals representing public and private entities, education and County government established a set of goals to begin its work:

1. Review history and inventory all the current offerings of the Brown County Solid Waste Operation.
2. Conduct a waste stream characterization study.
3. Conduct a Market Development Directory.
4. Identify all existing technologies to determine feasibility and compatibility.
5. Analyze the potential of the South Landfill site.
6. Provide recommendations to the various government bodies as well as private industrial entities concerning a long term strategy for redirecting the amount of waste going into landfills.

As a result of a 10-month collaboration, the Committee made the following recommendations:

- ◆ Expand collaborative recycling program for plastics (3-7), organics and commercial recycling by creating the infrastructure to accommodate such expanded programs.

(Continued from page 2)

- ◆ Expand upon current educational impact through regional messaging and better utilization of the county's website and social media to help change the mindset of people to view our waste as a valuable resource.
- ◆ Enhance or develop additional partnerships and recruiting companies to the region that have already proven successful in the resource recovery industry.
- ◆ Build current recycling cluster and utilize Economic Development Organizations to help with strategic and targeted supply chain development. Identify gaps/opportunities whereby business attraction can be promoted along with the nurturing of new businesses/entrepreneurs to help fill those gaps.
- ◆ Pursue grant opportunities with the possibility of collaborating with other related groups. Additional funding could be used to further our efforts of resource recovery systems, public education, analysis, feasibility studies and other items related to the development of the South Landfill.
- ◆ Encourage research and development by universities and/or the private sector to address problem materials.
- ◆ Create a more robust dialogue between other groups/stakeholders such as community groups, government, advisory/policy boards, and universities.
- ◆ Examine the long-term opportunity involving the strategic utilization of Brown County's South Landfill as a potential resource recovery park.

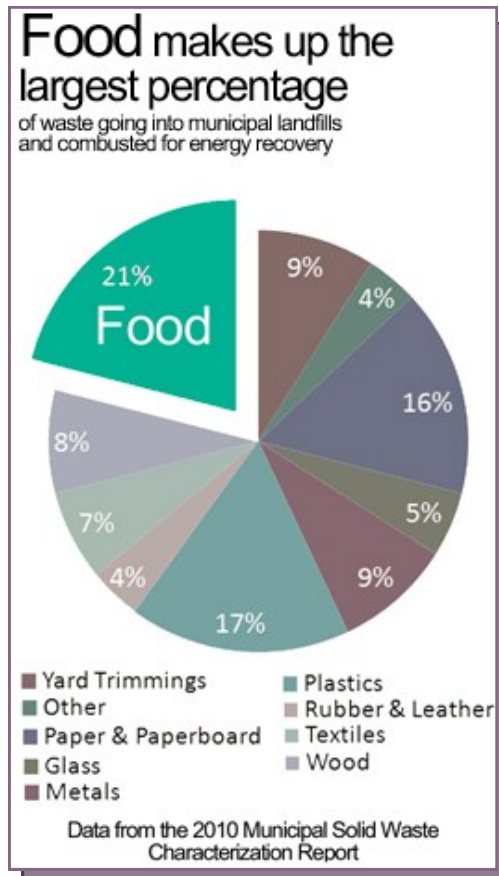
The Committee concluded that the result of these actions will be a more sustainable approach to solid waste management in Brown County and the region.

Food Waste Largest Portion of Municipal Solid Waste

According to the US EPA, about 40 percent of all edible food in the U.S. is wasted with a large portion of that waste coming from consumers. The average American throws away between \$28 and \$43 in the form of about 20 pounds of food each month. Consider these cost estimates of all the food that never gets eaten in the U.S., and imagine just how much we can save by wasting less food:

- Almost half the food in the United States goes to waste.
- Food is now the #1 material sent to landfills and incinerators each year.
- Food waste makes up almost 14 percent (33 million tons) of all the municipal solid waste generated in the United States.
- Less than 3 percent of food waste is recovered.
- 25 percent of all freshwater used in the U.S. is used to process food that is wasted.
- 4 percent of total U.S. oil consumption.
- \$165 billion per year (more than \$40 billion from households).
- \$750 million per year just to dispose of the food.
- Food waste losses account for up to \$100 billion per year; \$30-40 billion occurring within the commercial or retail sector (e.g., restaurants, convenience stores) and \$20 billion from farming and food processing.

To learn more about food waste, visit www.epa.gov/foodrecovery



**BROWN COUNTY
PORT & SOLID WASTE
DEPARTMENT**

2561 S. Broadway
Green Bay, WI 54304
Phone: 920-492-4950
Fax: 920-492-4957
E-mail:
BC_Solid_Waste@co.brown.wi.us

www.BrownCountyRecycling.org

Department contacts:

- **Dean Haen**
Director
Port Manager
- **Chad Doverspike**
Facility Manager
Solid Waste
Landfill Operations
- **Mark Walter**
Facility Manager
Recycling
Hazardous Waste
- **Chris Blan**
Solid Waste Technician
- **Craig Wirtz**
Solid Waste Technician
- **Sheri McAllister**
Account Clerk
- **Jodi Meyer**
Clerk/Typist
- **Shelley Trembl**
Scale Operator
- **Matt Cowell**
Hazardous Waste Aide
- **Curtis Gossen**
Hazardous Waste Aide
- **Karl Schuldes**
Hazardous Waste Aide

ARE PIZZA BOXES RECYCLABLE?



Food is one of the worst contaminants in the paper recycling process. Grease and oil are not as big of a problem for plastic, metal and glass, as those materials are recycled using a heat process. But when paper products like cardboard, are recycled, they are mixed with water and turned into a slurry. Grease from pizza boxes causes oil to form at the top of the slurry, and paper fibers cannot separate from oils during the pulping process. Essentially, this contaminant causes the entire batch to be ruined. This is the reason that other food related items are non-recyclable (used paper plates, used napkins, used paper towels, etc).

In fact, contamination in the recycling business is a big problem. Some estimates put the costs of irresponsible contamination in the neighborhood of \$700 million per year industry-wide because of damage to machinery, disposal costs for the non-recyclable material and wasted time, materials and efficiency. So what can you do with those pizza boxes? Pizza boxes that are tainted with food, or any paper product that is stained with grease or food, are not recyclable - unless you remove the tainted portions. The easiest remedy for this problem is to cut or tear out the soiled portions of your pizza boxes and trash them. For example, you can tear the top of the box off, recycle that and throw away the bottom part containing the grease. If the entire box is grease-free, the whole box can be recycled. (Excerpted from Earth911.com)

Compost Bins For Sale!

Composting yard materials and certain food scraps can provide valuable material for gardens and landscaping while reducing costs for landfilling. Compost is a soil-like material produced from the breakdown of organic materials that is rich in stabilized carbon. It is considered a soil amendment, rather than a fertilizer, because it usually contains only small amounts of nutrients such as nitrogen, phosphorus and potassium. Lawn fertilizer contains significant amounts of all three.

Home composting can be done in bins or in a heap, however, bins are a better way to manage the materials in an urban setting.

In conjunction with the UW-Extension office, we are again offering compost bins for sale this spring for \$45 which includes a recipe book. The bin measures approximately 3 feet wide by 3 feet tall and holds 13 cubic feet of material.

Please contact

Mark Walter at (920) 492-4965 or

Vijai Pandian at (920) 391-4611 for more information.

