



**BROWN COUNTY  
PORT & SOLID WASTE  
DEPARTMENT**

**Our Mission:**

*To meet the solid waste disposal needs of local communities and businesses through methods which are environmentally sound and economical.*

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# The Waste Not

## Recycling & Solid Waste Issues in Brown County

Volume I, Issue I

Fall 2011

### Welcome!

Welcome to the first issue of the Brown County Solid Waste Newsletter! We have prepared this newsletter as a way to provide information about solid waste, recycling and household hazardous waste issues.

The Brown County Port & Solid Waste Department is an Enterprise Fund of Brown County and offers services to municipal, commercial, and residential interests. We have been in business for more than 40 years providing cost-effective, efficient and environmentally responsible disposal for Brown County residential and commercial waste and recycling. The department's solid waste operations include a Solid Waste Transfer Station, a Single Stream Recycling Transfer Station, a regional Household Hazardous Waste Collection Facility, the East Landfill Gas-to-Energy Facility, maintenance of two closed landfills, and coordination of household sharps and pharmaceutical collection and disposal programs.

We are part of a three county regional waste agreement with Brown, Outagamie and Winnebago Counties known as the BOW. The BOW operates a regional single stream Materials Recycling Facility (MRF) in Appleton that is one of the largest municipal MRFs in the country. The three counties also coordinate their waste disposal using each county-run landfill in sequence thereby sharing administration and operational costs.



### What Do I Do With My Paint?

Leftover paint accounts for more than 1/3 of all the waste material received by the Brown County Household Hazardous Waste (HHW) program and management of this material costs the HHW thousands of dollars annually. More than 3/4 of this paint is latex paint which is a non-hazardous material.

So what do you do with old paint and paint cans? First check the label to determine what type of paint you have. Latex paints are non-hazardous and soluble in water –

look on the label for the words “latex” or “acrylic” and directions that specify to clean up or thin with water.



Oil or solvent-based paints and stains are combustible and present particular hazards – look on the label for the words “oil” or “alkyd” and directions that specify to clean up or thin with mineral spirits or paint thinner. Left-over oil or solvent-based paints,

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## Director Retires



Chuck Larscheid (l) and Chuck Rhyner (r) receive awards recognizing their years of service

After more than 21 years as the Director of the Brown County Port & Solid Waste Department, Chuck Larscheid has decided its time to retire and devote more time to some of his many hobbies. Outside of work hours Chuck has been busy with Civil War and World War II battle reenactments, playing with the Allouez Village Band, doing bird and amphibian counts, and volunteering with the Northeastern Wisconsin Land Trust.

Over the course of his tenure with the County, much has changed as the emphasis in solid waste has been to go greener. The County started its recycling facility, household hazardous waste facility and consolidated landfill operations with Outagamie and Winnebago counties during

this time. In 1998, the Port was added to the department.

Chuck's role in all of this has been as much as a business manager as a department administrator running the Solid Waste enterprise. The department has been successful in maintaining its financial health and growing its business.

One of our longest serving Commissioners, Chuck Rhyner, has also resigned from the Solid Waste Board after serving more than 31 years on the Board!

In the meantime, Dean Haen is serving as the Port & Solid Waste Department's Interim Director.

## What Do I Do With My Paint (cont.)

(Continued from page 1)

whether liquid or solid, should be taken to the **Brown County Household Hazardous Waste Facility** at 2561 S. Broadway for proper disposal.

Never dispose of oil- or solvent-based paints and stains in your trash.

Because latex paint is non-hazardous, it can be disposed of with your regular trash, provided that it is completely solidified or if the container has been completely emptied. Taking your latex paint to the Household Hazardous Waste Facility for disposal should be your option of last resort. If you find you absolutely cannot solidify and dispose of latex paint waste on your own, HHW will still accept it, but *beginning in 2012 there will be a charge for disposal of \$0.25 per quart and \$1.00 per gallon of latex paint brought to the Household Hazardous Waste Facility regardless of how full the cans are.*

To properly solidify latex paint use one of the methods below:

- Remove the lid and let the paint dry out in the can; protect from freezing and rain as well as curious kids and

animals. This method only works when an inch or less of paint is left in the can and is most effective in warmer months.

- Mix latex paint with an equal amount of cat litter, stir in completely and allow to dry.
- Mix latex paint with a latex paint hardener; stir and allow to harden. Paint hardener can be purchased at your local hardware store. Follow the directions on the package.
- For larger volumes of latex paint, line a cardboard box with a plastic bag. Add an absorbing agent such as kitty litter, sawdust or shredded newspaper to the box. Pour the paint into the box so that it forms a thin layer (about 1 inch deep) and allow the paint to harden. Repeat this process until all of the paint has hardened.

Once the latex paint has hardened or solidified, it can be disposed of with your regular trash. However, make sure the lids are removed from the paint cans when you set them at your curb.

**Latex paint is not hazardous; it can be disposed of with your regular trash, provided that it is completely solidified.**



Pallets of latex paint cans collected at Household Hazardous Waste

## Recycling and Hazardous Waste

Curbside recycling began in Brown County in 1994 and converted to single stream recycling in 2009 county-wide. Single Stream Recycling (#1 & #2 plastics, aluminum, tin cans, glass, paper) in Brown County collects more than 20,000 tons per year, and



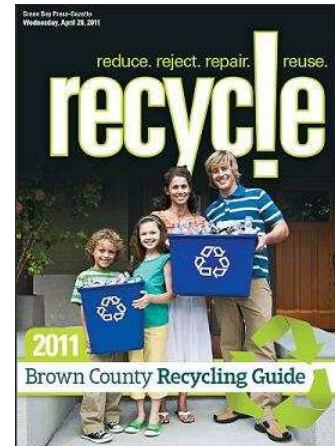
will return nearly \$1.1 million to customers in 2011. Recycling markets have remained stable throughout

2011 in spite of fluctuations in the U.S. and global economies.

The Brown County Household Hazardous Waste Facility has collected more than 9 million pounds of hazardous materials since 1996 and will collect about 1 million pounds in 2011.

### Did You Know?

An aluminum beverage can made from 50% recycled aluminum returns to the grocery shelf as a new, filled can in as little as 60 days after being recycled.



The 2011 Recycling Guide can be downloaded at:  
[http://www.co.brown.wi.us/i\\_brown/d/solid\\_waste/bc\\_recycling\\_2011.pdf](http://www.co.brown.wi.us/i_brown/d/solid_waste/bc_recycling_2011.pdf)

## Strategic Plan Being Developed

The Mission of the Port & Solid Waste Department is to meet the solid waste disposal needs of local communities and businesses through methods which are environmentally sound and economical.

The Port & Solid Waste Department is in the process of developing a Strategic Plan for our Solid Waste operations to help establish goals and meet future challenges.

Throughout the course of the next several months, we will be examining the Mission of the Department and establishing a Vision

for the future. The process will include meeting with stakeholders to review our strengths, weaknesses, opportunities and threats. Using information from these meetings we will be developing Goals and Objectives as well as an action plan for the next 5, 10 and 20 years. Our timeframe is to have an adopted plan by the end of June 2012.

If you would like to provide input to this process, please contact Mark Walter at (920) 492-4965 or [walter\\_ma@co.brown.wi.us](mailto:walter_ma@co.brown.wi.us).



## 2012 Policy and Rate Update

**Recycling:** The resale market for processed recyclables remained strong in 2011. Revenues returned to Brown County Single Stream customers with contracts started the year at \$45/ton, increased to \$70/ton and are currently \$60/ton. The price is recalculated monthly based on market fluctuations. While the BOW MRF is currently operating at design for a single shift, we are exploring options for expanding the operation to bring on additional customers in 2012. This should increase efficiency for all tons processed at the facility.

**Solid Waste:** The BOW Solid Waste Partnership will transition to the Outagamie County Landfill in early 2012 when the Winnebago County landfill reaches capacity and closes. The 2012 Brown County Waste

Transfer Station Regular Refuse Tipping Fee will increase to \$40/ton. The fee for direct haul of waste by Brown County customers to the Outagamie County Landfill will be \$38/ton. The Waste Transfer Station conducts only cashless transactions; customers can pay by credit card, check or by setting up an approved credit account. There is a minimum charge of \$10/load of waste for disposal.

**Household Hazardous Waste:** In an effort to defray some of the cost and to encourage residents to find better uses for latex paint, the Household Hazardous Waste Program Waste Acceptance Policy will be changed to require a \$1.00 fee per each gallon can of latex paint.



## BROWN COUNTY PORT & SOLID WASTE DEPARTMENT

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[www.co.brown.wi.us](http://www.co.brown.wi.us)  
Click on Departments, then Solid Waste

### Department contacts:

- **Dean Haen**  
Interim 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
- **Carey Hansen**  
Clerk Typist
- **Sheri McAllister**  
Account Clerk
- **Shelley Trembl**  
Scale Operator
- **Matt Cowell**  
Hazardous Waste Aide
- **Curtis Gossen**  
Hazardous Waste Aide
- **Karl Schuldes**  
Hazardous Waste Aide

## Recycling During the Holidays



Christmas is fast approaching and many of us are making many purchasing decisions. Americans will dispose of an estimated 4 million tons of wrapping paper and shopping bags during the holiday

season, and much of it can be recycled. Why not incorporate buying recycled in your Holiday shopping? Give gifts that help others make a difference such as reusable storage containers or a cloth shopping bag. Or give a gift that needs no wrapping - your time. Prepare a special meal for someone, volunteer to watch a relative or a friend's children. These gifts are often remembered long after Christmas has passed. Other ideas include cutting down on the amount of paper used by wrapping presents in colored newspaper comics. Paint or draw designs on grocery bags to make gift wrap. Save wrapping paper, bows and boxes for reuse later. If you have room, you can save them for next year, or possibly even other holidays. Wrapping paper scraps make great packaging or craft

material, and ribbons can be used as package ties.

Corrugated cartons, pre-holiday catalogs and gift boxes can be recycled, as well as glass bottles, plastic bottles coded #1 and #2, aluminum beverage cans and steel food cans from holiday gatherings. Unfortunately, most wrapping and tissue paper, ribbons and bows cannot be recycled. The metal strands in foil and metallic papers prevent them from being torn, while the fibers in wrapping and tissue paper are too small to be reused to make new paper.

Just remember, if it's in a plastic bag, it won't be picked up for recycling, so use paper bags if you need to put recyclables outside your cart.

For more information about proper recycling practices, call Mark Walter at 920-492-4965 or [walter\\_ma@co.brown.wi.us](mailto:walter_ma@co.brown.wi.us).

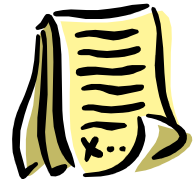


## Solid Waste & Recycling Agreements

The department's solid waste operations include a Solid Waste Transfer Station, a Single Stream Recycling Transfer Station, a regional Household Hazardous Waste Collection Facility, the East Landfill Gas-to-Energy Facility, maintaining two closed landfills, coordinating household sharps and pharmaceutical collection and disposal programs, tire and Freon appliance recycling.

These programs have been successful because of the commitments local communities and businesses have made to the solid waste management system through solid waste and recycling agreements. The Department has shown that long-term agreements like the Brown County Municipal Recycling Partnership can pay dividends beyond what was anticipated. The depart-

ment is offering agreements to current and new residential and commercial customers for solid waste and recycling services. The solid waste agreement will offer contracted customers a reduced transfer station tipping fee for the commitment of a 5 year agreement. The recycling agreement will offer contracted customers an additional \$5/ton revenue for the commitment of a five year agreement.



Brown County Waste Transfer  
Station Scale

For Solid Waste, contact:  
Chad Doverspike  
(920) 492-4955  
[Doverspike\\_cc@co.brown.wi.us](mailto:Doverspike_cc@co.brown.wi.us)

For Recycling Agreements, contact:  
Mark Walter  
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