



**BROWN COUNTY
PORT & RESOURCE
RECOVERY
DEPARTMENT**

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

Inside this issue:

2014 Annual Report Points to Successful Year	2
Organics Collection, A Worthwhile Endeavor	3
Did You Know?	3
Recycling Your Elec- tronics	4
Brown County Reach- es Out to VSQGs	4

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The Waste Not

Recycling & Solid Waste Issues in Brown County

Volume 5, Issue 1

Winter 2014/2015

The Wait is Over! New Materials Now Accepted for Recycling

Eager citizens of Brown County who have been waiting to recycle new items in their recycling bins will be relieved to know that all new materials will now be accepted for recycling. Things like sour cream containers, milk cartons, and deli containers will now be able to be recycled. “Residents have said that they want to be able to recycle more plastics, but reliable technology wasn’t readily available until now,” said Mark Walter, business development manager for Brown County Resource Recovery. “The Tri-County Recycling Facility has been re-designed over the last several months to include new conveyor belts, a storage silo and a second baler to support the collection of additional plastics and cartons.” With the \$1.9 million expansion of the Tri-County Recycling Facility, we can now accept Dairy Tubs & Lids, Deli, Bakery & Produce Containers & Lids and Cartons. Rinse empty containers and drop them in your curbside collection bin!

New recyclable materials being accepted include:



- Cartons including juice, milk, egg substitutes, soup, wine, etc.
- Produce, bakery and deli containers including berry, deli salads, dips, etc.
- Dairy containers including yogurt, sour cream, cottage cheese, butter, etc.



Empty and rinse all containers. Remove and discard screw caps

Some materials simply do not have the ability to be processed because of the problems they cause. These materials are things such as plastic bags and wrap, motor oil bottles, and Styrofoam. We are always looking for new recycling programs that may allow us to recycle these items in the future.

2014 Annual Report Points to Successful Year

Brown County Port & Resource Recovery had another great year in 2014 based on the progress we made towards achieving our strategic plan vision and goals. The Department is focused on providing effective solid waste management services, and excellent customer service with a focus on resource recovery. Our vision was updated in 2014 to better reflect our efforts to recycle, repurpose and recover waste whenever possible in order to create better, more efficient and environmentally-friendly programs that are available to all Brown County residents. The Department constantly looks for more efficient ways to manage solid waste that make economic and environmental sense; the *2014 Annual Report* reflects the success of the Department's efforts.

Notable achievements in 2014 include:

- ◆ Increased refuse collection by 8.4% from 2013.
- ◆ Increased alternative daily cover by 11% from 2013.
- ◆ Received more than 26,000 tons of recyclables from Brown County residents and businesses with more than \$347,000 returned to customers as a recycling rebate
- ◆ Produced 4,854,557 kW of electricity at the East Landfill Gas-to-Energy facility.
- ◆ Safely disposed of or reused more than 720,000 pounds of hazardous materials from 7,300 residential and business sources.

Additional goals that the Port & Resource Recovery realized during 2014 include:



- ◆ Re-engineer future South Landfill/Design Resource Recovery Park
Working to re-engineer the future South Landfill incorporating the concepts of a Resource Recovery Park for economically redirecting the amount of waste going to landfills and turning it into marketable, saleable materials.
- ◆ BOW Compactor at Brown County Recycling Transfer Station
A new compactor and building expansion indicated annual savings of \$105,000 per year. Construction is expected to cost \$525,000 and will be completed by July 2015.
- ◆ BOW Waste Diversion Technology Committee
BOW Waste Technology Committee was established in May 2014 to review emerging solid waste diversion technologies. A summary report of current waste technologies was completed in 2014 with a focus on anaerobic digestion.
- ◆ Research drop-off organic recycling program and determine the feasibility of implementation in Brown County
Implementation of an organics drop-off program began in November 2014 with facilities at the solid waste transfer station and recycling transfer station. More than 70 households are currently participating.
- ◆ Partner with UW-Extension on conducting research review of best practices in educational campaigns to promote recycling using several city of Green Bay routes
A recyclable waste sort was conducted in May 2014 and a follow-up recyclable waste sort will be done in 2015 from the same neighborhood routes to determine the impact of recycling education on recycling rates.
- ◆ VSQG Growth
Added 25 new Very Small Quantity Generators (VSQGs) to the customer base while continuing to assess the demand and viability of offering a pick-up service to VSQG customers.
- ◆ BOW Single Stream Recycling Facility Expansion
Installed a second baler and additional sorting equipment and storage hopper at BOW Single Stream Recycling Facility that will better the facility's performance while expanding collection of all plastics bottles, tubs and containers as well as aseptic packaging. Expanded the BOW Single Stream Recycling Facility to include a second baler and additional sorting equipment. Plastic tubs and containers will now be easier to collect.

Organics Collection, A Worthwhile Endeavor



Our Food Waste and Organics Drop-Off Program continues to be a success with more than 70 households now participating representing more than 160 individuals who bring us their food and other organic waste. We have had almost three months of collections. Both of our sites have seen an increase in drop-offs especially over the holidays. Nearly 2,500 pounds of material have been collected since November 4th of last year.

Please encourage your friends and neighbors to participate in the pilot program. This program is important both as a means of gathering data in order to help us determine the need for additional sites and options as well as a great way to educate people about the need to reduce food waste. Food waste and other organic materials represent nearly 25% of the waste stream.

If you are interested in participating, all of the information on our program can be found on our webpage – www.browncountyrecycling.org/organics. Our website has a list of local retailers who carry certified compostable bags as well as a link to a website for bags and containers that are available online if you are interested. While you do not have to use biodegradable bags, we suggest it as a means of keeping things cleaner both at home and at our drop-off sites. Check the ‘Compostable Products’ link off the Food Waste/Organics page. If you find other stores that sell certified compostable bags, please let us know.

To help with home separation efforts, we have created a set of labels that that you can use to identify the different bins that you may be using in your home. They are designed to fit 2 to a page and identify “Food Waste”, “Trash” and “Recycling” so that your family and guests will know which is the appropriate bin for each type of waste.



Commonly asked questions from our participants:

1. *Is tissue paper accepted in the compost bin?*

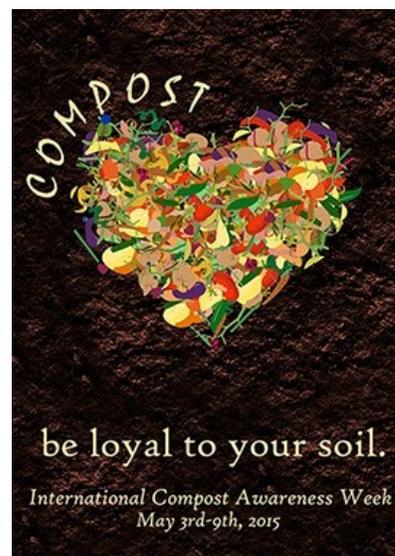
Tissue paper is accepted if it does not contain any plastics or metal pieces (think sparkles). Since tissue paper cannot be recycled in your curbside bin, it is a great addition to our composting program. The paper fibers in tissue paper are too small to be made into new paper but they break down readily in a compost facility.

2. *What do you mean by “organic”?*

A number of people have expressed some confusion about the term “Organic” when we are talking about this program. For the purposes of our program, “organic” means any material that is derived from living organisms (i.e. organic matter) as opposed to “inorganic” material that would include rocks, stones, plastics, etc. “Organic” food products are those foods that are grown or raised without chemicals. We happily accept both types of organic food waste.

Did You Know?

- A compost bin and pitchfork are the only materials needed to have a successful compost pile.
- Nut shells, eggshells, tea bags and coffee grounds can all be used for composting.
- 40 million tons of yard clippings end up in landfills that could be used for composting.



**BROWN COUNTY
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Follow
Brown
County
Recycling

Recycling Your Electronics

Have an old or unwanted electronic device? Brown County Port & Resource Recovery will take them (though a small fee will apply)!

Electronics include items such as:

-  Computers
-  Computer accessories
-  TVs
-  Radios/stereos
-  Gaming systems
-  CDs, DVDs VHS tapes
-  Cell phones
-  And more!



Electronics recycling protects against environmental issues and salvages reusable materials including plastics, metals and circuit boards.

The Brown County Household Hazardous Waste (HHW) Facility accepts all types of electronics at its facility.

Thursdays Noon - 6 p.m.

Saturdays 8 a.m. - 2 p.m.

Cost is \$0.20/lb for Brown County residents

HHW Facility is located at:

2561 South Broadway
Green Bay, WI 54304

Have an electronic recycling question? Call (920) 492-4950.

Brown County Reaches Out to VSQGs



Brown County's Port and Resource Recovery Department is reaching out to County businesses who qualify as Very Small Quantity Generators (VSQGs) of hazardous waste. Generally, material that is flammable, corrosive, reactive or toxic is considered hazardous waste. Any business that generates less than 220 pounds per month of hazardous waste and less than 2.2 pounds of acutely hazardous waste is considered a VSQG. Additionally, VSQGs can accumulate up to 2,205 pounds of hazardous waste on site.

If a business meets these criteria, they can dispose of their hazardous waste at the Household Hazardous Waste (HHW) facility by calling (920) 492-4964 to set up an appointment. Businesses that do not qualify for this status are unable to dispose of their products at the facility.

It is important to note that when transporting hazardous materials USDOT regulations apply to all waste generators. The Brown County HHW offers competitive disposal pricing without additional mobilization, fuel surcharges, manifest, or energy and security fees often experienced with large hazardous waste contractors.

