



# The Waste Not

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## 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, and energy recovery*

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## Brown County Hazardous Waste Recovery Celebrates 25 Years

The Brown County Hazardous Material Recovery facility is celebrating its 25th year of providing safe and environmentally responsible hazardous waste disposal to Northeast Wisconsin residents and small businesses.

The Brown County Household Hazardous Waste Facility (now known as Hazardous Material Recovery) opened to Brown County residents in October of 1996 as one of the first permanent household hazardous waste facilities in Wisconsin. The development of an household hazardous waste program and the construction of the HMR facility was a joint undertaking between Brown County, its municipalities, the Oneida Nation of Wisconsin, and the Green Bay Metropolitan Sewer District (now NEW Water).



In the first full year of operation, a total of 187,621 pounds (nearly 94 tons) of hazardous materials were collected from 527 users of the facility. By 2020 this total had increased to more than 722,706 pounds (361 tons) of materials collected from 10,037 people from 15 Wisconsin counties and hundreds of businesses. Since opening, the facility has collected more than 17 million pounds of material!!

Over the course of the years, the facility has expanded from its core mission of offering hazardous waste collection for Brown County residents and business to a regional facility offering collection of many other types of problematic waste materials. The expanded programs have been developed to meet the needs of the public and offer an increased environmental benefit.

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- 1996—Open for Brown County residents
- 1999—Established regional partnership with Outagamie and Winnebago Counties
- 2001—Began accepting electronics
- 2002—Began accepting cooking oil to protect the sewer system
- 2003—Began accepting gas grill tanks
- 2006—Began accepting oil filters
- 2007—Held the 2nd drug collection in the state with law enforcement
- 2010—State Electronics Landfill Ban causes the HMR facility to become a primary disposal outlet for electronics
- 2011—Began accepting 1 lb. propane cylinders
- 2015—Began sending latex paint to a paint recycling company. Recycled paint is sold at ReStores.
- 2019—Began accepting fire extinguishers

## Brown County South Landfill Construction Update

The construction of the South Landfill by Brown County in the Town of Holland continues to move forward and is expected to be completed and in operation in 2022. Much of the primary work has been completed including:

- Installation of a 4-foot clay layer, synthetic liner, geotextile and 1 foot of stone in the landfill cell
- Installation of three new scales and construction of a new scale house
- Construction of a 153,000-gallon leachate tank and leachate piping
- Construction and siding of a new maintenance building
- Other work that is expected to be completed within the next month include construction of a leachate pumphouse and installation of leachate pumps, installation of stormwater pumps, and installation of electrical, gas and fiber lines.
- In addition to construction activities, the county continues to acquire the equipment necessary to operate the landfill.
- The current estimate of costs for the construction of the landfill and ancillary facilities as well as acquisition of equipment is \$22 million.



## America Recycles Day—November 15th

November 15<sup>th</sup>, America Recycles Day, is the perfect time to begin a new recycling habit. Brown County Resource Recovery can help with simple tips and tricks to make you a recycling pro.

It is important to understand that recycling doesn't begin when you are ready to dispose of materials. It should start before you arrive at the checkout counter or hit the "buy now" button online. Look at the products you are about to buy and see if they are recyclable or can be repurposed in some way once you're done using them. This is a helpful tactic to ensure that you are limiting the amount of material that ends up in our landfills while also looking for the potential to upcycle. Many companies disclose whether or not products are recyclable, or if they are made from recyclable materials, making it easier to decide what you should buy.



With products that have the potential for repurposing, you can save the future cost of buying additional materials. The same holds true for the packaging surrounding the products you purchase. Different types of containers, like cardboard and glass, are great when repurposed for storage or gift boxes.

Each change you make, no matter how small, makes a big impact on our environment and community. If you're not sure what is or is not recyclable, the Resource Recovery website has lots of information to help you know what materials are recyclable in Brown County. You can also use the Waste Wizard on the Tri-County Recycling website ([www.RecycleTriCounty.org](http://www.RecycleTriCounty.org)) to help you "know what to throw".

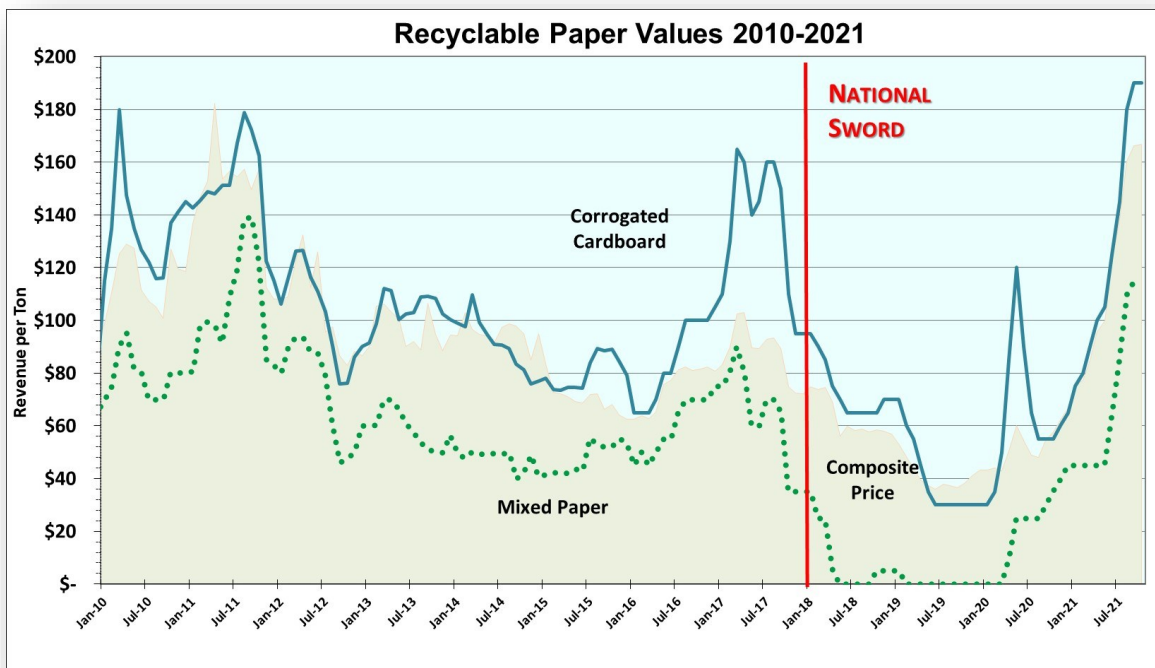
America Recycles Day may only be one day a year, but recycling right should be a year round habit. Mark your calendars for November 15<sup>th</sup> as the day to start your new recycling habits and help make our communities and environment healthier.

# Positive Recycling Markets

Markets for recycled materials are hitting historic peaks in 2022 which benefits everyone. All of the recyclables that Brown County receives at its Recycling Transfer Station are transported to the Brown-Outagamie-Winnebago (BOW) Materials Recovery Facility (MRF) in Appleton for processing. The materials are sorted and eventually baled for sale to industries throughout the Midwest and the nation. The price that the BOW is paid for commodities (paper, metal, plastic, glass) is governed by world markets and can be influenced by many factors including fluctuating oil prices, overseas demand for materials, cost of raw materials and cost of transportation. Beginning in 2015, commodity markets began to fall as world markets began to tighten their standards for accepting scrap material. The drop in demand became a big problem for all US MRFs in 2018 when China imposed a ban on imports of scrap plastic and scrap paper called National Sword. This caused the price for recycled paper and plastics to hit the bottom of the market in late 2019. The average market price for material collected by the BOW dropped to \$37/ton in September 2019. This includes paper and cardboard, aluminum and other metals, plastics and glass.

Since that time, new domestic manufacturers have come online and domestic markets have expanded to serve the US recycling market. In October 2021, the average market price had risen to \$166/ton, a rise of more than 360 percent in just two years! Much of this increase can be attributed to the increase in cardboard prices which were impacted locally by the completion of Green Bay Packaging new paper mill and the rise in demand for cardboard due to online shopping. The Tri-County Materials Recovery Facility is fortunate to be situated in the heart of the paper industry as it has helped to stabilize our rates and fees with a ready market for nearly all of the paper bales produced at the MRF. The short distances to manufacturers help keep bale prices at better than market which is critical for the effectiveness of the facility since paper makes up more than 60 percent of the material baled by weight. A sharp increase in demand for some types of recycled plastic now make milk jugs the most valuable material we collect.

One of the biggest impacts from this rise in prices is that Brown County has been able to increase our payments to our customers for their material. While in September of 2019 we were charging our municipal customers \$34/ton for their recyclables, as of October 2021 we are paying them more than \$81/ton. This increase in payments to our municipalities is now helping them pay a significant part of their landfill tipping fees lowering the cost of garbage disposal and saving taxpayers money.



## Don't be a Grinch: Holiday Alternatives to Gift-Giving



Gift-giving is a staple tradition in the modern holiday season. While there are concerns about global supply chain issues and how they will impact the 2021 holiday shopping experience, this year may be the time to try out some non-traditional gift ideas.

If you feel that recent events have made your heart three sizes too small, a great way to remedy that is to volunteer your time as a group to help those less fortunate. Several organizations do their fundraising efforts around the holidays but are experiencing a lack of volunteers and peoplepower.

The debate about whether re-gifting is proper etiquette still rages on, but for those looking to avoid tossing out something that they are not using, consider finding a new home for that item with one of your inner circle of people. One thing to consider is if the person you are regifting to has a genuine need for the item, otherwise you will be just moving it from your garbage to theirs.

For all the bibliophiles out there, a book exchange is a perfect way to both clean your bookshelves of clutter and find your next read for the new year. Collect all of the books you wish to part with, meet with friends and family who do the same, and have a party or gathering. At the end of the night, you can leave with some new books and the remainder can be donated to your local library.

The Resource Recovery Pinterest page has plenty of ideas to help you this holiday season from DIY gifts, food waste tips and even upcycled decorations.

### 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.



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