



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, repurposing and energy recovery

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Composting is Not New, but Make it A New Habit in 2023

Composting has existed since ancient agriculture and cultivation began in all parts of the world. Early farmers would spread food waste and manure onto their fields to return nutrients to the soil.

In recent history, efforts have dramatically increased to make composting work for more people, not just those with the space or a farm. Apartment composters, community garden programs, and even privately owned composting services have been a trend that help everyone be able to reduce their contribution to landfill. Vermicomposting (composting by using worms and the like) has become an easy way for the brave and less-squeamish apartment dweller to compost at home.

It is a simple enough equation: add three parts brown (carbon) material to every one part green (nitrogen rich) material. Examples of green or nitrogen materials are vegetable trimmings, green leaves, grass clippings, coffee grounds, etc. Brown or carbon materials include cardboard, dry shredded leaves, newspaper, chipped wood, etc. So if you have a small bucket of vegetable trimmings, try to add at least three of the same size buckets of your brown material. Add water, aerate (make sure you turn occasionally and allow air into the pile, and you have a basic composting formula.

After maintaining a good balance of green and brown materials, keeping the pile moist, and turning the pile regularly...what is next? The contents of the compost pile will deteriorate and be broken down by microbial bacteria and compost friendly critters like worms, beetles, and even fungi. Once fully composted and decomposed, what is left is humus which is dark brown and black material that can be used as a soil amendment. These amendments help improve the structure of the soil in garden beds.

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Source: ISTOCK

2022 in Review: Solid Waste, Recycling, and Hazardous Material Activities

The Brown County Resource Recovery Department had a busy year in 2022, with a number of activities accomplished to increase the Department's solid waste management services.



The Department began the year with the opening of the new South Landfill and taking over operation of the Solid Waste Transfer Station. More than 177,000 tons of refuse were processed through the Solid Waste Transfer Station in 2022 for transport to one of the BOW landfills. Another 150,000 tons of waste were delivered directly to the landfills for a total of 327,141 tons. Another 65,100 tons of alternative daily cover were delivered to the BOW landfill for a total Brown County tonnage of 392,289 tons. The Outagamie County Landfill accepted 449,002 total tons of material in 2022.

Resources that were diverted from the landfill included 19,137 tons of shingles which were recycled, as were 608 tons of tires and 297 tons of appliances and scrap metal. Affordable tire recycling prices at Brown County are resulting in a higher delivery of scrap tires. While C&D and wood waste recycling markets were not available in 2022, 40,831 tons of material coming through the waste transfer station were identified as C&D material.



In 2022, 32,746 tons of single stream recyclables were hauled from the Brown County Recycling Transfer Station to the Tri-County MRF which processed more than 107,000 tons of recyclables. Single Stream Recycling includes recycling of all plastic bottles and caps, tubs and containers, aluminum and tin cans, glass and all paper products. The facility serves more than 10 counties in northeast Wisconsin. The volume of material moving through the Recycling Transfer Station was down slightly

from the 2021 record with just less than 33,000 tons due to a decline in commercial recycling tonnages.

During 2022, the Hazardous Material Recovery Facility took in 623,451 pounds of hazardous materials from an estimated 9,288 residential and business sources. After a near record year in 2021, the number of people using the facility fell in 2022 though the amount of hazardous waste grew. The facility was able to recycle or make available to the public more than a third of the collected material while 276,583 pounds of hazardous waste was kept out of the environment and properly destroyed. The HMR program and staff provided assistance to other counties in the region serving as a disposal outlet for material collected outside of Brown County. Due to continued staff shortages the Hazardous Material Recovery Facility ended Saturday collections and made Tuesday a permanent year around collection day.



Safety is Always a Priority, What You Need To Know Before Visiting Our Facilities

Safety of staff and customers of the Brown County Port & Resource Recovery Department is always a top priority. Here are several ways that residents can help themselves while we serve you and your solid waste, recycling, and hazardous materials disposal needs.

Slips, trips, and falls are a leading cause of injury in the waste and recycling industry. With the previous month full of weather fluctuations, ice is inevitable. If you plan to exit your vehicle, wear sturdy boots and walk with caution, even on surfaces that our staff have salted. Proper footwear is also important when the summer weather is here. Closed toed shoes are preferred when visiting our sites.

The Recycling Transfer Station is open Monday thru Friday, from 7:30AM until 4:00PM. This facility is where recycling trucks from municipalities and privately owned haulers drop off their collections so that the materials can be transferred to the Tri-County Material Recovery Facility in Appleton to be sorted and baled. Residents may bring their curbside recyclable items to the facility and deposit them through the large window in the front of the facility. Park in the space provided and utilize the window only (do not enter the building).

The Hazardous Material Recovery Facility operates like a drive-thru service, allowing residents to remain in their vehicles while our associates remove your household chemicals, electronics, and other accepted items from the vehicle's trunk. By remaining in the vehicle, our associates have the space and ability to take your items into the facility with no distractions or interference. If you have any concerns, our associate at the register window is always happy to answer any questions and can communicate them to the staff.

Severe weather will sometimes cause closure of our facilities, but by following the Department on social media, you can be notified better of any last minute closures. The minor inconvenience of holding onto your extra trash, recycling, or hazardous materials an extra day or week will always be worth it compared to the risk of driving in severe weather conditions.

Follow Brown County Resource Recovery Department:

Twitter: @RecycleBrownCo

Facebook: Brown County Resource Recovery



SAFETY FIRST



Wisconsin Integrated Resource Management Conference in Green Bay (WIRMC)

There is still time to register for the Wisconsin Integrated Resource Management Conference (WIRMC). WIRMC is the statewide conference for solid waste industry professionals and others interested in recycling, solid waste and composting. It is an exhibitor and lecture conference for those interested or working in the waste management industry. that will be held on February 22-24, 2023 at the KI Convention Center in Green Bay, WI.



Credit: WIRMC, 2022 Keynote Speaker Rob Greenfield

This years Keynote Speaker is Jasmine Crowe-Houston, social entrepreneur, author, TED Speaker, and founder of Goodr, a sustainable waste management company combating hunger and reducing food waste.

Online registration (www.wirmc.org) closes at 7:00PM, Monday 2/20/2023 with onsite registration available beginning Wednesday .

Follow Us

For facts, general information and ideas on how to reduce waste, follow us on Facebook and Twitter! 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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