



**BROWN COUNTY
PORT & RESOURCE
RECOVERY
DEPARTMENT**

Our Vision:

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

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The Waste Not

Recycling & Solid Waste Issues in Brown County

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Strategic Planning for a Strong Future

By Outagamie Department of Solid Waste

In mid-2012, the Brown-Outagamie-Winnebago (BOW) Tri-County partnership initiated strategic planning. The strategic planning will continue into the future with the goal of continually assessing needs and pursuing opportunities.

Stakeholder meetings were held at each of the three Counties, including both external and internal representatives. The previous ten years of Tri-County success provided the starting point for discussions, but thorough consideration was given to challenges and new opportunities. An experienced consultant assisted throughout the process and made recommendations to the Counties.

Each of the three Counties operates an Enterprise Fund under an independent Department of Solid Waste. Enterprise Funds provide the financial strength needed to run like a business. Each Department of Solid Waste is dedicated to solid waste and recycling and is led by a Director of Solid Waste specialized in the business. This organizational structure provides the most basic elements needed to establish a strong framework for long-term business sustainability.

Key goals and objectives established during this initial strategic planning included:

- ◆ Maintain long-term landfill capacity to serve the three Counties
- ◆ Maintain optimal incoming landfill tonnages
- ◆ Conduct ongoing technology evaluations to maximize recycling, reuse, organics management and utilization of the new single-stream recycling facility, all with a goal of diverting from landfill utilization
- ◆ Continue the strong organizational structure each at County with Enterprise Funds and specialized Departments
- ◆ Evaluate and pursue when beneficial possible resource sharing opportunities between Counties and between departments within each County
- ◆ Continue to improve communications within each County as well as between the three Counties
- ◆ Review the Tri-County regional agreement for possible improvements



BROWN

OUTAGAMIE

WINNEBAGO

Expanding Our Service Area

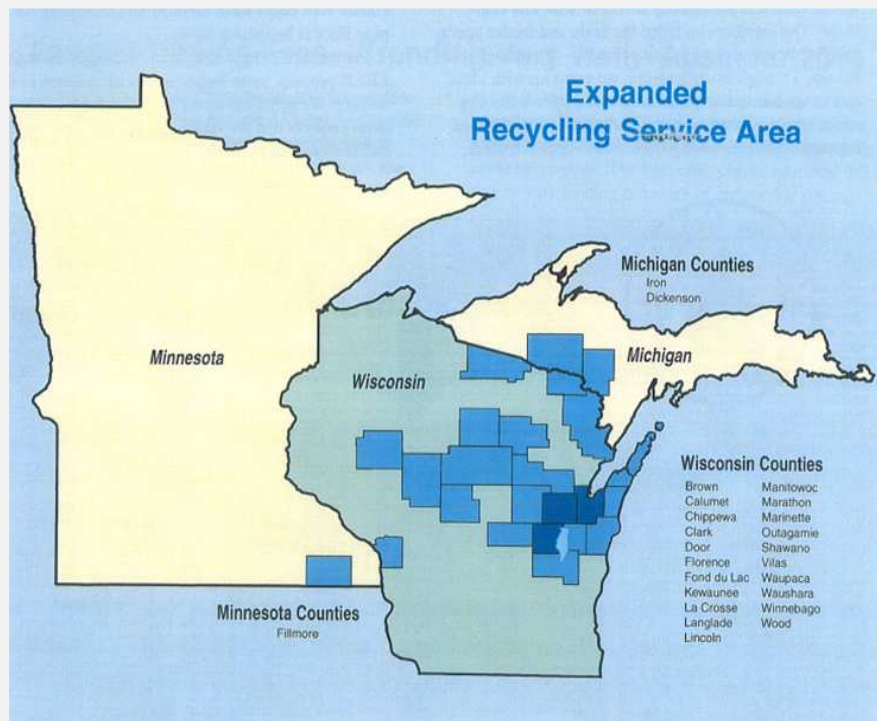
When the Tri-County Single-Stream Recycling Center opened in July 2009, the service area was limited to the three BOW counties, Brown, Outagamie and Winnebago, which served 65 communities and more than 200,000 households. Through the years we have steadily increased our service area and tonnages. During 2010, our first full year of operation, we processed 46,000 tons of recyclables. In 2012 we processed nearly 68,000 tons, which was a 48% increase in just two years. Additional customers enabled us to process over 80,000 tons of recyclables in 2013.

Much of the increase in tonnage has come from serving a much larger geographic area throughout and beyond Wisconsin. We have received recycling material from as far away as western Wisconsin and eastern Minnesota as well as northern Wisconsin and Upper Michigan. The map below shows our significantly enlarged service area, including Wisconsin counties beyond our Tri-County BOW partnership.

Increasing our business service area has allowed us to fully utilize our capital investment in the recycling center by implementing a full-time second shift. For the two shifts of operation, we employ a total of nearly 60 people in the mission of recycling.

With this Tri-County recycling expansion, the three counties continue to create jobs, supply local businesses with quality materials, and save resources and landfill space which in turn keeps us financially strong.

Source: Outagamie County Department of Solid Waste



WIRMC Conference in Green Bay, WI

For the last 14 years AROW, WCSWMA, and SWANA have jointly hosted the statewide conference. This partnership has allowed professionals from all aspects of the solid waste & recycling industry to collaborate and learn from one another. This year the conference will take place at the KI Center in Green Bay, WI February 26-28, 2014 including a tour of Landfill Reduction and Recycling, Inc. and the Tri-County Single Stream Materials Recycling Facility. Dr. Susan Hedman will be the opening keynote explaining the top 10 reasons the EPA appreciates the Materials Management Industry. Jeff Alt will close the conference by sharing his inspiring story of how he lived on the Appalachian Trail for 147 days.

Wisconsin Integrated Resource Management Conference



WIRMC

AROW
ASSOCIATED RECYCLERS OF WISCONSIN

SWANA
Wisconsin Solid Waste Chapter
Solid Waste Association of North America

WCSWMA
WI Counties Solid Waste Management Association

Did You Know?

- ☛ It takes 80-100 years for an aluminum can to decompose (break down) in a landfill.
- ☛ Glass takes over 1,000,000 (one million) years to decompose in a landfill.
- ☛ It can take up to 700 years for plastic to decompose (break down) in a landfill.



Lean Project Improves Recycling Efficiency

Employees from Brown, Outagamie and Winnebago (BOW) Counties are always looking for ways to become more efficient and effective in our business through LEAN government initiatives.

One LEAN project we have been working on involves the Tri-County single stream recycling center that is operated by Outagamie County. During the initial years of operation and with current tonnages increasing, managing the tipping floor where trucks unload recyclables is particularly challenging. One of the biggest challenges is managing the amount of single stream recyclables on the tipping floor. An inconsistent amount of material on the floor negatively affects production, increases stress and frustration, and causes long wait times for the haulers. Our goal is to minimize the incoming material fluctuations which will in turn help with consistency of the daily operations.

To accomplish this task BOW employees assembled a LEAN team whose members were directly involved with this challenge. The members included the scale and loader operators, haulers and BOW staff. Through brainstorming, the team members came up with ideas and created an action plan on how to improve the fluctuating amount of inbound material. We are currently in the implementation phase of the project and are seeing tremendous improvements. Hauler wait times have dropped and managing the tipping floor is becoming easier.

As we tackle these and other challenges through the LEAN process, more improvement ideas come to the surface. We pride ourselves in the continuous improvement projects that are underway and will continue to tackle them one at a time.



Three largest haulers have reduced total time to unload recyclables.

**BROWN COUNTY
PORT & RESOURCE
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Resource Recovery Associate
- **Matt Cowell**
Resource Recovery Associate
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Resource Recovery Associate
- **Karl Schuldes**
Resource Recovery Associate
- **Alex Ray**
Resource Recovery Associate



Follow Brown
County
Recycling

Now Accepting Credit Cards

We are now accepting online payments for bills received from Port & Resource Recovery. You may go to the Resource Recovery website at www.BrownCountyRecycling.org and click "pay bill online". There is an added fee of 2.5% or a minimum of \$2.00. If you would like to receive your invoice emailed instead of in the mail, please contact Sheri at (920) 492-4951 or McAllister_ST@co.brown.wi.us.



Farewell to Phil Stecker - Director, Outagamie County Department of Solid Waste

After 13 years of public service and 29 years in the private sector, Phil Stecker retired from Outagamie County in February 2014. Phil states, "I appreciated the opportunity given me to lead the Department of Solid Waste through complicated transitions spanning one-third the time that our countrywide solid waste program existed. Through each and every transition, you have been loyal partners. I'm extremely proud to have worked with our excellent staff and with all of you. By working as a team, we achieved great success benefiting 32 municipalities and hundreds of businesses."

In an open letter to his staff and colleagues, Phil noted that "The BOW (Brown, Outagamie and Winnebago) Tri-County partnership is known statewide as a model for better government, joining together 65 local units of government in a common mission. The landfill and recycling facilities serve over 10% of the State of Wisconsin and the regional recycling center is widely recognized nationally and internationally. At this very moment, the City of Milwaukee and Waukesha County are trying to replicate the success of the BOW's recycling center."

Master Composter Training

From UW Extension

UW-Extension Solid & Hazardous Waste Education Center (SHWEC) and Brown County UW-Extension are pleased to offer the Master Composter (MC) program. The Instructor Workshop will take place Saturday, March 22, and at the Ag & Extension Service Center, 1150 Bellevue St., Green Bay. The workshop will begin at 9 AM and last until 3 PM. There will be a half hour lunch break, so please bring a bag lunch and beverage.

SHWEC provides Master Composter Certification to individuals who want to share their knowledge of home composting with others. The goal of the Master Composter program is to empower local composters to organize and teach home composting workshops and offer compost demonstrations in their communities.

Home composting enables a resident to recycle leaves, grass clippings, garden debris, and food waste into a valuable compost product that improves soil health when applied to gardens and lawns. Managing these materials in the backyard also reduces the cost for a community to collect and manage these materials.

UW-Extension, in partnership with Brown County Resource Recovery, are selling compost bins for \$50 which includes a recipe book. The bin measures approximately 3 feet wide by 3 feet tall and holds 13 cubic feet of material.

MASTER COMPOSTER TRAINING



Saturday,
March 22, 2014
9 AM – 3 PM

Ag & Extension Service Ctr.
1150 Bellevue St.
Green Bay, WI

Cost of Workshop:
\$35