



VOLUME 8, ISSUE 3  
SUMMER 2018

## 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.”*

**Editor:**  
**Patti Cole**

**Contributors:**  
**Mark Walter**  
**Patti Cole**

## INSIDE THIS ISSUE:

|                                 |   |
|---------------------------------|---|
| Road-E-O                        | 2 |
| What Do I Do With?              | 3 |
| Customer Appreciation Days      | 3 |
| Fire Prevention at Brown County | 4 |

# The Waste Not

## Global Recycling Markets

Can a new recycling restriction in China affect recycling in Brown County, Wisconsin? The answer is yes. Recycling takes place in a global market, and what happens across the ocean does affect us right here in Wisconsin.

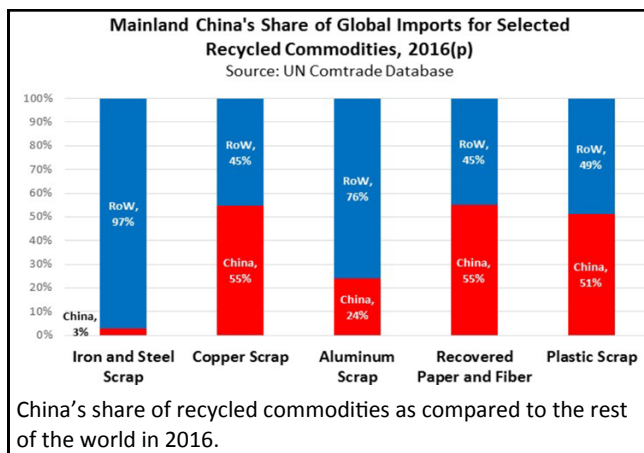
The United States is part of a global recycling industry that in 2016 exported 37 million tons of materials worth \$17.9 billion worldwide. By the end of that year, 60% of all the paper and plastic in the world were being recycled by China. Many American recycling systems were shipping a large percentage of their recyclable material to China. In

2016, the exports that the U.S. sent to China alone were worth \$5.6 billion. U.S.-China trade in recyclables took off in part because Chinese factories were willing to work with dirty materials with a high proportion of garbage in the mix. As time went on, many recycling systems did not feel the need to communicate to customers effectively about what was and was not recyclable or bother sorting out non-recyclables. Some made recycling “convenient” by accepting just about anything. The upshot was that some “recyclables” exported to China were so contaminated they were essentially trash. However, China is facing severe environmental issues and dramatic growth and its Ministry of Environmental Protection has established goals to improve water, soil and air quality. China banned the import of all but the most pure recyclables under a policy known as “National Sword.”

Under this policy, as of January 1, 2018, China banned 24 categories of recyclable materials including post-consumer plastics and mixed paper and set a new contamination standard that has effectively stopped the importation of recyclables. In anticipation of this change, many countries, including the U.S., began sending material to other major scrap paper and plastic scraps destinations including Indonesia, Vietnam, Thailand, and Malaysia. These southeast Asian countries rapidly became flooded with scrap materials and have now stopped accepting them as they catch up with an oversupply of material.

Additionally, the Chinese import ban has now affected the price we receive for the material that we sort. Programs which previously sent their recyclables to China are now looking to sell them in North America which is creating oversupply and driving down the value of most recyclables. Some communities especially on the West Coast have stopped collecting and sorting certain types of paper and plastic because they can no longer get rid of what they collect.

**This does not mean that we should stop recycling!** Recycling is good for everyone. It helps our environment and it helps our economy. It saves energy, prevents pol-



## Global Recycling Markets (cont.)

lution and conserves resources as well as creating jobs. State law requires that every Wisconsin community recycle paper, cans and bottles. Simple guidelines for all recycling programs include:

- **Rinse Your Recyclables** (and empty them too!). Food residue and liquids in bottles can cause problems with the sorting equipment, as well as have impacts on other materials like paper and glass. A quick rinse is all that is required.
- **Cut the Cups.** Single use cups such as paper and foam cups are not recyclable in the vast majority of programs. This is also true for paper plates and Styrofoam to-go containers.
- **Don't Be Flexible.** Flexible packaging, such as sandwich bags, frozen food bags, toothpaste tubes, food pouches, zip pouches, and others are not accepted in curbside or drop off programs in our area. Many local stores collect plastic bags and wraps. For guidelines and a list of stores in your area check [www.plasticfilmrecycling.org](http://www.plasticfilmrecycling.org).



Thanks to our location and the quality of our material, the Tri-County Recycling system produces material that factories seek out and pay a premium for. With the new strict contamination restrictions on recycling loads, we need to make sure that we are not putting non-recyclables in our recycling bins. Relying on the sorting process to remove 100 percent

of those items is not effective; and even if it was, it's very time-consuming and expensive. The better solution is to **Recycle Right** instead of recycling wishfully.



So how do you **Recycle Right**? Basically, it comes down to this: If you're not sure if something is recyclable, **do not try to recycle it.** Only recycle the materials we list in our recycling guide and on our website [www.BrownCountyRecycling.org](http://www.BrownCountyRecycling.org).



This means keeping **plastic bags, rope, hoses, clothing and sharps out of the recycling** you put into your

bins. These are the items that cause the greatest problems, and create hazards for the people doing the sorting as well as causing maintenance and breakdown issues with our machinery. Leaving non-recyclables out of your recycling bin keeps the value of the recycled products high.

**Recycling Right** is how you can make a difference in this global market of recycling.


2018 Road-E-O


**Test Your Equipment Skills Against the Best Operators in the State**

**Join the SWANA Badger Chapter for its first ever Road-E-O!**

**Three equipment courses highlighting  
Bulldozers, Front Loaders, and Collection Trucks.  
Cash prizes for the winners!**

**Calling all Wisconsin Solid Waste and Recycling Operators & Haulers**  
Saturday, October 6th  
10:00am to 6:00pm  
Outagamie County Landfill, Appleton, WI  
\$40/participant / Pre-registration required  
Limited to 75 participants

**Go to [www.swana-wi.org/roadeo](http://www.swana-wi.org/roadeo) for details and to register.**

# Options for Resource Recovery

Not sure what to do with your waste? The Brown County Resource Recovery Department handles solid waste of three types:

- hazardous materials,
- recycling, and
- refuse.

The **Hazardous Material Recovery Facility** accepts materials that pose a threat to human health and the environment. Hazardous materials are flammable, poisonous, corrosive or reactive. Electronics and small appliances are also accepted. This is where lithium-ion batteries should be brought.

The **Recycling Transfer Station** accepts recyclable material from curbside and commercial recycling collections.

The **Waste Transfer Station** accepts residential, commercial, and industrial solid waste as well as construction and demolition waste.

Want to find out how to dispose of your waste materials or whether something can be recycled or reused? Visit [www.BrownCountyRecycling.org](http://www.BrownCountyRecycling.org) for more information.

Check the "[What Do I Do With?](#)" page and click on the images for disposal information.

## What Do I Do With?

Click on any image below for disposal information. Don't see what you're looking for? [Contact us](#) and we will answer your disposal question.



## Customer Appreciation Days

**All customers are invited!**

Waste Transfer Station - 3734 W. Mason St.

Tuesday, **September 18, 2018**

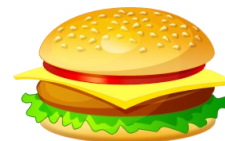
10:00 am - 2:00 pm

Recycling Transfer Station - 2561 S. Broadway

Wednesday, **September 19, 2018**

10:00 am—2:00 pm

**We appreciate your business! Thank you!**





## Fire Prevention at Brown County Facilities

A massive fire that broke out at a recycling facility in southeastern Wisconsin prompted a review of fire prevention and response procedures at Brown County's Resource Recovery Facilities.

To minimize the risk of fire, it's necessary to secure possible sources of ignition, put operational best practices into place, maintain existing automated suppression systems regularly, develop an action plan should a disaster occur, and invite local fire departments and first responders to prepare risk assessments and implement training exercises at the site.

On August 8, members of the Ashwaubenon Department of Public Safety were invited to do a walk-through of the Resource Recovery Facilities. Touring the recycling and hazardous waste facilities served as a training drill for the first responders and for the facility staff. Not only did the responders become familiar with the layout of the building and the location of various hazardous materials, they also shared information and best practices from experiences with fires. As a result of the maneuver, improvements were made to the emergency procedures and policies.



The consequences of a fire in any facility can be injury or loss of life, loss or damage to buildings, equipment and valuable recyclable materials, disruption of operations, and expenses due to downtime and reconstruction. Combining these strategies of education, prevention, and mitigation can prevent a disaster from occurring.

**Follow Us**—on Facebook, Twitter and Pinterest!

We post information several times a week.

If you want to learn more about a resource recovery topic let us know! We would love to hear from you. Email us your idea and we'll post it online or include it in our next newsletter: [bc\\_resource\\_recovery@co.brown.wi.us](mailto:bc_resource_recovery@co.brown.wi.us)



### Brown County Port & Resource Recovery Department

#### Recycling Transfer Station

Hazardous Materials Recovery Facility  
2561 S. Broadway | Green Bay, WI 54304

#### Waste Transfer Station

3734 W. Mason | Green Bay, WI 54155

Phone: 920-492-4950 Fax: 920-492-4957

E-mail: [bc\\_resource\\_recovery@co.brown.wi.us](mailto:bc_resource_recovery@co.brown.wi.us)

Website: [www.BrownCountyRecycling.org](http://www.BrownCountyRecycling.org)

### Department Contacts

Dean Haen, Director

Chad Doverspike, Operations Manager

Mark Walter, Business Development Manager

Chris Blan, Resource Recovery Technician

Ben Hintz, Resource Recovery Technician

Sheri McAllister, Account Clerk

Patti Cole, Clerk /Typist II

