



VOLUME 9, ISSUE 4
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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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BROWN COUNTY PORT & RESOURCE RECOVERY DEPARTMENT

The Waste Not

Waste Transfer Station Changes

Construction at the Brown County Waste Transfer Station is complete making it easier and safer for both the public and account customers to access. Projects that began in the summer have been completed, allowing more vehicles to drop off items at the same time.

New improvements made to the Waste Transfer Station include:

- Addition of a second scale
- Shift of the semi return lane to accommodate the second scale lane
- Remodel of the scale house to provide better sightlines for staff
- Installation of overhead signs
- Addition of semi-automated kiosks to both scale lanes to allow for convenient payment via credit card or account

"Adding a second scale has helped divert account customers' trucks with routine, large loads away from the first scale lane, which helps customers with small loads safely get off the highway faster," said Chad Doverspike, Operations Manager at Brown County Port & Resource Recovery. Residents should be

aware that the first scale lane is still the lane designated for them, while the new, second lane is designated for account customers. "To move cars through as safely and efficiently as possible, we ask residents to use the zipper method to get into the first scale lane, as there are two entrance lanes that merge into one," added Doverspike.

In addition to these new improvements, the Resource Recovery department would like to remind its customers that there will be some minor policy changes for the Waste Transfer Station in 2020:

- Starting January 1st, 2020, Brown County will no longer accept dirty shingles for recycling. Dirty shingles will be accepted at the Transfer Station at gate rate pricing. Clean shingles will still be accepted for recycling at the rate of \$16/ton.
- Brown County will initiate a \$25/frozen box load dig out fee. The fee will be added to your monthly invoice.
- Reminder that all loads coming to the Waste Transfer Station must be tarped.
- By January 1st, 2020 all account customers must receive Transfer Station tickets electronically rather than paper copy at the scale.



County Food Waste Program Ditching all Plastic Bags

In light of recent research about compostable products as well as issues with plastic contamination, Sanimax, the company we work with to collect food waste, and our compost partner at the University of Wisconsin-Oshkosh will no longer accept any compostable plastic products (including compostable plastic bags) in our food waste program.



Compost facilities are finding that many types of compostable plastic products are not breaking down completely in the composting process. Current research indicates that these types of products are leaving varying amounts of chemical by-products in the compost which can have a detrimental effect on the soil and plants where the compost is used.

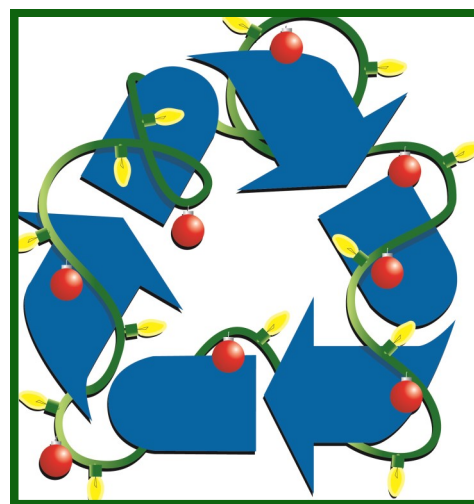
As of September 15, Brown County stopped accepting material in compostable plastic bags at our Food Waste Drop-off location. Residents can still bring material in paper bags or empty their containers into the food waste dumpster.

Recycle Right this Holiday Season

According to a study by the website Use Less Stuff, between Thanksgiving and New Year's Day 2018, the amount of trash generated in the U.S. increased by 25% over the previous ten months! This excess waste comes from online shopping, left over wrapping paper, unwanted gifts and even cooking too much food. From planning your holiday meal to finding the perfect gift, use these tips to make your holiday season more environmentally-friendly:

Food & Entertaining: Many of us look forward to eating our favorite home-cooked food during the holidays, however, food waste is a big factor in the amount of waste created. An easy way to offset food waste for the holidays is to plan. Write out your menus and then make a shopping list reflecting only what you need. While grocery shopping for your meal, fight the urge to buy more than necessary. It's common for people to buy more than the recipe calls for to be "on the safe side."

The Leftover Debate: Do you want leftovers or not? If you only buy what you need, you won't have any left-over ingredients that could later end up in your trash. If you aren't sure how much to make, there are helpful, free, online tools you can use. [Save The Food's](#) online calculator the Guest-imator can help you figure out the right amount of food to make for the number of guests you're having, so you can prevent food waste.



Credit: pennwaste.com

If you love leftovers, think ahead as to which meals can be repurposed. For example, turkey is great for cold turkey sandwiches or turned into enchiladas or turkey tetrazzini. The Internet is packed with recipes to consider. Also, think about home the extras with your guests. Singles and families alike usually

Recycle Right this Holiday Season cont.
appreciate the extra meal.

Decorating: Buy decorations that are meant to last instead of trendy or disposable decorations. The same is true when it comes to place settings and serving platters. While it may be more of a hassle to use plates and silverware with cloth napkins, paper plates and napkins can't be recycled.

Shopping & Wrapping: Buying gifts can be tricky if you are not sure what someone wants, so don't be afraid to ask for ideas. Give the gift of sustainability with DIY gifts, reusable totes, straws or cups. Many people love receiving homemade food gifts of jam, pickles, etc.

Also, be creative with the way you wrap your gifts. If you shop online, reuse the boxes as gift boxes. Brown packing paper is great for gift wrap. There are so many creative and unique ways to wrap gifts. Take stock of the items you have at home or even in your recycling bin to see what could be converted into a gift box. The bottom line to all of this is that you want to feel good about the holiday season. You'll feel even better knowing you recycled right!

Don't Rely on Recycling Number on Plastics

Certainly you've all seen them before: the little numbers imprinted onto the bottom of plastic containers. They feature a number one through seven, in a variety of sizes, with a chasing arrows triangle surrounding the number. One of the most frequently asked questions we get at Brown County Resource Recovery is, "What does each number mean? Which numbers mean the item is recyclable?"

Unfortunately, the numbers, called "resin identification codes",-aren't a clear indication of whether the item is recyclable and only classifies the *type* of plastic resin the product was made from. The presence of a number doesn't necessarily mean that plastic is recyclable; in fact, many plastic types aren't recyclable and recycling capabilities vary from community to community. The resin code simply allows recycling plants to classify plastics to help know how to process the materials.



*Example of a How2Recycle label on a toothpaste package.
Credit: packagingdigest.com*

The good news is that the system is already changing to a much more user-friendly version. A new, more easily understandable labelling system called How2Recycle has been developed. These labels spell out if an item can or cannot be recycled, when to check with your local recycler and when to take the item to a retail drop-off location as well as how to prep the item for recycling.

For items that aren't using this new labelling system, you still shouldn't worry about trying to figure out the recycling numbers on plastic. As we like to say, "When in doubt, throw it out." Hoping that a plastic is recyclable doesn't mean that it will get recycled, in fact, it increases costs to have that item removed

Don't Rely on Recycling Number on Plastics cont.
from the recyclables.

The best thing you can do is to look to your local community's resources. If you're a resident of Brown County, you can visit the Brown County Resource Recovery website at browncountyrecycling.org. Once there, click on "What Do I Do With?" for a list of recycling instructions for various items. Wondering about an item that's not on the list? Send us an email at BC_Resource_Recover@browncountywi.gov.

2019-2020 Holiday Hours

Brown County Port & Resource Recovery Department									
Holiday Hours 2018 - 2019									
	NOVEMBER 2018			DECEMBER 2018				JANUARY 2019	
	Thu 11/22	Fri 11/23	Sat 11/24	Mon 12/24	Tues 12/25	Sat 12/29	Mon 12/31	Tues 1/1	Sat 1/5
General Offices 2561 S. Broadway	Closed	Closed	Closed	Closed	Closed	Closed	Closed	Closed	Closed
RECYCLING Transfer Station 2561 S. Broadway	Closed	Open 7:30-4:00	Open 8:00-2:00	Open 7:30-2:00	Closed	Open 8:00-2:00	Open 7:30-2:00	Closed	Open 8:00-2:00
SOLID WASTE Transfer Station 3734 W. Mason	Closed	Open 7:00-4:00	Open 7:30-2:00	Open 7:00-2:00	Closed	Open 7:30-2:00	Open 7:00-2:00	Closed	Open 7:30-2:00
HOUSEHOLD HAZARDOUS WASTE 2561 S. Broadway	Closed	Closed	Closed	Closed	Closed	Closed	Closed	Closed	Open 8:00-2:00

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.

Brown County Port & Resource Recovery Department

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