



**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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Recycling & Solid Waste Issues in Brown County

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Brown County Food Waste & Organics Drop-Off Program

The **Brown County Food Waste & Organics Drop-off Program** is now ready to take your food scraps and other organic waste. The drop-off program is part of an initiative that allows residents of Brown County to bring compostable organic waste like coffee grounds, fruit peels and pizza boxes to one of two county organic food waste drop-off sites. Food waste makes up nearly 25 percent of the waste stream so any time we can divert compostable materials from ending up in our landfills it is good for everyone.

All you need to get started is a bin to collect your food waste at home. A guide for home set-up is available on our website that explains how to collect your food waste and other organic material. It has suggestions for types and locations of containers as well as labels to help you identify which bin to put your material in.



For more information go to: www.browncountyrecycling.org/food-wasteorganics.

Some of the questions that are frequently asked about the program include:

How often can I drop off food waste & organics from my home?

You can drop off food waste as often as you need during site hours. We recommend you drop off at least once per week to minimize the potential for odors and the breakdown of your compostable bags.

How many bags of food waste from my home can I bring in?

There is no limit on the number of bags of food waste for recycling brought from your home. You may also arrange to bring in bags for your neighbors as well. Please note that food waste from businesses is not accepted at Brown County Organic Food Waste Drop-Off sites.



How long can I store food waste in a compostable bag?

Compostable bags are designed to break down over time under certain conditions, so it is recommended not to store food waste in a compostable bag for more than one week.

How are the food waste & organic materials recycled?

The material collected is being taken to an anaerobic digester at the University of Wisconsin Oshkosh. The anaerobic digester system produces lots of valuable compost, but it is also designed to capture all of the methane (biogas) that is generated during the digestion process. The biogas is then used to power a generator to produce electricity. For more information about UW Oshkosh's digester please visit their website: <http://www.uwosh.edu/biodigester>.

What are the benefits of recycling food waste & organics?

The benefits include keeping waste out of landfills, potentially saving money on your trash bill, and turning a waste into a resource. The organic materials we discard are rich in nutrients that are too good to waste. Diverting organics to a compost system and turning the material back

Brown County Food Waste & Organics Drop-Off Program

into soil as nature intended is one goal of our program. We can also use organics to generate renewable energy if we use an anaerobic digestion system



Will this smell and attract pests?

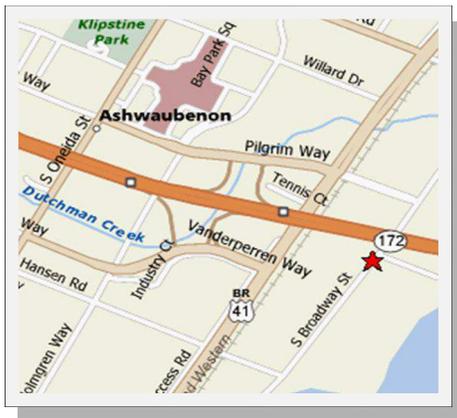
Food waste & organics will smell the same as your household trash. Remember, it is the same waste you have now, just separated into containers. To minimize odors, remember to include food-soiled paper products or line your container with a paper bag to absorb liquid from food waste, line your container with a compostable plastic bag to contain liquid, empty your container frequently and rinse it out occasionally. Keep full bags in areas that are enclosed and not accessible to pets or wild animals.

Can I put yard waste in with my food waste & organics?

No, yard waste must be managed such as leaves, grass, garden plants, and brush (trees and shrubs) in the appropriate pile at a local Yard Waste site. Soft plant materials are accepted.

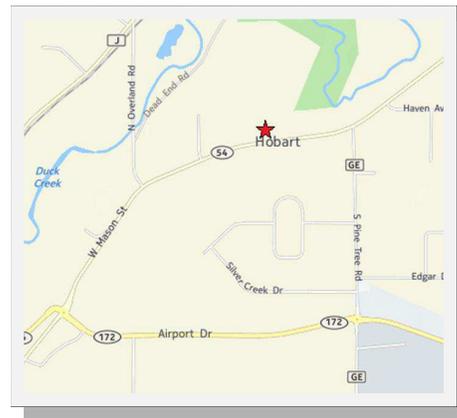
Where can I bring my food waste & organics?

We currently have two food waste drop-off sites that allow us to keep track of the type of material being dropped off and the frequency of use:



Recycling Transfer Station

Mon-Wed 7:30 am to 4:00 pm
Thu 7:30 am to 6:00 pm
Fri 7:30 am to 4:00 pm
Sat 8:00 am to 2:00 pm



Solid Waste Transfer Station

Mon-Fri 7:30 am to 4:00 pm
Sat 7:30 am to Noon

Why can't I put my food waste & organics out on the curb for recycling?

This may be an option in the future as food waste recycling markets develop, but for now, food waste & organics for recycling must be dropped off at one of Brown County's Food Waste & Organics drop-off sites.

Please note that we are not accepting organics from businesses at this time.

We are asking that participants register to help us track how many people are using the drop-off sites so that we can make sure we have enough scheduled pick-ups to accommodate everyone's materials. It also allows us to share important updates and information with participants and helps ensure we keep our collected organics - and the resulting compost - free of contamination.

Download and fill out the registration form at www.BrownCountyRecycling.org and email or send it to the Brown County Resource Recovery office (BC_Resource_Recovery@co.brown.wi.us or 2561 S. Broadway, Green Bay, WI 54304).

A Holiday Gift to Your Trash Can... Now You Can Recycle More!

By Jennifer Semrau, Recycling Specialist at Winnebago County Solid Waste

If there is one question asked of recycling officials more than any other, it is: "why can't I recycle more plastics?" The good news is, now you can recycle many more plastics...and cartons too effective **December 1st!** And just in time for the holiday season!

The Tri-County (Brown, Outagamie and Winnebago County) Single Stream Recycling Facility, in Appleton, Wisconsin, has expanded its processing capabilities to add new materials. This expansion was made possible by the regional growth of the facility, from accepting approximately 52,000 tons of recyclables in 2011 to over 82,000 tons in 2013. The Facility now serves haulers and municipalities from all over the greater Northeast Wisconsin region and beyond. With that growth has come more efficient use of the original capital investment and greater economies of scale necessary to invest in additional sorting and baling equipment for added materials.

Another important factor considered by the Tri-County Recycling Facility was available commodity markets and long-term viability to recycle additional items. Reliable, domestic markets were required in order for the Tri-County Recycling Facility to increase recyclable recovery. Thankfully, strong markets for additional plastics and cartons are expanding.

So what NEW items can you recycle?

- Cartons (milk, juice, soup, wine, etc.)
- Dairy containers (yogurt, sour cream, margarine, cottage cheese, etc.)
- Produce, bakery and deli containers (berry, donut, potato salad, etc.)
- Lids from above containers

The above list joins the materials you should already be recycling. As a refresher, you should also recycle:

- Newspapers, inserts, magazines, junk mail and catalogs
- Cardboard and paperboard packaging (food boxes, soda boxes, etc. broken down)
- Office, writing and school paper and envelopes
- Phonebooks, other soft and hard cover books
- Paper bags, towel/toilet paper cores, paper egg cartons
- Shredded paper placed in a paper bag, stapled shut
- Glass food and beverage bottles and jars (all colors)
- Aluminum, steel, tin, bi-metal bottles and cans (including empty aerosol cans)
- Plastic beverage and household bottles and jugs

Whether a newly accepted material or one you've been recycling for years, always remember to empty and rinse your containers. Also, place recyclables in your curbside collection cart or bin loosely. Plastic bags can damage sorting equipment and cause significant maintenance issues. Recycle plastic bags at participating retail locations.

Equipment installation and construction was completed this fall, with the official announcement just in time for the holiday season. The Tri-County Recycling Facility welcomes tours of the Facility and encourages groups ranging from children to senior citizens to learn more about the recycling program. Tours can be scheduled by calling (920) 832-5277. If you are uncertain whether your recyclables come to the Tri-County Recycling Facility, please contact your recycling hauler or municipal office. You can visit www.RecycleMoreTriCounty.org for more information. 'Tis the season to recycle more, landfill less. Happy Recycling!

Brown • Outagamie • Winnebago Counties

recycle!

December 1, 2014

Newly Accepted Recyclables:

Cartons & All Plastic Containers

Cartons:
Milk • Soy Milk
Juice • Cream
Egg Substitutes
Broth • Soup
Wine • Etc.

Dairy Containers:
Yogurt • Margarine
Cottage Cheese
Sour Cream
Etc.

Produce, Bakery & Deli Containers:
Berry • Donut
Potato Salad
Dips • Etc.

www.RecycleMoreTriCounty.org

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Recycling Christmas Lights



Do you remember when one burned-out light bulb rendered an entire string of Christmas lights virtually useless? Thankfully, that frustration has been remedied by light manufacturers, and burned-out bulbs are now easily identified and replaced. Yet Americans still waste several million pounds of Christmas and other holiday lights each year.

Fortunately, the value of worn-out strings of lights and extension cords is gaining recognition. There is growing interest in the possibility of recycling them, rather than throwing them in the landfill. As awareness of this possibility increases, more and more people want to know where they can recycle their lights and cords.

If you would like to donate your lights, the Green Bay Habitat for Humanity ReStore collects old lights. Call them at (920) 338-1650 or www.restoregb.org

Many local scrap metal businesses collect strings of lights and cords year-round, and usually pay a small price per pound of them.

Some hardware stores, the Home Depot and Menards offer recycling drop-off programs during the holidays. The Home Depot collects for two weeks in the early part of November (November 6th to November 16th). Menards collects November 1st to January 11th.

A final option is to drop off your worn-out holiday lights to one of several local collection drives that take place during the holiday season. The lights collected at these drives are sold to scrap metal dealers and the proceeds are donated to local school groups.

DID YOU KNOW?

Landfill contribution from throwing away holiday lights can pose a threat to wildlife, as they can choke or get strangled by the strands of lights. Plus, it takes anywhere from 100 to 1000 years for holiday lights to decompose.



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