



The Waste Not

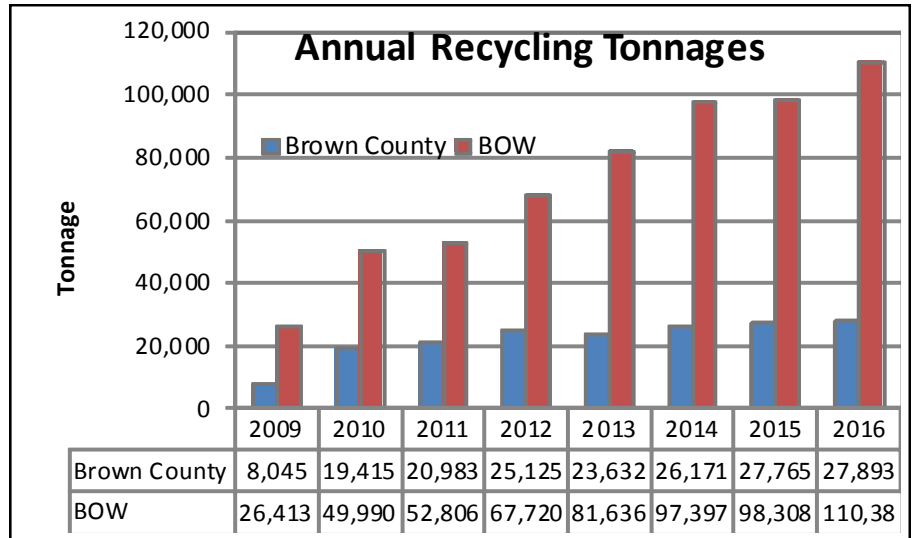
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OUR VISION

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

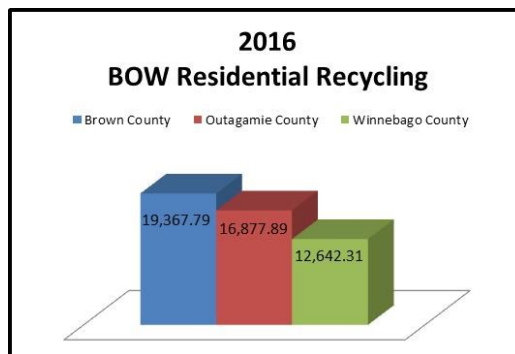
Recycling Statistics

Since its inception, the Tri-County recycling partnership has increased the amount of material brought in for recycling each year. In 2016, the partnership once again surpassed its prior year



recycling tonnage, processing over 110,000 tons, an increase of nearly 14,000 tons. This is due to the joint efforts of Brown, Outagamie and Winnebago (BOW) Counties to bring in additional customers from outside the BOW.

The Tri-County Material Recovery Facility (MRF) is the largest publicly owned and operated MRF in the United States. The facility is jointly owned by Brown, Outagamie and Winnebago Counties, and serves the three counties as well as much of northeast Wisconsin including all of Calumet, Door, Shawano and Waupaca Counties. Material from portions of at least ten other Wisconsin counties is processed by the Tri-County MRF.



The increase in recycling tonnage is also due to efforts in each county to educate and outreach to our residents. Brown County residents have increased the amount of material recycled nearly every year since 2009 when the county switched to a single stream recycling system. While the increase in 2016 was small at just 127 tons it still shows that our residents are

doing the right thing by recycling more.

In addition to curbside recycling, the Brown County Resource Recovery Department offers other methods to divert waste from landfills. These include recycling the following; electronics, batteries, light bulbs, paint, wood waste, shingles and construction & demolition waste, along with food waste. Visit our website at www.browncountyrecycling.org for more information.

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‘Household Hazardous Waste Facility’ Is No Longer

By Chris Blan, Resource Recovery Technician

As of January 1, 2017, the *Brown County Household Hazardous Waste Facility* has changed its name to the **Brown County Hazardous Material Recovery Facility**. The name was changed to better reflect the evolving functions of the facility.

The terms ‘Household Hazardous Waste’ have been replaced with ‘Hazardous Material Recovery’. While this change may seem minor, it is actually significant. The word ‘Household’ has been removed to better represent how our hazardous material facility now functions as more than a residential drop-off facility. Originally, the facility was constructed to accept hazardous materials only from Brown County households. Over the last 20 years, the facility has grown to accept material from more than just households - now providing services to other customers including businesses that qualify as Very Small Quantity Generators (VSQGs), neighboring counties and hobbyists.

The term ‘Hazardous Waste’ is just one specific category of ‘Hazardous Material,’ just as chocolate chip is just one category of cookie. Hazardous wastes, universal wastes and non-regulated wastes – which are all accepted at the facility - are specific categories of the general term, Hazardous Material. So, the change to ‘Hazardous Material’ is a better reflection of all the categories of material accepted.



Finally, the term ‘Recovery’ was added to reflect that the facility emphasizes recycling and reuse over disposal. Historically, discarded items were predominantly viewed as worthless and usually ended up buried in a landfill. In recent years, the emphasis has shifted to view hazardous materials as resources that can be recovered and kept out of landfills. At the Hazardous Material Recovery Facility, approximately 75-80% of the material received gets recycled or recovered – not landfilled. Electronics, batteries, light bulbs, printer cartridges, oil and antifreeze are all recycled. Flammable liquids are used as a fuel alternative at cement kilns. Latex paint is recycled back into usable paint. These are only a handful of examples of how discarded items are being ‘recovered’ at the **Brown County Hazardous Material Recovery Facility**.

Brown County Hazardous Material Recovery Facility – taking material harmful to our environment - generated from our homes and businesses - creating value for our community.



Carton Council

In 2014, with the assistance of the Carton Council, the Tri-County Material Recycling Facility added new equipment in order to be able to accept cartons. Formed in 2009, the Carton Council is an industry organization committed to grow carton recycling in the US. In 2008, the major producers of carton packaging agreed to standardize the process for producing cartons so that they could be uniformly recycled. Through their outreach efforts, over 64 million households (60% of all households) in the United States are able to recycle cartons an increase from only 18% of households prior to 2009.

The Tri-County MRF continued its partnership with the Carton Council by beginning education and outreach efforts with school districts throughout the three counties focused on carton recycling programs. Brown County began its outreach efforts in June 2016 and has begun implementing carton recycling programs in nine elementary, middle and high schools in two school districts in Brown County. This, however, is only the beginning. Brown County plans to partner with every school district in the county over the next year. For many of these schools, the only thing standing in the way of recycling the 1000s of cartons they use, is knowing that they can do it. For the most part, the equipment needed is already in place; it just takes the students knowing that they need to empty their cartons and put them into the recycling bin instead of the garbage bin. Janitorial staff also needs to understand that the proper place to put those cartons is in the recycling dumpster instead of the garbage dumpster.

Each elementary school is estimated to use 20 cartons per student per month. In a 400 student elementary school that is 2,070 pounds of cartons per year! Brown County has 82 elementary, middle and high schools, with more than 44,000 students; this is over 220,000 lbs that could be diverted from the landfill each year!

Staff and students at all of these schools are very excited for this opportunity to protect the environment and natural resources with their recycling efforts!



Did You Know?

Rags that have been contaminated with oil-based paints and stains have potential to spontaneously combust if improperly managed. Properly manage oily rags by laying them flat to dry, away from heat sources—including the sun. Or place in a sealed, labeled, air tight metal or glass container. Brown County residents can bring them to the Hazardous Material Recovery Facility for proper disposal.



Slow Down To Get Around

The solid waste industry is on the list of the top five most dangerous jobs behind logging workers, fishers, aircraft pilots and flight engineers. Those who are at the highest risk in the solid waste industry are refuse and recycling collectors.

In July 2013, Governor Walker passed **Wisconsin Act 39 Slow Down to Get Around** to encourage cautious driving near sanitation trucks. Unfortunately, this has done little to make the job safer. The **Slow Down To Get Around** law is not widely known in Wisconsin even though it was passed almost four years ago.



In 2016, there were four fatalities in Wisconsin in the solid waste industry. There are several ways to help protect refuse and recycling collectors, they include; slowing down and being very cautious when moving around a sanitation truck, placing your bins in the appropriate spot so they do not have to get out to collect your trash and sharing this law with everyone.



Follow Us

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



Email us at bc_resource_recovery@co.brown.wi.us with your idea and we will post it or include it in our next newsletter.



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