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The Waste Not

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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Food Waste Program

Winter is here and home composting piles have been frozen over for a few months now. The Brown County Resource Recovery Department has an option for you if you are still interested in composting your food waste. Join our Food & Organic Waste Drop-Off Program and bring it to one of our locations in the Green Bay area.

Brown County Recycling Transfer Station

2561 S. Broadway, Green Bay, WI 54304
Monday—Wednesday, Friday 7:30 am—4:00 pm
Thursday 7:30 am—6:00 pm
Saturday 8:00 am—2:00 pm

Village of Allouez Yard Waste Site

On Le Brun St. right next to the Village of Allouez Wiese Park
Monday—Friday 8:00 am—2:00 pm

Additional hours can be found on the Village of Allouez Yard Waste website - www.villageofallouez.com/depts/public-works/yard-waste-and-waste-oil-drop-off-site/

The Food Waste Program has made an effort to provide an east and west side dumpsters to its participants. For most of 2016 and 2017, the UW-Extension building provided an easy to-get-to east side location. With the sale of the building and closure of the site in the summer of 2017, the Department spent several months searching for another east side site. Eventually, the village of Allouez agreed to place a food waste & organics dumpster at their yard waste site.



The main gate to the yard waste site is open year round Monday—Friday, 8:00 am—2:00 pm. The organics dumpster sits inside the main gate but outside of the yard waste gate. As you drive into the facility the dumpster will be found on the left hand side right next to a few trees. The Village of Allouez Yard Waste webpage provides the hours for when the second gate is open for yard waste drop-off. These are also additional hours for when the organics dumpster will be available. If you have any questions please call (920) 492-4950 and we will clarify the hours.

If you would like to participate in our Food & Organics Waste Pilot Program please call (920) 492-4950 or visit our website to sign up.

Food waste makes up about 20% of a landfill's composition. Currently, only 5.1% of food is diverted from the landfill (EPA). Visit www.browncountyrecycling.org/fwp-acceptable-material to find out what materials could be diverted.

Hazardous Material Recovery Update

The Brown County Hazardous Material Recovery Facility accepts material that poses a threat to human health and the environment. These materials are flammable, poisonous, corrosive or reactive.

Acceptable materials within these categories include:

- ◆ *Flammable* - oil-based paint, gasoline, paint thinners, solvents
- ◆ *Poisonous/Toxic* - pesticides, some cleaning products
- ◆ *Corrosive* - acids, bases, some cleaning products
- ◆ *Reactive* - pool chemicals, bleach

Other universal material we accept for a charge includes:

Latex (water-based) paint, fluorescent lights, ballasts, computers, electronics, cooking oil, propane tanks, motor oil, antifreeze, and batteries.

We also accept small appliances such as microwaves, dorm or miniature refrigerators, dehumidifiers, or air conditioners.

Some residents are caught by surprise when there is a fee to dispose of certain materials such as televisions, latex paint, batteries, light bulbs, etc. The primary purpose of the Hazardous Material Recovery program is to provide a safe disposal outlet for hazardous materials (chemicals, acids, bases, cleaning products, pesticides, herbicides) from Brown County residents. Disposal outlets for additional materials (electronics, latex paint, batteries, light bulbs) have been developed based on public demand. The Hazardous Material Recovery Facility must pay to get rid of these materials once they are brought in. Since the Brown County Port & Resource Recovery Department is an enterprise fund of the County and does not take tax dollars to support operations, a fee is charged in order to provide these additional disposal options.

Fees at the Hazardous Material Recovery Facility increased in 2018. Universal material such as electronics, latex paint, batteries, light bulbs, antifreeze, cooking oil, fire extinguishers, adhesive, windshield wiper fluid, small corded appliances will now be charged \$0.30/lb. Small Freon-containing appliances will be charged \$15/unit.

Another change to the facility came in August 2017. Staff at the Hazardous Material Recovery Facility will no longer “pour off” gasoline and return gas containers. If you are bringing gasoline or other fluids to the facility it must be brought in a container that can be left. It is likely that another container may be available for replacement.

The Hazardous Material Recovery facility is open for residential drop-off on Thursdays from noon - 6:00 pm and Saturdays from 8:00 am - 2:00 pm.

If you are a business that needs to dispose of hazardous materials you must call (920) 492-4950 to set up an appointment.



Batteries

Batteries seem to run our lives these days. Batteries are in your car, phone, computer, tablet, remote control, GPS, children's toys, camera, just about every electronic device. It takes many types of batteries to run these gadgets. What do you do with your batteries after they stop working? Many batteries are very unsafe to dispose of in your regular garbage. In fact, the only type of battery that is safe to place in your garbage are AA, AAA, C, N, or 9V alkaline batteries. Up until recently, these batteries actually had a larger negative environmental footprint when recycled than if you



were to place them in the garbage. Any other (non-alkaline) type of battery can be very dangerous to dispose of incorrectly; they can cause serious damage to facilities and harm to the environment. Improper disposal of batteries has been the cause of fires in recycling and garbage trucks, on tip floors and at landfills. Recently, a small fire was started on the Brown County Recycling Transfer Station from a computer battery placed in curbside recycling.

All other batteries such as lithium type batteries, rechargeable batteries, mercury batteries, etc., should be recycled with a battery recycler. There are several options for proper disposal of these batteries including Batteries Plus, Call2Recycle.com and the Brown County Hazardous Material Recovery Facility. For hours and location read the article on *Hazardous Material Recovery Update* on page 2.

New Items to Recycle - Pizza boxes and bottle caps.

What is and is not recyclable is not guaranteed for life. End markets that buy recycled material play a large role in deciding whether or not an item can be recycled in a particular area. Many factors come into play including the cost of transportation and if what they are willing to pay will cover the costs of sorting the material.

The recycled paper end markets in our area (Georgia-Pacific, Green Bay Packaging, Fox River Fiber and SCA Mills) have figured out ways to remove grease during the paper recycling process. The good news is that you can now place pizza boxes in your curbside recycling bin, including any grease stained sections. What this means is that we can now accept pizza boxes and other food stained cardboard in curbside recycling; just don't forget to remove any leftover pizza or crusts.



Another change to recycling in our area is the inclusion of bottle caps. There have been two reasons why bottle caps were not accepted for recycling. The first is that removing the bottle cap encourages people to empty their bottles before recycling. If there is liquid in a bottle, the machine that separates recyclable items interprets it different and results in the bottle not getting sorted correctly. The second reason caps weren't accepted was that if caps are separated from the bottle, they will most likely fall and end up mixed into the glass. The best way to recycle bottle caps is to empty the contents of the bottle and replace the cap. The caps themselves can be readily recycled if they stay with the bottle.



2018 Northeast Wisconsin Recycle Guide

The annual *Northeast Wisconsin Recycling Guide* now serves the counties of Calumet, Door, Kewaunee, Oconto, Shawano, as well as, Brown, Outagamie and Winnebago Counties. Each year more and more counties surrounding BOW begin to use the Tri-County recycling facility.

The guide was distributed in the Saturday January 13th Green Bay Press Gazette. If you did not receive a copy of the guide and would like to please contact Brown County at (920) 492-4950 to find out when and where you can pick up your copy. A downloadable copy is available on BrownCountyRecycling.org.

In addition to information on good recycling practices, the *Northeast Wisconsin Recycling Guide* provides information on where to get rid of pharmaceuticals, sharps, yard waste, waste oil, tires, shingles, chemicals, paint, electronics, stains, cleaning products, organic waste and so much more!



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.



Brown County Port & Resource Recovery Department

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