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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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## Social Media Solutions for Decluttering

In today's hyperconnected world, most of us experience a complex relationship with social media. While it's easy to critique the addictive nature of instant gratification from likes and notifications, it's equally important to acknowledge the platform's potential to spark positive change—particularly in how we approach sustainability and conscious living.

Despite the overwhelming flow of information on our screens, social media has proven to be a valuable space for promoting environmental awareness and practical lifestyle shifts. Online communities, such as Facebook groups focused on minimalism or zero-waste living, offer guidance and peer support for individuals looking to reduce their ecological footprint. These groups are ideal starting points for discovering actionable tips from others who share similar goals.

Pinterest serves as another powerful platform, curating a visual library of ideas, information, and aesthetic inspiration. A noteworthy example is the Brown County Resource Recovery Department's Pinterest page (Brown County Recycling), which shares practical advice on the "5 R's"—Refuse, Reduce, Reuse, Repair, Recycle—as well as strategies to minimize food waste and promote a more intentional lifestyle.

On TikTok, trends like "Give me your unhinged hacks" illustrate how communities come together to share crowd-sourced, real-world solutions. These unconventional, often humorous or reflective hacks challenge users to think differently about consumption and clutter. Popular examples include:

"If I were murdered tonight and my crime scene made it into a documentary, how embarrassing would my home look?"

"Swedish Death Cleaning: Do I really want someone else to deal with this after I'm gone?"

"If this item were covered in something disgusting—would I clean it or toss it?"

Such prompts may sound light-hearted or extreme, but they tap into deeper motivations for decluttering and living with less.

Another increasingly popular genre is the "Clean With Me" video trend on TikTok and YouTube. These time-lapse videos, often set to calming music, show individuals tackling messy spaces in real-time. For viewers, these videos provide both a sense of relatability and motivation—reminding us that tidiness and order are achievable, even when life feels overwhelming.

Ultimately, social media is both a reflection of our modern habits and a potential solution to them. While it's easy to get lost in doom-scrolling, these platforms also offer tools and inspiration for living more sustainably, reducing waste, and creating calmer, more intentional environments.



Photo Credit: [www.buzzfeed.com](http://www.buzzfeed.com)

## Preventing Accidents: Disposal of Fireworks, Ammunition, and Flares

After the Fourth of July, you may find yourself with leftover unused fireworks, and with nothing left to celebrate, want to dispose of them. Don't toss them in your regular garbage though! Rather, contact your local fire or county sheriff departments to see how they recommend you dispose of them. Despite its name, the Brown County Hazardous Material Recovery Facility **does not** accept the following items:

- Fireworks
- Flares
- Ammunition

The facility cannot accept these materials due to high disposal cost and regulations, and as these are considered explosive materials when stored and transported for disposal.

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## Master Recyclers Receive Inaugural Awards

The Tri-County Recycling Partnership (Brown, Outagamie, and Winnebago Counties) is celebrating the first graduating class of their Recycle Right Master Class! Six incredible community members are now certified recycling advocates—spreading accurate info and sparking real change across the region.

Here's great feedback from program graduates, Pat and Kay Marsicek. "We created 'Filthy Phil's Nose How to Recycle' as a fun and silly way to help kids learn what belongs in the recycling bin. After graduating from the Recycle Right Master Class and working with the awesome Tri-County Recycling team, we wanted to share what we learned in a way families would remember—and laugh about too! Working with the dedicated staff at Tri-County Recycling has been an incredibly valuable experience. Their knowledge, passion, and commitment to environmental stewardship have helped us better understand the importance of

proper recycling practices. We're grateful for the opportunity to learn from them and excited to share this information with our family, friends, and wider community—helping to create a cleaner, more sustainable future for everyone."



Photo Credit: Winnebago County Solid Waste












## A Common Misconception

Did you know that the chasing arrows symbol with a number on the bottom of your water bottle, detergent container, carton of juice, etc. is called a resin code? This symbol **does not** determine if an item is recyclable. It is a symbol manufacturers use to tell us what kind of plastic the material is.

Why do we mention this? Overwhelmingly, the most asked question that we receive is “Is this recyclable?” The best way to explain and determine if a material is recyclable is to explain the system itself.

1	2	3	4	5	6	7
PETE	HDPE	PVC	LDPE	PP	PS	OTHER
polyethylene terephthalate	high-density polyethylene	polyvinyl chloride	low-density polyethylene	polypropylene	polystyrene	other plastics, including acrylic, polycarbonate, polyactic fibers, nylon, fiberglass
soft drink bottles, mineral water, fruit juice containers and cooking oil	milk jugs, cleaning agents, laundry detergents, bleaching agents, shampoo bottles, washing and shower soaps	trays for sweets, fruit, plastic packing (bubble foil) and food foils to wrap the foodstuff	crushed bottles, shopping bags, highly-resistant sacks and most of the wrappings	furniture, consumers, luggage, toys as well as bumpers, lining and external borders of the cars	toys, hard packing, refrigerator trays, cosmetic bags, costume jewellery, audio cassettes, CD cases, vending cups	an example of one type is a polycarbonate used for CD production and baby feeding bottles
						



**Tri-County Recycling**  
BROWN • OUTAGAMIE • WINNEBAGO

- RECYCLE ITEMS LOOSELY IN YOUR CART – NO PLASTIC BAGS
- EMPTY, RINSE & REPLACE CAPS ON BOTTLES, JARS & CONTAINERS
- FLATTEN CARDBOARD BOXES & CUT TO NO LARGER THAN 2' X 2'

REV. 1/23

### PLASTIC

**Goes In Your Recycling:**

- Household bottles, jars & jugs
- Dairy containers & lids
- Produce, bakery & deli containers & lids

**Does NOT Go In Your Recycling:**

- Plastic bags, wraps & films
- Motor oil bottles
- Styrofoam

### PAPER

**Goes In Your Recycling:**

- Cardboard & paperboard (food boxes)
- Newspapers & inserts
- Office & school paper
- Envelopes, junk mail & catalogs
- Books & magazines
- Milk, juice & soup cartons

**Does NOT Go In Your Recycling:**

- Shredded paper
- Tissue paper
- Pet food bags

### METAL

**Goes In Your Recycling:**

- Aluminum bottles & cans
- Steel & tin cans

**Does NOT Go In Your Recycling:**

- Propane tanks
- Aluminum pans & foil
- Scrap metal, cookware & appliances
- Aerosol cans
- Empty paint cans

### GLASS

**Goes In Your Recycling:**

- Food & beverage bottles & jars

**Does NOT Go In Your Recycling:**

- Mirrors
- Window glass
- Ceramics & china
- Drinking glassware

[WWW.RECYCLEMORETRICOUNTY.ORG](http://WWW.RECYCLEMORETRICOUNTY.ORG)

In 2001, Brown, Outagamie, and Winnebago Counties joined forces to form the Tri-County Regional Partnership. This cooperative agreement paved the way for development of a regional recycling system that would serve municipalities in all three counties. In 2008, the agreement was amended to include the planning, construction, and operation of a new single-stream recycling facility, located in Appleton and operated by Outagamie County. The operation of the Tri-County Recycling Facility began in July of 2009 and today continues to serve residents of Northeast Wisconsin, providing cost-efficient sorting and marketing of recyclable materials that are banned from landfill disposal.

What does this mean for Brown County residents? The materials that you recycle are picked up from your curbside bin by your municipality or contracted hauler and brought to our Recycling Transfer Station in Green Bay. The materials are transferred by truck to the Tri-County Recycling Facility, sorted, baled, and sold to recyclers who will re-manufacture the materials into new products. This means that every city/town/village in each of the three Counties accepts the same materials.

Tri-County Recycling makes it easy to answer that pesky question, “Is this recyclable” by first giving you The Basics (plastic, paper, metal, and glass) on their website homepage and in the Tri-County Recycling Guide (pictured). You can download your own guide or request one from your County. Next, use the Waste Wizard further down the page to search for the item. This will tell you what is accepted because of what the item is, like a dairy container or books. Lastly, for specific items that have a barcode, you can scan these in the BetterBin app and it will tell you exactly what parts are or are not recyclable. You will even earn some points towards gift cards as you do it!

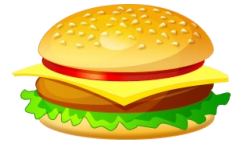
# Have Lunch With Us!

## Customer Appreciation Days 2025

**All customers are invited!**



Waste Transfer Station - 3734 W. Mason St.  
Tuesday, **September 16, 2025**  
10:00 am - 2:00 pm



Recycling Transfer Station - 2561 S. Broadway  
South Landfill - 1258 Mill Road, Greenleaf  
Wednesday, **September 17, 2025**  
11:00 am—2:00 pm



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

### 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.



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.



### Brown County Port & Resource Recovery Department

Recycling & Hazardous Material Recovery Facilities  
2561 S. Broadway | Green Bay, WI 54304

Waste Transfer Station  
3734 W. Mason | Green Bay, WI 54155

South Landfill  
1258 Mill Road | Greenleaf, WI 54126

Phone: 920-492-4950

E-mail: [bc\\_resource\\_recovery@browncountywi.gov](mailto:bc_resource_recovery@browncountywi.gov)  
[www.browncountyrecycling.org](http://www.browncountyrecycling.org)

### Department Contacts

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