



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

Editor:
Samantha Jerome

Contributors:
Chris Blan
Mark Walter

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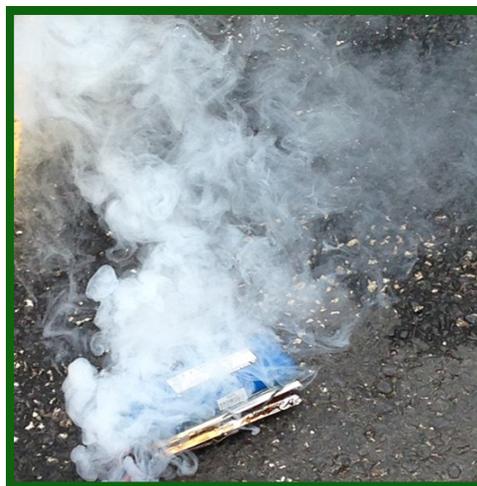
Help Stop Waste Facility Fires

Many RC cars, drones, and personal handheld devices are all powered by a specific type of battery called a lithium polymer battery. Because lithium polymer batteries are pliable, lack a protective outer shell and provide a strong initial surge of energy, they have been involved in, or have been suspected in fires occurring in solid waste management facilities (i.e. route trucks, landfill and recycling transfer stations).

Lithium polymer batteries have a higher risk of going through what is known as “thermal runaway”. Thermal runaway is an uncontrollable build-up of heat within a battery to a point the battery fails - releasing large amounts of energy all at once, catching fire or igniting surrounding material such as paper, chemicals or trash.

To paraphrase Smokey the Bear, **YOU** can prevent battery fires ... and have an *important* role in preventing lithium polymer battery fires at waste facilities! Before throwing out any battery-powered device, toy or powered electronic, remove the batteries from the device and dispose of them properly. It is good

practice to remove batteries from devices that will be stored for long periods of time especially in extremely hot or cold environments.



A damaged lithium polymer battery going through ‘thermal runaway’ at the HMR facility



Good: Straight and flat surfaces Damaged: Swollen or “puffy.”

Damaged batteries will appear swollen or “puffy” and may be hot to the touch. If you come across any damaged rechargeable batteries, especially lithium polymer batteries, place the damaged battery in a metal container that has a metal lid. Fill the metal container with a non-combustible material, like oil dry or cat litter, covering the battery and seal the lid.

All types of batteries, whether damaged or undamaged, can be brought to the Hazardous Material Recovery (HMR) Facility for proper disposal at a small fee.

BC Food Waste Program on Track to Set Record

Participation in the Brown County Food & Organic Waste Program is increasing. The program began five years ago in August, 2014 and has continued to grow. So far this year, we have collected **19,800 lbs** of material (nearly 10 tons!), putting us on track to set a record. In total, the program has diverted more than 80,000 lbs of material from the landfill.

After material is dropped off by our members, it is then hauled to an [anaerobic digester](#) at the University of Wisconsin-Oshkosh. The digester accelerates the composting process as well as captures the methane gas from the decomposition process. The breakdown of this material is used to produce clean energy for the university by converting 10,000 tons of yard and food waste per year to produce approximately eight percent of the University's electrical needs.



All the organic material is then turned into compost called Titan Gold that can be purchased at the university or at [Garden Supply Guys](#) in Howard.

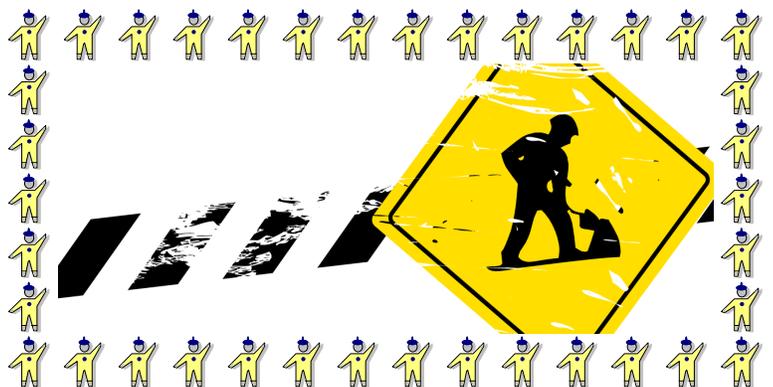
We expect to finally be able to add an eastside site to the program later this year. If you would like to join the other 200+ families that are committed to diverting organic waste from the landfill visit BrownCountyRecycling.org/program-details to sign up.

Pardon Our Dust

Our Waste Transfer Station (3734 W Mason St in Hobart) is getting a makeover!

Changes that are coming include a remodel of the current scalehouse, the addition of a second scale and the construction of a bypass lane. All of these changes are to ensure a safer and more efficient drop-off process for our customers.

Construction on these projects began the week of July 22nd and is expected to continue into late August/mid-September.



Safety First

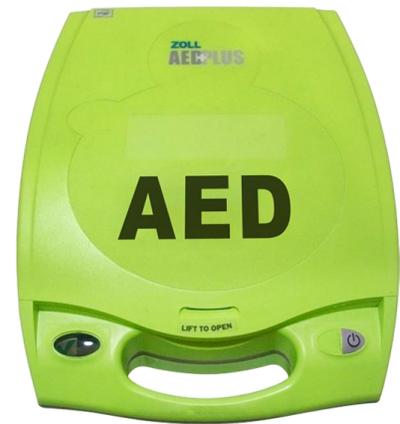
In June, the staff of the Brown County Resource Recovery Department received a refresher course in CPR & Automated External Defibrillator (AED) training. An AED is a computerized medical device that analyzes a person's heart rhythm, determines whether a shock is needed, and delivers a defibrillating

Safety First cont.

shock if necessary. AEDs are important to use during the CPR process because the heart will not permit adequate circulation after sudden cardiac arrest, even if CPR is performed. Using an AED immediately after sudden cardiac arrest can increase the chance of survival by more than 90%.

Life-saving equipment such as AEDs are especially important in the solid waste industry because workers often find themselves around heavy, constantly moving equipment as well as the occasional improperly disposed of materials (see cover story) which heightens the risk of accidents.

The Brown County Resource Recovery Department makes safety a priority by keeping its employees up-to-date with life-saving training, requiring customers to wear high-visibility clothing at the Waste Transfer and Recycling Stations and having AEDs in place at all three of our facilities (Waste Transfer Station, Recycling Transfer Station, Hazardous Material Recovery Facility).



Aerosol Can Disposal

Every day, we get dozens of calls and emails with questions about how to properly dispose of different kinds of materials. One of the most common questions we get is “what do I do with my empty aerosol cans?” Aerosol cans are used for many different kinds of materials, with some being considered hazardous waste (such as paints and pesticides) and other being completely safe to use on the body (like hair spray and shaving cream). So where do they go when you are done with them? The answer is not as confusing as you might initially think.

The good news is that almost any empty aerosol can is recyclable in Brown County. To be recycled it must be **empty** and **both the plastic top and the small spray nozzle should be removed and thrown away before placing the rest of the can in your curbside recycling bin**. The only exception to this rule is any can that contained pesticides (regardless of whether it is empty or not) as pesticides are a true hazardous waste.



Aerosol cans containing pesticides should be brought to the Hazardous Material Recovery Facility (HMR). Old spray paint cans that are completely empty can also be recycled. If you are unsure of whether or not they are empty, bring them to HMR.



National Garbage Man Week Gets a New Name

The week of June 17-24th was National Garbage Man Week, an expansion of National Garbage Man Day, June 17th. National Garbage Man Day was founded by John Arwood and officially got its start in 2012 as a way to show appreciation for the hardworking men and women in the trenches of the waste and recycling industry.

Many citizens across the country showed their support by greeting truck drivers with cold bottles of water, sending cards and letters of appreciation and even showing pride with items purchased from the [National Garbage Man Day Store!](#)

However a change will be coming in 2020 when National Garbage Man Week will become **Waste & Recycling Workers Week**. Garbagemanday.org had this to say about the change of name:

“No matter what you call it, the week long celebration during the week of June 17th is all about the men and women who care for our environment and keep our communities clean and safe every day of the year. We want to recognize and honor everyone who serves their communities through their work in the waste and recycling industry.”

Cheers to that!



**WASTE & RECYCLING
WORKERS WEEK**

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

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

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

Phone: 920-492-4950
Fax: 920-492-4957
E-mail: bc_resource_recovery@co.brown.wi.us
www.browncountyrecycling.org

Department Contacts

Dean Haen, Director
Chad Doverspike, Operations Manager
Mark Walter, Business Development Manager
Chris Blan, Resource Recovery Technician
Ben Hintz, Resource Recovery Technician
Sheri McAllister, Account Clerk
Samantha Jerome, Clerk/Typist

