



**BROWN COUNTY
PORT & SOLID WASTE
DEPARTMENT**

Our Mission:

To meet the solid waste disposal needs of local communities and businesses through methods which are environmentally sound and economical.

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Recycling & Solid Waste Issues in Brown County

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Household Hazardous Waste Facility Sets Record in 2011

For the first time in since its opening in 1996, the Brown County Household Hazardous Waste (HHW) Facility has collected more than 1 million pounds of material in a single year. The HHW facility collected a total 1,057,197 pounds of material in 2011 including 395,860 pounds of electronics and more than 250,000 pounds of paint, the equivalent of over 31,000 gallons.



Empty barrels waiting to be filled with hazardous materials at the HHW Facility

While it took four years to collect our first 1 million pounds of hazardous materials, we are now collecting 1 million pounds per year. This represents more than 530 tons of waste that would otherwise have been landfilled. This is a real measure of our success in removing hazardous waste from the environment.

Since opening in 1996, the HHW facility has collected, processed and properly disposed of more than 9.5 million pounds of hazardous materials from Brown County and Northeastern Wisconsin residents and businesses.

(Continued on page 2)

Strategic Plan Update

The Port & Solid Waste Department continues to develop a Strategic Plan for our Solid Waste operations to help establish goals and meet future challenges.



**STRATEGIC
PLANNING**

With the assistance of the Brown County Planning Department, in 2012, a Strengths, Weaknesses, Opportunities and Threats (SWOT)

Analysis was performed with four groups: 1. Members of the Brown County Port & Solid Waste staff, 2. the Solid Waste Board, 3. Municipalities and Public Utility Representatives, and 4. Haulers and Customers of the Department. A total of 31 individuals provided us with their input on solid waste operations.

The Solid Waste Board will be reviewing the results of the SWOT

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Household Hazardous Waste (cont.)

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Proper disposal of hazardous waste is important to prevent environmental contamination and protect human life. Materials such as pesticides, paint thinners, antifreeze, oil, fluorescent light bulbs, mercury, automotive products, cleaning chemicals and pool chemicals are some of the hazardous waste the County manages. Specifically, anything that can be considered flammable, corrosive, toxic or reactive. Electronics and paint make up the largest proportion of the material the County receives, though latex paint is not a hazardous material.

Though the Brown County HHW Facility still accepts latex paint, there is now a charge for disposal of \$0.25 per quart and \$1.00 per gallon of latex paint brought to the Household Hazardous Waste Facility regardless of how full the cans are.

In an effort to dispose of latex paint in the most environmentally responsible manner, the HHW is now working with Amazon Paint Recyclers to recycle 100 percent of the latex paint we send to them.

Every can and pail that they receive is opened and inspected to determine if the paint is usable. Good quality, reusable paints are hand sorted by color for processing into

recycled content paint.

Reusable paints of the same color are pumped into a tank and mixed with a high-speed mixer. The paint is tested for viscosity, color, sheen, coverage, pH and other characteristics. The paint is then adjusted with additives as necessary to meet Amazon's specifications. Finally, the paint is filtered and packaged for sale.

Non-reusable paints are manufactured into other products, including Proc-Latex Pigment (PLP). PLP is an alternative material used



in the manufacture of cement. More information can be found on their website www.amazonpaint.com


In 2011, other HHW programs ensured approximately 9,500 pounds of sharps were safely destroyed through the Brown County Household Sharps Program while law enforcement disposed of over 900 pounds of controlled pharmaceuticals at the Wisconsin Public Services Pulliam Power Plant. More than 3,000 pounds of non-controlled pharmaceuticals and over-the-counter medications were destroyed through the Brown County HHW Facility.



Examples of some of the old material brought to the Household Hazardous Waste Facility for disposal

Recycling 1 ton of aluminum saves the energy equivalent of 1,665 gallons of gasoline or the total amount of electricity used by a typical Wisconsin home over 10 years.

Did You Know?

 By recycling one ton (2,000 lbs.) of paper, we save: 17 trees; 6,953 gallons of water; 463 gallons of oil; 587 pounds of air pollution; 3.06 cubic yards of landfill space and 4,077 Kilowatt hours of energy.

Recycling Has Banner Year in 2011

The Brown-Outagamie-Winnebago (BOW) partnership operates a regional single stream Materials Recycling Facility (MRF) in Appleton that is one of the largest municipal MRFs in the country. The MRF processes and markets commingled residential and commercial recyclable containers from the partner counties and other northeastern Wisconsin communities. Single stream recycling includes recycling of #1 & #2 plastics bottles, aluminum, tin cans, glass, and paper.

In 2011, the BOW processed more than 52,000 tons of recyclables including more than 20,000 tons from Brown County. The sale of these materials allowed Brown County to re-



turn more than \$1.1 million to customers in 2011. Recycling markets remained relatively stable throughout 2011 in spite of fluctuations in the U.S. and global economies allowing for the high level of return.

As we move into 2012, the BOW is looking at the feasibility of adding additional material to the recycling stream. Paper juice and milk cartons, and plastics #3

to #7 are some of the new materials that could be added to the system in the near future.



Did You Know?

-  Around 45% of the paper Americans use each year (over 47 million tons) is recovered for recycling. This is made into a wide variety of goods such as new newsprint, boxes and office paper, paper towels, tissue products, insulation, cereal boxes, molded packaging, hydro-mulch, gypsum wallboard - even compost and kitty litter!
-  In the United States, we generate enough trash and recyclables each day to fill 72,450 garbage trucks that hold 9 tons of trash each. If you remove the recyclables, only 44,919 garbage trucks would be needed.

Strategic Plan (cont.)

analysis and defining a Mission for the department over the course of the next several months. Each of the issues identified in the SWOT will be examined to determine its priority as a goal within the plan. A set of actions to achieve the goal will then be defined and the timeframe in which actions can be completed will be established.

A draft Mission Statement was developed early in the planning process to read

“The Port & Solid Waste Department will meet the solid waste disposal needs of local communities and businesses through methods which are envi-

ronmentally sound and economical. These methods incorporate waste reduction, material reuse, recycling, household hazardous waste disposal, composting, solid waste disposal and waste-to-energy to the extent that they are technically feasible, economically appropriate and desired by the public.”

This statement will be reviewed and updated as we develop the plan. We expect to have the Strategic Plan completed for adoption in June.

Please contact Mark Walter at (920) 492-4965 or walter_ma@co.brown.wi.us if you have questions about the strategic plan.

**BROWN COUNTY
PORT & SOLID WASTE
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RECYCLING DOS & DON'TS

Plastic bags are **NOT** accepted through the Tri-County recycling program. The recycling system is not designed to remove plastic bags




and plastic bags actually wrap around the equipment, and cause maintenance issues.

There are many recycling options for recycling plastic bags. Please

take your plastic bags to a local retail store to be recycled.

The Tri-County Recycling Program does **NOT** accept aluminum foil and pie pans because the aluminum used to make foil and pans is a lower grade aluminum than the aluminum used to make beverage cans. You may recycle aluminum pans and foil through a local scrap metal dealer.

For more information about proper recycling practices, call Mark Walter at 920-492-4965 or walter_ma@co.brown.wi.us.

 The average person in Wisconsin generates 4.7 pounds of trash (residential and their share of commercial trash) each day and recycles 1.9 pounds of that trash per day. The average person in the United States only recycles 1.4 pounds of that trash per day.

Compost Bin Sale

Composting yard materials and certain food scraps can provide valuable material for gardens and landscaping while reducing costs for landfilling. Compost is a soil-like material produced from the breakdown of organic materials that is rich in stabilized carbon. It is considered a soil amendment, rather than a fertilizer, because it usually contains only small amounts of nutrients such as nitrogen, phosphorus and potassium. Lawn fertilizer contains significant amounts of all three.

Home composting can be done in



bins or in a heap, however, bins are a better way to manage the materials in an urban setting.

We will be selling compost bins with UW-Extension this spring for \$45 which includes a recipe book. The bin measures approximately 3 feet wide by 3

feet tall and holds 13 cubic feet of material.

Please contact

Mark Walter at (920) 492-4965 or Vijai Pandian (920) 391-4611 for more information.