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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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What happens to all that stuff?

By Alex Ray, Resource Recovery Technician

A question often asked of our Household Hazardous Waste staff is “What do you guys do with all this stuff”? While the easy response is “we sort it all out and ship it away”, there is more to it than that. The actual process has a few more details.

Upon receiving the material from the customer, it is then weighed. If the material is still usable it is recycled by being put in the Product Exchange Room, where the public can take the material free of charge (the third step in the waste management hierarchy, after prevention and minimization). The remaining material is then sorted according to its hazardous characteristic, (flammable liquids and gas, toxic waste, corrosive waste, and reactive waste like oxidizers).

Flammable liquids and paint are poured together, or “bulked”, into 55 gallon drums, and shipped away to a 3rd party, which processes the material in an effort to capture any fuel value. Material remaining after this processing is then incinerated.

Toxic solids and liquids are packed into drums in their original containers. These drums, called “loose packs”, are then shipped to an incinerator specifically designated for toxic waste.

Corrosive material is separated into acids and bases, and then packaged and shipped away for pre-treatment, which neutralizes these materials. This neutralized material is then either disposed of in a landfill designated to accept such waste, or incinerated.

Oxidizers are packed into containers, and a written record is kept of the contents of each container. These containers are shipped for incineration. Because of their reactive nature, incineration is a slow process, as these materials must be fed into the incinerator in lower volumes than other materials.

To summarize, while “we sort it all out and ship it away” does answer an immediate question, what is actually done with the material is a multi-step process not always apparent to the public eye.



Material in storage at the Household Hazardous Waste facility.

Food Waste and Organics Program

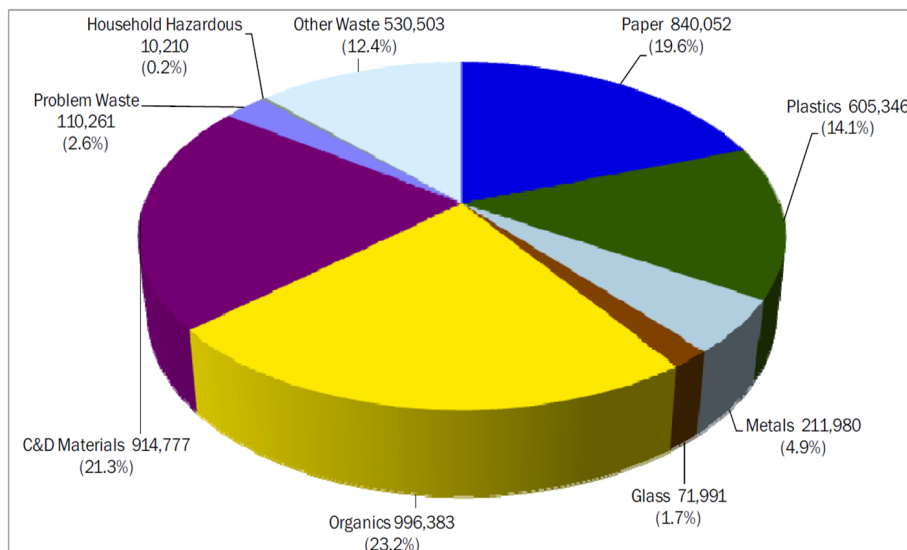
Organic waste is estimated to make up over 23% of material that is landfilled in Wisconsin. Without a clear understanding of what is encompassed in “food waste and organics”, the percentage of waste that can be diverted from the landfill may not seem unattainable.

So, what is organic? To begin with, all food is organic. Leftovers that will not be eaten, apple cores, banana peels, chicken bones, pumpkin seeds, stale chips, even that Ho-Ho, etc. It's not just food though! Paper products that have grease stains from food, the report for school that has coffee spilled all over it, the waste basket full of your tissues after last week's cold, paper Q-tips, coffee filters and tea bags

are all organic materials. If just those items were removed from the waste stream instead and brought in to the Brown County Food Waste & Organics Drop-Off Program that would be quite the cut to

the garbage bin, and the landfill! To see a full list of acceptable items visit our website www.browncountyrecycling.org/food-wasteorganics.

See hours below.



Benefits

Composting might be the easiest way to decrease the amount of waste in your garbage, in turn, reducing the amount of waste that ends up in the landfill. Imagine how many fewer landfills there could be if composting became the “it” thing everywhere.

Benefits of composting not only

include keeping waste out of the landfill, it can also turn waste into a resource. Diverting organic materials to a compost system and turning the material back into soil as nature intended is one goal of the Brown County Food Waste & Organics Drop-Off Program. Organic waste that is brought to one of the three drop-off sites is used

to generate renewable energy through an anaerobic digestion system that creates compost and collects the gas that is produced.

For more information about the anaerobic digestion system, see page 3.



Location & Hours

Recycling Transfer Station

2561 S. Broadway

Mon.-Wed., Fri. 7:30 am—4:00 pm
Thurs. 7:30 am—6:00 pm
Sat. 8:00—2:00 pm

Waste Transfer Station

3734 W. Mason St.

Mon.—Fri. 7:30 am—4:00 pm
Sat. 7:30 am—noon

NEW in 2016!

UW-Extension

1150 Bellevue St.

Mon.—Fri. 8:00 am—4:00 pm

Results

In 2015, the two Food Waste & Organic Drop-Off locations that Brown County Port & Resource Recovery operated collected nearly eight tons of material.

The material collected from residents in Brown County is taken to an anaerobic digester at the University of Wisconsin Oshkosh. The anaerobic digestion system produces valuable compost, but it is also designed to capture the methane (biogas) that is generated during the digestion process. The biogas is then used to power a generator to produce electricity.

According to Michelle Bogden Muetzel, UW-Oshkosh Program Associate at the Environmental Research and Innovation Center, "The material received is mixed with the other plant and food based material that is brought in at the digester, and then put into one of four cement chambers called



UW-Oshkosh is now offering organic compost from the dry digester to the public for purchase.

Hours: Monday-Friday 8 am—4 pm
Call: (920) 424-3148

fermenters. Over the next 28 days, methane gas is released from the organic material and is collected in a gas bag to be used for combined heat and energy. This energy is enough to power over 220 typical US homes or 10% of the UW-Oshkosh campus energy needs. After 28 days, the material is removed, about

half of it is taken to help the next batch get started, and the other half is composted in windrows. Then the compost is tested at our Environmental Research and Innovation Center (ERIC) to STA standards (one of less than 15 laboratories nation-wide that is US Composting Council certified to test for compost quality). After it has been tested and approved, the compost is bagged and sold as Titan Gold, which in turn supports students at UW Oshkosh."

UW-Oshkosh is now offering organic compost from the dry digester to the public for purchase. Organic compost can be purchased at the ERIC on the UW-Oshkosh campus. Hours for pick up are Monday-Friday 8:00 am—4:00 pm. If you have any additional questions please call (920) 424-3148 and staff at the ERIC can help.

Sign Up

To join the Brown County Food Waste & Organics Drop-Off program please visit www.browncountyrecycling.org/food-wasteorganics to fill out a registration form and either mail, email or bring the form with your first load of compost material. You will also find a detailed list of material that is and is not accepted for organic drop-off.



Material must be brought in Biodegradable Products Institute (BPI) certi-

fied compostable plastic bags or papers bags. Regular plastic bags cannot be used. Pizza boxes and paper egg cartons are the only items we can take unbagged.

Participants are asked to sign up for the Food Waste & Organics Drop-Off program. Registration helps us track how many people are using the Program and it allows us to share important updates and information with our participants.

For more information please visit

www.browncountyrecycling.org/food-wasteorganics

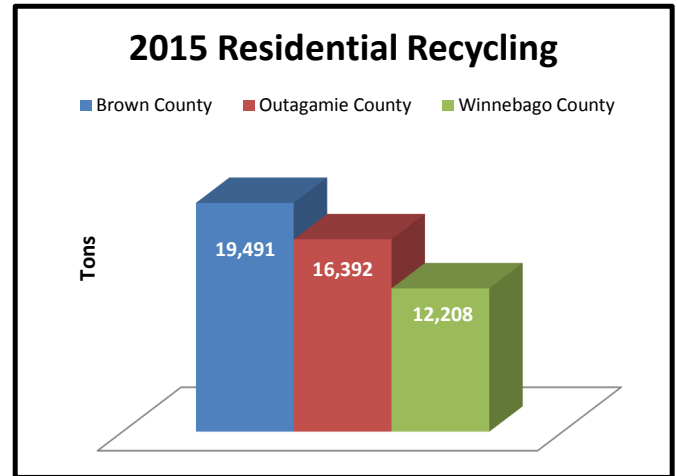
Recycling Numbers

The Brown-Outagamie-Winnebago (BOW) partnership operates a regional single stream Materials Recycling Facility (MRF) in Appleton, one of the largest municipal MRFs in the country. The MRF processes and markets co-mingled residential and commercial recyclable material from partner counties and other northeastern Wisconsin communities.

In 2015, the BOW processed more than 97,948 tons of recyclables. Residential recycling accounted for 19,500 tons from

Brown County, 16,400 tons from Outagamie County, and 12,200 from Winnebago County with the remaining tonnage coming from commercial accounts and other areas of the state.

Over the last several years Brown County has consistently



seen an increase in the amount of recycling tonnage delivered to the Tri-County facility.

New Tri-County Logo

With a greater emphasis on cooperative recycling education by Brown, Outagamie and Winnebago counties, the three counties decided to create a new logo that could be used to better educate the public about this unique partnership and reinforce the message of the BOW to Recycle More, Landfill Less.

The new logo reinforces the

identity of the Tri-County partnership and will be used on educational materials and the 2016 Recycling Guide that is published annually.



Materials Recycling Facility Rental Space Available

The Brown County Materials Recycling Facility (MRF) has 11,000 sq. ft. of rental space available at its facility located at 2561 South Broadway in Green Bay. With the removal of our old baler and conveyor, the space is just waiting for a user. The rental space includes offices and a portion of the MRF.

If you know someone interested in this space feel free to contact us at 920-492-4950 for more information.



Safety Tip—See and Be Seen

In the last week of November, at least five waste industry workers were stuck and killed by vehicles on the road. Driving on the road is the most dangerous activity most people do in a day, so working in the road, outside of the protection of a vehicle only compounds the danger. We cannot control the behavior of others, so it is critical that we do what we can to protect ourselves.

- Do not assume that a driver can or will see you
- Do not stand/walk in the roadway any longer than absolutely necessary
- Do not “Double Side” or collect containers from both sides of a marked two-lane street
- Avoid working in the roadway following a blind curve or hill
- Always wear high visibility clothing (Class 2 minimum)

Stay alert, stay visible, stay alive.



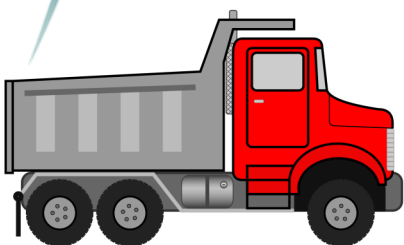
Safety Tip—Safe Following Distance

The most common truck following distance guideline, recommended by the National Safety Council, is the 6 second plus rule. In ideal conditions maintain at least a 6 second cushion.

Add one second for each additional factor:

- Ideal conditions = 6 seconds
- 6 seconds + Rain = 7 seconds
- 6 seconds + Fog + Darkness = 8 seconds
- Darkness
- Fog
- Rain
- Ice & Snow
- Fatigue

Increasing following distance will give you time and space to react to other drivers. Maintain a cushion of safety in order to protect yourself and others on the road.



6 seconds + Rain = 7 seconds



Household Hazardous Waste Fees

The primary purpose of the Household Hazardous Waste program is to provide a safe disposal outlet for household hazardous waste from Brown County residents. Based on public demand for responsible disposal outlets, additional non-hazardous and universal waste materials are now accepted at our Hazardous Waste Facility. Managing and disposing of this material has become more expensive over the last few years. In order to continue to provide these additional disposal options a small fee is now charged for disposal of items such as batteries, light bulbs and antifreeze. To make this process easier, we now accept credit cards at our Household Hazardous Waste Facility.

The following is a list of some of the items that now have fees for disposal:

Charge: \$0.25/lb.

- Batteries, Household
- Computers & Electronics
- Cord Appliances
- Fire Extinguisher
- Florescent Lights
- Light, Ballast
- Adhesive, Water Based
- Caulk/Glaze/Grout/Putty
- Cement/Mortar/Plaster
- Latex Paint
- Antifreeze
- Windshield Wiper Fluid
- Cooking Oil/Grease

Charge: \$1.00/unit

- Battery, Automotive (Lead Acid)

Charge: \$5.00/unit

- Microwave

Charge: \$15.00/unit

- Dehumidifier
- Miniature Refrigerator
- Small A/C Unit
- Small Water Cooler

This list is not all inclusive.

- ⇒ Fees apply to all residents
- ⇒ Staff will determine whether any additional fees apply
- ⇒ Residents from other counties may incur additional charges



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 tell you what you want to hear. Email us at bc_resource_recovery@co.brown.wi.us with your ideas.



Brown County Port & Resource Recovery Department

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