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BROWN COUNTY PORT & RESOURCE RECOVERY DEPARTMENT

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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Brown County South Landfill Opens



Photo Credit: Brown County Land Conservation

As of January 31, 2022, Brown County's South Landfill will be open to the public. After many years of planning and two years of construction, the site is ready to begin accepting residential waste from Brown and Winnebago counties.

The first month of operation will focus on creating a 4-foot "fluff" layer to act as a protective barrier for the synthetic liner in the landfill cell. The synthetic liner is key to the leachate collection system that collects any moisture in the landfill cell. The

leachate is directed to the northeast corner of the landfill cell where it is pumped into a leachate tank and then transported to NEW Water.

Once that fluff layer is complete, the landfill will be able to accept more materials such as building, commercial and industrial waste. "We are excited to have the landfill available to the public," said Chad Doverspike, Brown County Port & Resource Recovery Assistant Director. "We have a designated area for residential drop-off that includes dumpsters and bunkers for materials such as concrete, tires, appliances, shingles, scrap metal and brush."

The Brown County South Landfill opening to the public while the existing Outagamie County landfill nears its capacity. Outagamie County is currently in the process of constructing a new landfill to be completed in 2024. This new landfill will operate in tandem with the Brown County landfill to serve residents and businesses in Brown, Outagamie and Winnebago counties as part of the BOW partnership.



Photo Credit: Brown County Land Conservation

Landfill operations began on January 3rd, 2022 with the first loads from industrial and municipal customers.

Revisiting The R's: More than Just Reduce, Reuse, Recycle

The three R's of reducing the waste that we contribute to landfills are Reduce, Reuse, and Recycle. This means that everyone should reduce the amount of purchases and items they buy, find ways to reuse what they have as much as possible, and recycle what they can.

For those looking to mend their relationship with the environment and get into some good habits, using the concept of "Reduce, Reuse, Recycle" is an excellent starting point. By learning what is recyclable in your area, you can become an expert recycler, and you gain the perspective of just how much waste is generated from your household. But what if you want to do more? What happens when you are doing everything right by the Three R's standards but you still feel like you could be more mindful? Great news! Here are more R's to consider trying.

To start, let's **RETHINK** why you purchase so much. What drives your need to buy and own so many items? Are you feeling pressured by your peers to own the newest phone? Has advertising influenced you to always want and buy certain products?

After that thought provoking journey, you can **REVISE** your daily habits. Want to stop using single-use plastic each morning with your iced coffee? Change up your routine and get up 10 minutes earlier and make your coffee at home. Altering the bad habits you examined when you were rethinking will create the good habits you need to succeed.



Okay, so you've spent a few hours being mindful and changed up a habit or two...why is your trash bin still full? Now it's time to get to work. **RECORD** what garbage you make in a day, a week, a month. This can be a mental diary, a list you keep on your refrigerator, or quickly snapping a picture with your phone (think of it as a very niche Instagram trend). What items that you throw away can you **REDUCE** your purchasing of? Could you have **REUSE**-d that plastic container? A new step, could you **REPAIR** that broken thing that you threw away, or could you have it repaired? Learning and having the skill to repair things is a lifelong skill that will spare you from having to throw things away, especially if you are prone to being clumsy.

It is not always about what you buy for yourself but the things that you give to others. **REGIFT** items that hold value and use that you no longer need. Choose experiences or gifts that require nothing to be put into the garbage. A home cooked meal and tickets to a concert are meaningful and enjoyable experiences you can share with someone, and doesn't come wrapped in layers of plastic.

A quick and easy one, just **REFUSE**. Being straightforward and asking that you do not get a straw with your drink, or opting for your receipt to be emailed instead of printed are two ways to just say no!

Phew, you are almost there, now you have changed your habits and reduced your purchases. You've kept a journal of your garbage in a month and found that you was throwing out containers that you could use again. You also watched a video on Youtube and now you know how to fix your coffeemaker. Recycle is the last step, right?

So close! Food waste is a large and avoidable contribution to methane gas production in landfills. Consider composting and letting your kitchen food scraps to **ROT**.

After all of these choices, **RECYCLE** what you can. Recycling is the final and incredibly important step you should be taking to avoid items from going to landfill.

Take on 2022 by Recycling Right!

A new year means a perfect opportunity to up your household's game with disposing of waste and recycling. It's a lot easier to start than you might think and once you're set up to do it right, it will become a healthy habit. Brown County Resource Recovery has plenty of resources to help you reduce the amount of waste you consume and guide you to how to recycle right. If you don't have time to do a lot, start with these three areas:

Education: It all starts with learning more. Take time to look into how your municipality handles waste and recycling. What's accepted in Brown County may not be accepted in Outagamie or Winnebago counties. To help know what to throw, Tri-County Recycling (a partnership of Brown, Outagamie and Winnebago counties) has a handy Waste Wizard. Simply type in your item and it will tell you where and how to dispose of it in your area. And, if you want to learn more about what materials go where, Brown County Resource Recovery is always ready to help you know more.



Get Organized: Our number one tip for disposal success is to have multiple bins available to collect your curbside waste and recyclables or hazardous materials. That way materials are going into the right spot as soon as you are done with them. Keep a recycling guide on hand for when you are unsure what bin material should go in. Check out Brown County Resource Recovery's guide here: <https://www.browncountyrecycling.org/news-announcements>. Something simple like this approach practically guarantees you'll be recycling right in the new year.

Shop Smart: Don't forget about food waste in 2022. Just like the millions of tons of waste that is collected each year in the U.S., millions of dollars of food waste ends up in landfills each year. It may take a little more planning and thoughtfulness to tackle this dilemma on a regular basis. It starts with being proactive before you go grocery shopping. Map out your meals for the next week or two. Make a list of the ingredients you'll need along with the everyday items you use. Then stick to the list to avoid impulse buying as well as overbuying ingredients that won't get used. If you must buy a large quantity, make sure you can use it in another recipe so it won't go to waste. Also, keep track of what food items are consumed the most and those that don't get eaten often. That will help you avoid picking up items that will just sit on the shelf unused.

If you tackle these three areas in 2022, you will feel good about what you accomplished by the end of the year. Going green is something that works for all of us!



Tri-County Recycling has created a search engine to find out which items are recyclable. Scan the QR code to the left with a smart phone to get started! Otherwise, visit the Tri-County Recycling website: www.recyclemoretricity.org/ and click on "What Do I Do With" to launch the Waste Wizard.

Once you type in an item that you wish to recycle, the Waste Wizard will tell you if that item is recyclable or list the various recycle drop-off locations. Pick the location nearest you.

You Can Be...A Battery Hero!

Every new technological advancement will one day be discarded. The 8-track tape player, overhead projectors, VHS players...all technological advancements in their time, that are now faded memories. All were powered by the plug which is being replaced by the battery.

Innovation in rechargeable battery technology that powers our devices has been impressive. Rechargeable batteries are becoming more prevalent in everyday life, and as a result, more prevalent in the waste we generate each day. These batteries, specifically lithium batteries, are the primary suspect as sources of fires in the waste industry.

Manufacturers include warnings in packages of devices powered by rechargeable batteries, advising on the proper handling and charging of the device's batteries. The Department of Transportation has developed regulations for how new and waste batteries need to be packaged to be safely transported on public roads.

As technology and regulations advance, we must respond by changing how society manages waste. Rechargeable batteries should not be thrown in the trash or recycling. Batteries need to be brought to the Brown County Hazardous Material Recovery program or business complaint with applicable regulations for proper recycling.

Be a Battery Hero, keep batteries out of the trash and recycling.



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

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