

BROWN COUNTY RESOURCE RECOVERY

2024 Annual Report



Message from the Director

During 2024, the Solid Waste Management Board and staff continued to work toward meeting the goals and objectives of the updated 2023 Resource Recovery Strategic Plan and the overarching mission and vision for the Brown County Resource Recovery Department.

For more than 45 years, the Department has been providing cost-effective, efficient and environmentally responsible solid waste management services for Brown County and, more recently, northeastern Wisconsin. As an Enterprise Fund, Brown County Resource Recovery uses revenues solely raised through operations to fund its activities.

In 2024, the Department had another busy year with a number of activities accomplished to increase the Department's solid waste management services. During the year, staff prepared a 5-year construction plan for the South Landfill that includes design of the future landfill gas collection system, excavation and construction of Phase Two, and intermediate cover of the outside slopes of Phase One. A Request for Proposals for beneficially using landfill gas will be issued in early 2025.

The Department is focused on providing effective solid waste management services and excellent customer service with a focus on resource recovery.

Phase One of the South Landfill received 428,540 tons of solid waste in 2024 covering 26 acres with waste began being placed in the third lift. The horizontal gas/leachate collection system, planned for the third lift, was designed and materials were acquired and constructed in 2024. Additional landfill equipment including a refurbished Tana compactor, D5 dozer, off-road truck and sheep-foot roller were purchased. Staff used existing equipment to move almost 60,000 CY of clay from Phase Two to the west side of the property for the future gas extraction skid flare. Some additional clay, topsoiling and seeding of the disturbed areas was completed in 2024.

The Waste Transfer Station handled just over 167,000 tons in 2024, down slightly from 2023, which was an expected result of encouraging more waste to be directly hauled to the South Landfill. Installation of a new replacement compactor and repairs to the Waste Transfer Station tip floor are planned for 2025.

The volume of material moving through the Recycling Transfer Station was down slightly with 29,030 total tons of recycling. A decrease was also seen at the Tri-County Material Recovery Facility (MRF) and is a result of two new commercial MRFs coming online in Wisconsin in 2024.

Lithium batteries continue to be a fire hazard at waste and recycling transfer stations and processing facilities throughout the state. The Batteries NOW Included program allows Brown County residents to dispose of all household batteries for free at the Hazardous Material Recovery Facility. Infrared camera technology capable of detecting hot spots on the Recycling Tip Floor was installed in 2024. If successful, IR cameras will be installed at the Waste Transfer Station. The cameras will also allow two-way communication with customers using the Recycling Transfer Station.

The total pounds of hazardous material collected at the Hazardous Material Recovery Facility was up in 2024 with the number of customers being served higher as well. Consistent with the long-term average participation, the program saw just over 9,600 residents making use of the facility in 2024.

Overall our excellent team of staff continues to do everything it has done in the past while additionally moving into more in-house construction. In conclusion, Brown County will continue to provide cost-effective solid waste management services with excellent customer service. Having publicly owned and operated resource recovery facilities and programs results in the lowest long-term disposal and recycling costs for taxpayers in the region.

Dean Haen



Port & Resource Recovery Director



Department Overview

The Resource Recovery side of the Port & Resource Recovery Department offers solid waste management services which include operating the South Landfill, Solid Waste Transfer Station, Single Stream Recycling Transfer Station, a regional Hazardous Material Recovery Facility, maintenance of two closed landfills, and coordination of a household sharps collection and disposal program. The Department also provides resource recovery programs, when markets are available, for shingles, construction and demolition (C&D) material, clean wood waste, old concrete, tires, Freon-containing and other appliances, and electronics. The success of these programs is based on a forward-thinking Solid Waste Management Board and staff that build and maintain long-term relationships with the public and private sector. These relationships have resulted in long-term agreements for solid waste, recycling, and other resource recovery activities. The Solid Waste Management Board and staff are committed to managing cost-effective and environmentally sound programs and learning about and pursuing emerging solid waste management technologies that are economically and environmentally beneficial.



The Department is part of the Tri-County regional solid waste and recycling agreement between Brown, Outagamie and Winnebago Counties known as BOW. The initial 20-year BOW partnership saved municipal, industrial and commercial customers \$48 million dollars in avoided tipping fees over its first 18 years. A revised and restated BOW Agreement was executed in 2020 with additional savings being realized every year. BOW is currently using Outagamie County's Northeast Landfill and Brown County's South Landfill. The updated BOW Agreement added a new Northwest landfill at Outagamie County, which is currently under construction and set to open in 2026; designates out-of-county waste, alternative daily cover and beneficial use waste streams as shared materials; and, shares in transfer station operating and hauling costs over the next 25 years.

BOW has a state-of-the-art single stream recycling facility in Outagamie County which shares administrative and operational costs. The Tri-County Material Recovery Facility is one of the largest publicly-owned and operated single stream recycling facilities in the country. The installation of AI robotic technology has helped to address on-going staffing issues.

"Brown County Resource Recovery's vision is to provide competitive, cost-effective and environmentally sound management systems for solid waste, recyclable and hazardous materials for Brown County communities, residents, businesses and industry."

Mission

A new *Strategic Solid Waste Management Plan* was adopted for the department in 2023 as a long range guiding document that identifies strategic issues to address while establishing goals and objectives to strive toward. This annual report helps to ensure the strategic plan's goals and objectives are being advanced. The Department's mission statement is as follows:

"The Brown County Port & Resource Recovery Department will meet the solid waste disposal needs of local communities, residents, businesses and industry through methods that are environmentally sound, technically feasible and economical. These methods may incorporate waste reduction, material reuse, recycling, composting, hazardous material treatment and disposal, solid waste disposal and waste-to-energy."



Solid Waste Management Board

The Brown County Solid Waste Management Board (SWMB) sets policy for the Department. It is authorized by Wisconsin State Statute Chapter 59.70 (2) and Chapter 12 of the *Brown County Code of Ordinances*. The nine members of the SWMB are appointed by the County Executive and serve as an oversight committee of the County Board. The County Board’s Planning, Development and Transportation Committee oversees the SWMB and the Department. Three members of the SWMB are from within the city of Green Bay, three are from incorporated non-Green Bay municipalities and three are from unincorporated areas of the County. Two SWMB members are County Board Supervisors. SWMB members serve three-year terms. Minutes of the Solid Waste Management Board meetings are reviewed and approved by the County Board.

Solid Waste Board Members

- John Katers, President

Mark Vanden Busch, Vice-President

Norb Dantinne

Kevin Gannon

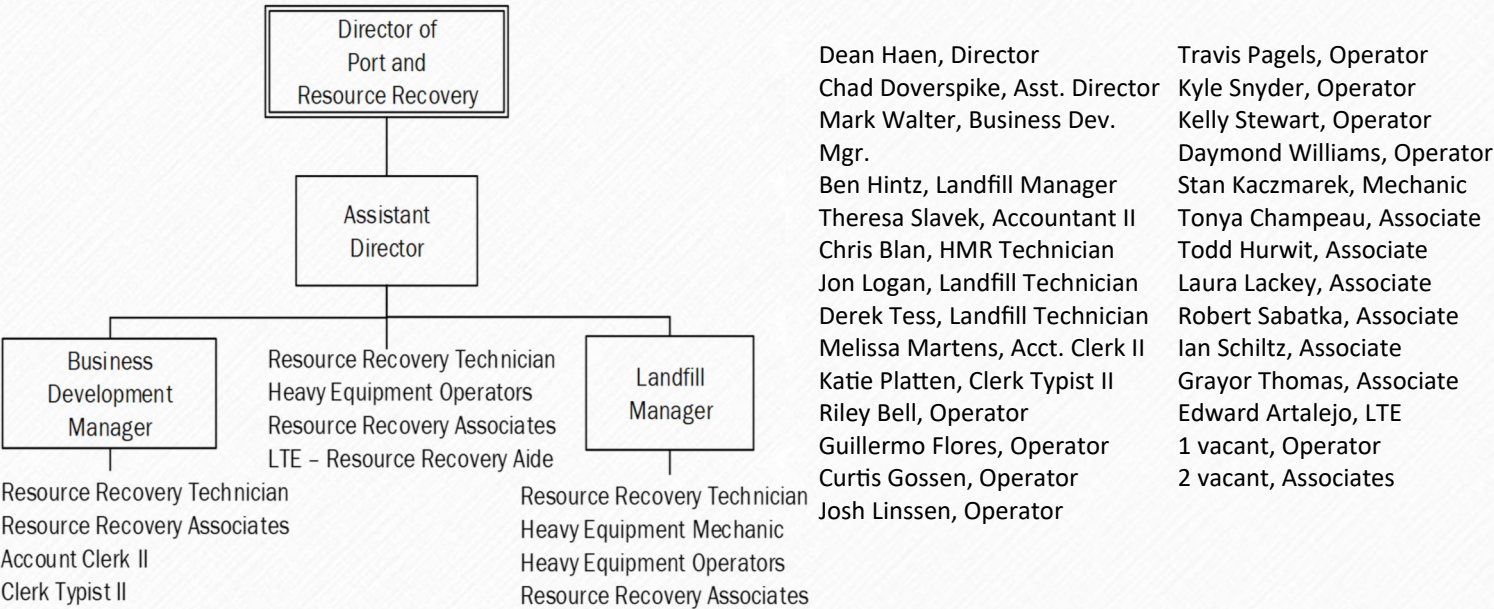
Sean Gehin
- Michael Lefebvre

John Myers

Bill Seleen

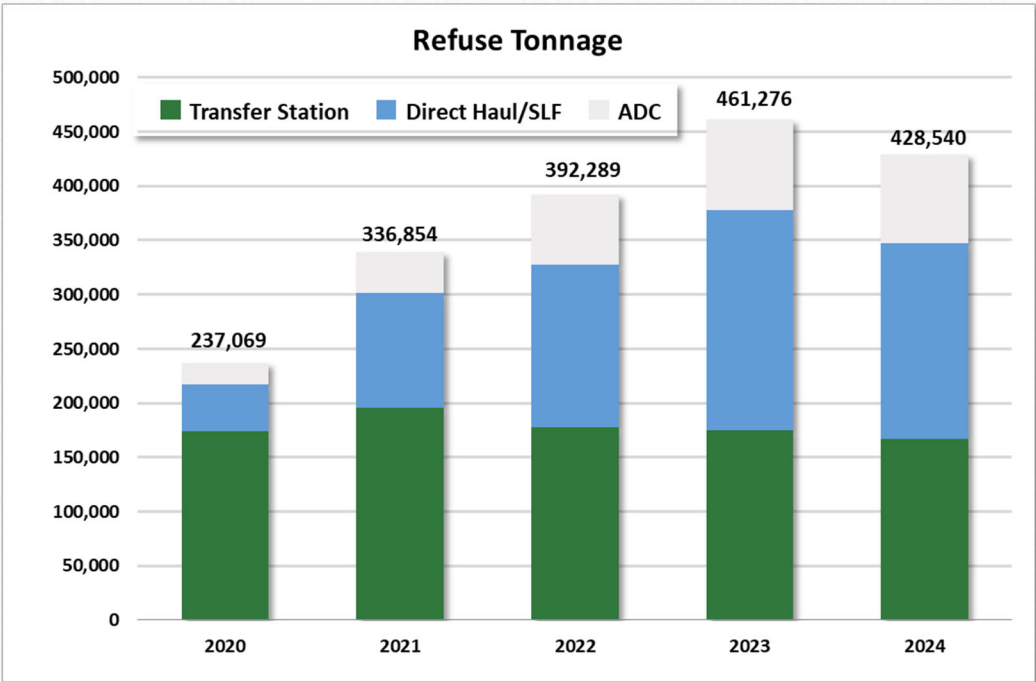
Mike VanLanen

Port & Resource Recovery Department Table of Organization

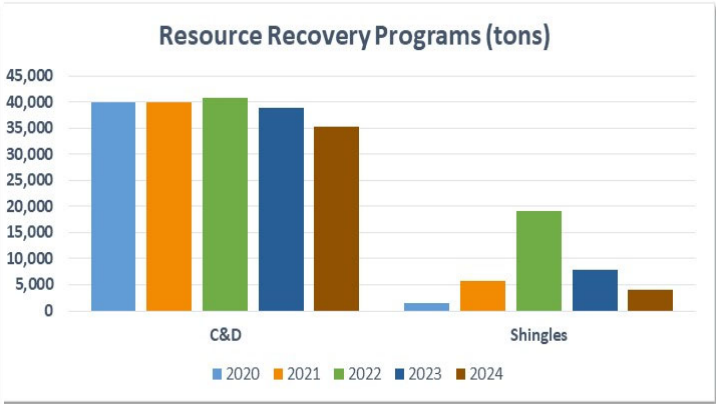
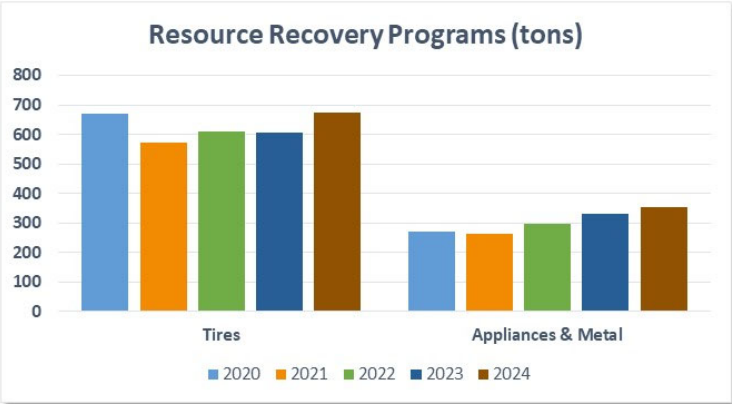


Solid Waste & Resource Recovery

The Department operates the South Landfill that receives the waste from the Solid Waste Transfer Station and direct hauls from residents, municipalities, commercial and industrial customers. The Solid Waste Transfer Station receives, compacts and transports refuse produced by county residential and commercial customers primarily to the South Landfill. More than **167,000 tons of refuse** were processed through the Brown County Solid Waste Transfer Station in 2024 for transport to one of the BOW landfills. Another **180,000 tons** of waste were delivered directly to the landfills for a **total of 347,146 tons**. In addition, **81,394 tons of alternative daily cover** were delivered to the BOW landfill for a **total Brown County tonnage of 428,540 tons**. The Outagamie County Landfill accepted **329,579 total tons** of material in 2024.



In 2024, **4,118 tons of shingles** were recycled, as were **672 tons of tires** and **354 tons of appliances and scrap metal**. Affordable tire recycling prices at Brown County continue to promote a high number of used tires. While C&D and wood waste recycling markets were again not available in 2024, **35,323 tons of material coming through the waste transfer station were identified as C&D material**.



Recycling

The Department operates a Recycling Transfer Station that collects and transports single stream recyclables produced by residents, municipalities and commercial users to the BOW regional single stream Materials Recovery Facility (MRF) in Outagamie County. This BOW facility is one of the largest municipal MRFs in the country. The MRF processes and markets comingled residential and commercial recyclable paper and containers from the three counties and other Wisconsin communities.

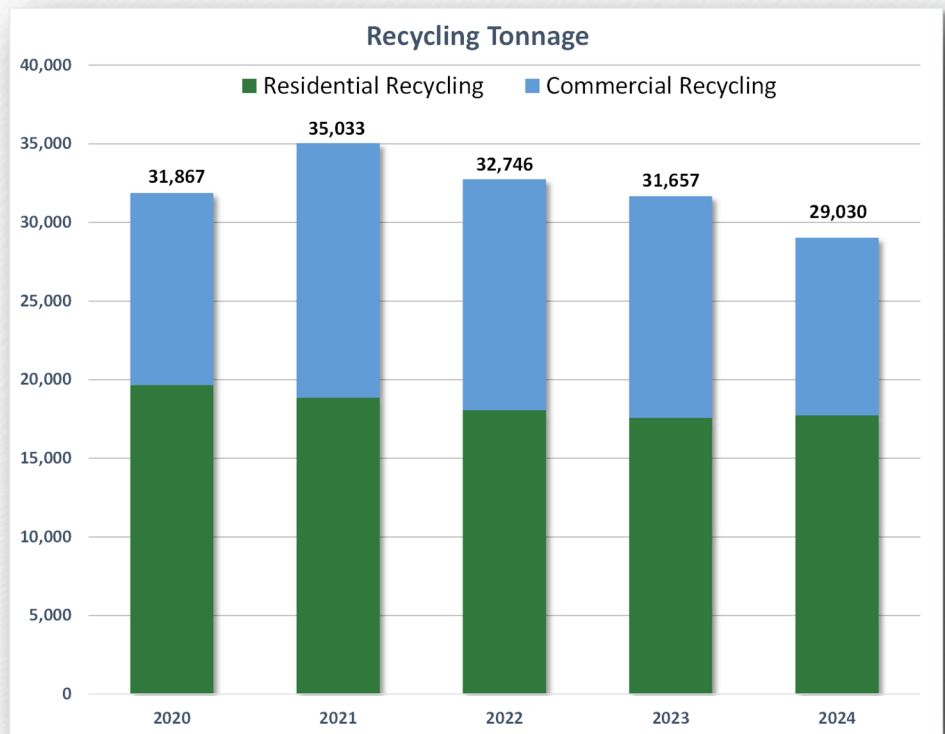
Beginning in 2024, the BOW developed a program to help promote better recycling and extend our educational outreach while continuing to promote tools to help the public recycle better. The Recycle Right Master Class is a free introductory program that teaches individuals how to recycle right by educating them on what goes in the recycle bin,



what stays out, and answers recycling questions. Topics include why to recycle, a deep-dive through the Tri-County Recycling Facility, local recycling basics, common contaminants, and what happens to recyclable materials after they leave the Tri-County sorting facility. Other tools include an online tool, the **Waste Wizard**, on the Tri-County Recycling website (RecycleMoreTricounty.org) that allows users to look for locations to get rid of almost any type of waste material. **Betterbin**, a mobile recycling app, allows user to scan a

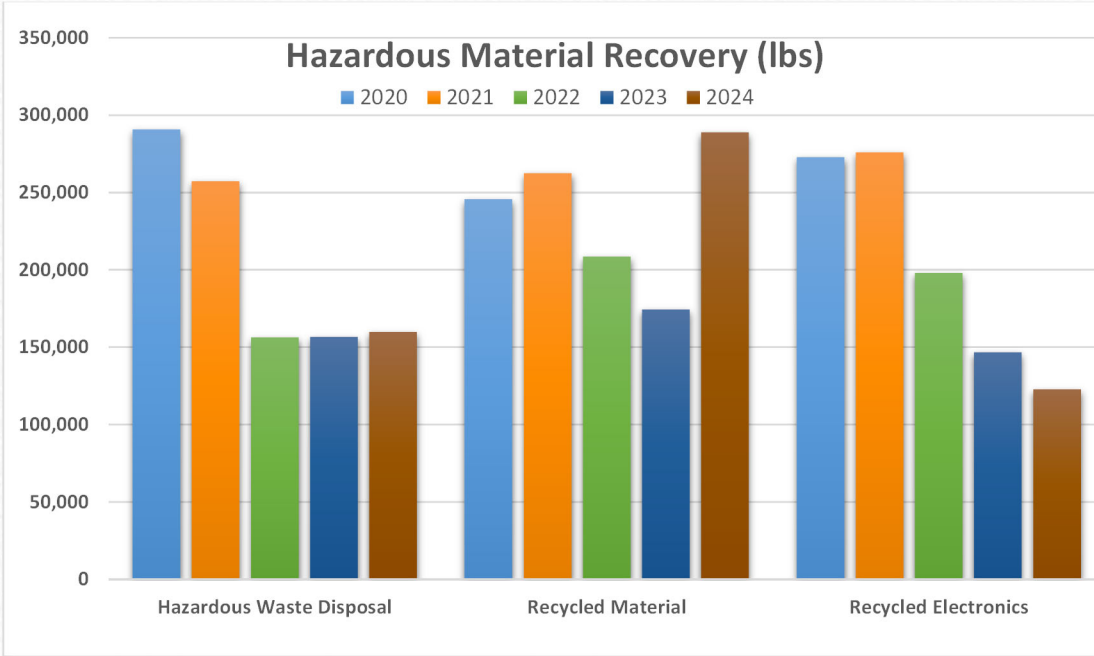
In 2024, **29,030 tons of single stream recyclables** were hauled from the Brown County Recycling Transfer Station to the Tri-County MRF which processed just under **80,000 tons of recyclables**. WM and GFL opened new MRFs in 2024 which contributed to a decrease in commercial recycling material. The facility continues to serve municipal and residential customers in more than ten counties in northeast Wisconsin.

A promotional graphic for a "Recycle Right Master Class". It features a background image of recycling bins. At the top, a green banner asks "Do you want to learn more about recycling?". Below this, three orange tabs are visible: "Local guidelines", "Materials", and "Processing". Under "Local guidelines", topics listed are "why recycle?", "Solid waste reduction law", "What is a 'MRF'", and "Single stream Recycling". Under "Materials", topics listed are "Recyclable", "Recoverable", "Acceptable", and "Plastic, paper, metal, glass". Under "Processing", topics listed are "Pickups", "Sorting", "Bailing", and "Selling". At the bottom, a blue banner says "Join us for a Recycle Right Master Class!".



Hazardous Material Recovery

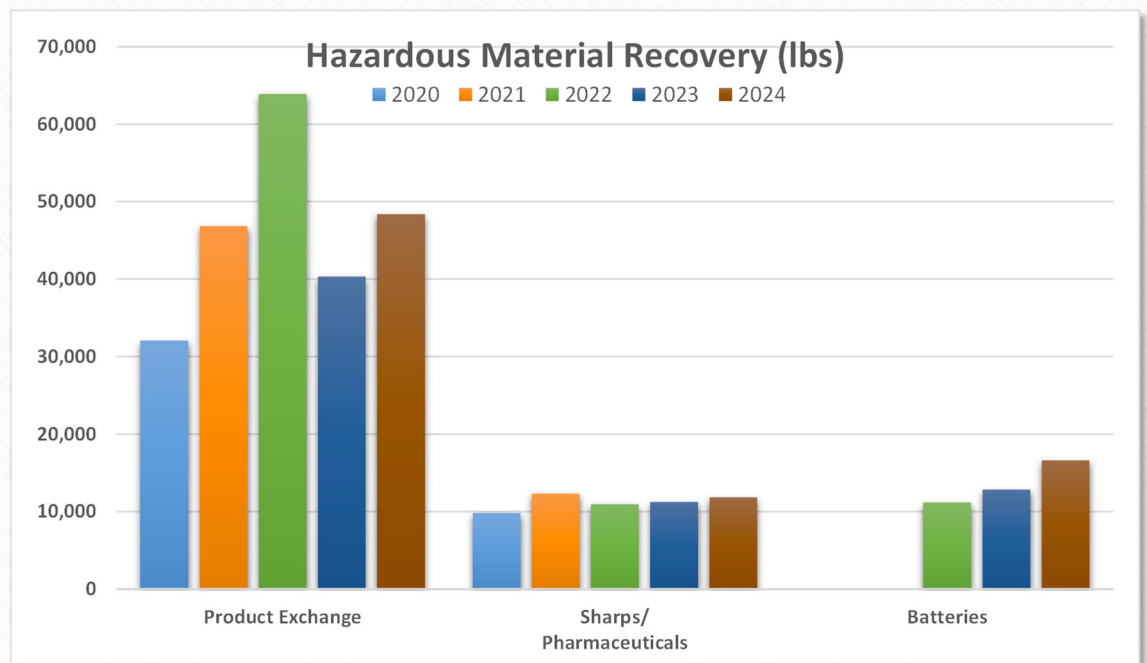
The Department operates the Hazardous Material Recovery Facility (HMR) providing an environmentally responsible outlet for hazardous, universal and special wastes for residents of Brown County and northeast Wisconsin. This program is funded in partnership with NEW Water, the Oneida Tribe and other rural municipalities not connected to the NEW Water wastewater treatment facility. Additionally, Brown County provides a cost-effective hazardous waste disposal option for residents of neighboring counties. The program



also provides businesses that qualify as Very Small Quantity Generators (VSQGs) with economical disposal options for hazardous, universal and special wastes.

During 2024, the facility took in **571,095 pounds of hazardous and**

nonhazardous materials from an estimated **9,629 residential and business sources** an increase of 12 percent from 2023. More than two-thirds of the collected material was able to be recycled or made available to the public while **159,778 pounds of hazardous waste** was kept out of



the environment and properly destroyed. Tuesday collections have become busier as the public become accustomed to our weekly collection schedule. The HMR program and staff provided assistance to other



counties in the region serving as a disposal outlet for material collected outside of Brown County.

The Department's **Batteries NOW Included** campaign which was introduced in 2023 has seen an increase in the amount of batteries brought in for proper disposal. The program is an effort to educate the public about proper disposal of batteries and battery containing devices. Recycling and waste facilities throughout the country continue to experience fires due to batteries being disposed of improperly, creating a health and safety hazard for the facilities and their workers. The program provides a free option for residents to properly dispose of any type of household battery. More than **16,600 pounds of batteries** were collected from the public in 2024, a 29 percent increase from 2023.



Sharps & Pharmaceutical Collection Programs

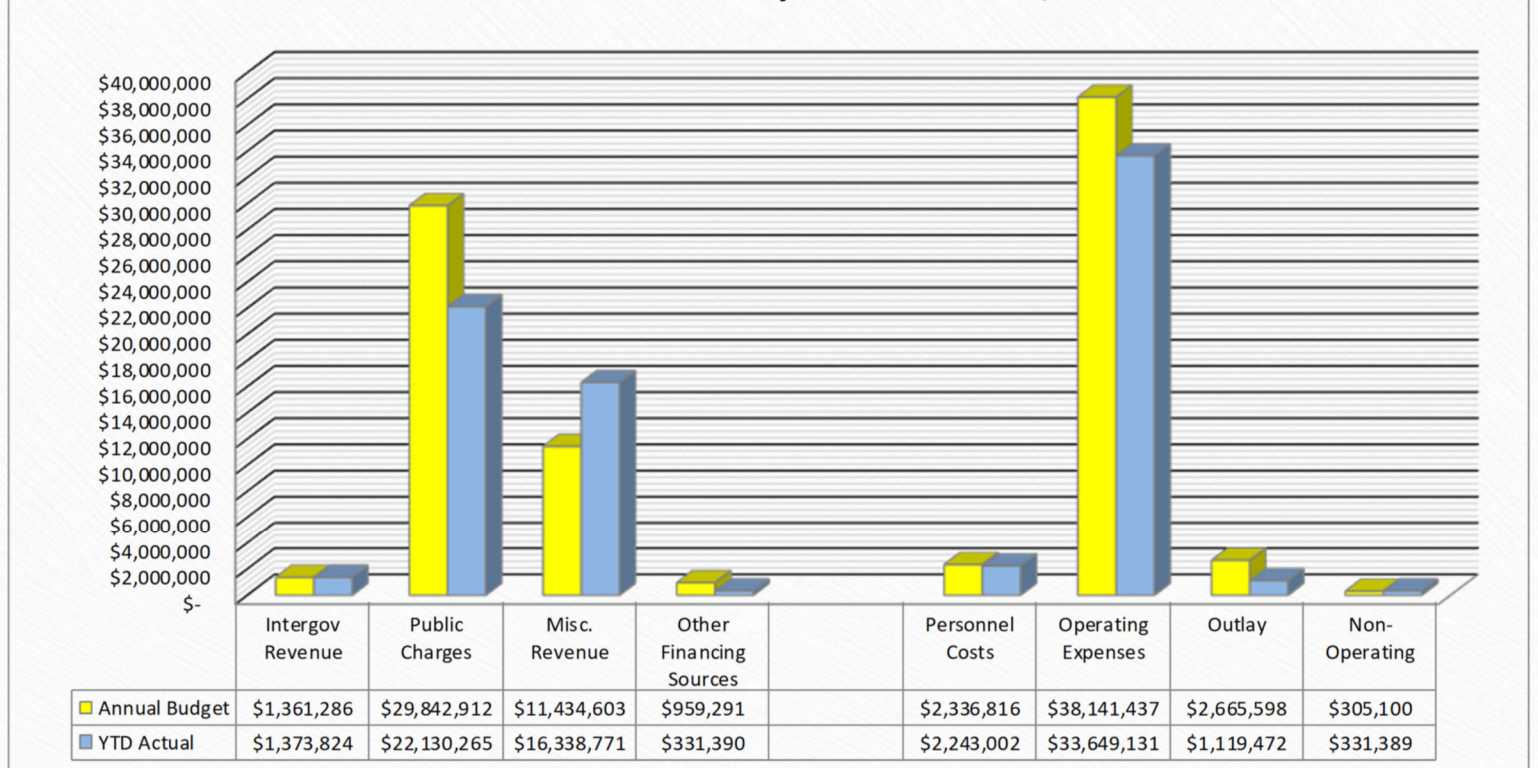
The Department and the County Health Department collaborate in managing the Brown County Household Sharps Program collecting more than **11,700 pounds of sharps** (needles, syringes and lancets) in 2024.



Brown County Port & Resource Recovery Department
Resource Recovery Area Budget Status Report (unaudited)
December 31, 2024

		Annual Budget	YTD Actual	YTD %	YTD Total	Comments
R e v e n u e	Intergov Revenue	\$ 1,361,286	\$ 1,373,824	101%		Intergov Revenue includes WTS hauling cost reimbursement and is on budget. Public Charges are under budget due to lower tonnage received. Misc. Revenue is higher than budgeted due to higher return on investments. Other Financing Sources is an intrafund transfer used to make the HMR whole at year end. A transfer is done at the end of the year between Resource Recovery, General and the HMR.
	Public Charges	\$ 29,842,912	\$ 22,130,265	74%		
	Misc. Revenue	\$ 11,434,603	\$ 16,338,771	143%		
	Other Financing Sources	\$ 959,291	\$ 331,390	35%		
					\$ 40,174,250	
E x p e n s e s	Personnel Costs	\$ 2,336,816	\$ 2,243,002	96%		Personnel Costs and Operating Expenses and under budget due to lower tonnage received. Operating expenses also do not include end of year indirect cost allocations. Outlay will be lower as construction projects and equipment acquisition were deferred or not recorded as of year end or pushed to 2025. Non-Operating Expense is the cost of capital calculation for the SLF. Journal Entry done at year end.
	Operating Expenses	\$ 38,141,437	\$ 33,649,131	88%		
	Outlay	\$ 2,665,598	\$ 1,119,472	42%		
	Non-Operating	\$ 305,100	\$ 331,389	109%		
					\$ 37,342,994	

Resource Recovery - December 31, 2024



*Financials are unaudited and will be finalized by the Administration Dept. in April.



2024 Goals

Completed

♦ South Landfill

1. Acquired articulating D6 Dozer for construction projects
2. Hired additional heavy equipment operators and split crew into construction and landfill teams
3. Constructed new landfill access road to strip area and install culverts. Used existing staff to build road using on-site clay and purchased rock and gravel
4. Installed horizontal gas/leachate system
5. Began placement of 12-inch intermediate cover layer of clay on outside slopes
6. Built west side haul road and begin excavating Sequence 2 placing material in north stockpile area, as time allowed
7. Completed construction of a vacuum trailer for site clean-up of wind blown material

♦ East and West Landfills

- ♦ Constructed new driveway for East Landfill metering tank use

♦ General

1. Executed Ledgeview Leachate Agreement and constructed leachate metering tank discharge
2. Constructed metering tank
3. Sold six acres of property to the Town of Holland for new Town Hall
4. Developed tool inventory to track tools at each department location

♦ Waste Transfer Station

1. Constructed dumpster storage rental area using existing staff to strip and grade dumpster storage area
2. Prepared compactor replacement bid for compactor install in early 2025

♦ Recycling and Recycling Transfer Station

1. Installed two infrared fire detection cameras with capability to communicate through cameras to customers
2. Expanded installation of robots at BOW Material Recycling Facility. Currently four robots are picking high value material

In Progress

- ♦ Resolve ways to communicate with residents using the residential recycling drop-off door at the Recycling Transfer Station
- ♦ Acquire one additional 'Partner County' for the HMR program



2025 Goals

♦ South Landfill

1. Install wash curtain in maintenance building
2. Design, bid and award contract for South landfill gas skid and flare
3. Issue a request for proposals and select contractor to beneficially utilize South Landfill gas

♦ East and West Landfills

1. Plan West Landfill improvements including razing barn, improving back road, and constructing maintenance building
2. Design and bid 3-sided maintenance building for West Landfill Equipment storage building
3. Develop a Memorandum of Understanding with the Town of Ledgeview for a Bike Path at the East Landfill

♦ Waste Transfer Station

1. Install replacement for north compactor
2. Repair concrete tip floor

♦ Recycling and Recycling Transfer Station

- ♦ Resolve ways to communicate with residents using the residential recycling drop-off area at the Recycling Transfer Station

♦ Hazardous Materials Recovery Facility

1. Establish a sharps collection program for businesses that generate less than 50 lbs. of sharps per month
2. Expand partnerships with other Northeastern Wisconsin communities
3. Research the development of diversion programs for vaping devices and diabetic insulin pumps

♦ General

1. Prepare Request for Proposals for 5-year Engineering and Consulting contract
2. Develop facility mowing plan
3. Update BOW Strategic Plan
4. Plan for scale computer hardware and software upgrades
5. Seamlessly perform all duties and meet the communities' resource recovery needs during the 2025 NFL draft



Brown County Resource Recovery

2561 South Broadway, Green Bay, WI 54304

Phone: 920-492-4950 | Fax: 920-492-4957

www.BrownCountyRecycling.org

Brown County Port & Resource Recovery

2561 S. Broadway

Green Bay, WI 54304

Ph: (920) 492-4950

Fax (920) 492-4957

Email: BC_Resource_Recovery@browncountywi.gov

