

BROWN COUNTY RESOURCE RECOVERY

2025 Annual Report



Message from the Director

During 2025, 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 2025, the Department had another busy year with a number of accomplishments towards increasing the Department's solid waste management services. During the year, staff prepared a 5-year construction plan for South Landfill; bid out the future landfill gas collection and destruction system; planned for excavation and construction of Phase Two; installed the second phase of the horizontal gas collection system; selected a service provider for the future beneficial use of landfill gas; and provided HMR services to a neighboring county.

Phase One of the South Landfill received 385,747 tons of solid waste in 2025 covering 26 acres with waste which began being placed in the fifth lift. The horizontal gas/leachate collection system, planned for the fifth lift, was designed, and materials were acquired and constructed in 2025. Staff moved almost 60,000 CY of clay from Phase Two to the north stockpile area and constructed a 20-foot fence to better manage windblown material.

The Waste Transfer Station handled just under 140,000 tons in 2025, down slightly from 2024, 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 were completed in 2025. Construction of a maintenance building began in late 2025 and will be completed in early 2026.

The volume of material moving through the Recycling Transfer Station was down slightly with 24,500 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.

The total pounds of hazardous material collected at the Hazardous Material Recovery Facility was down in 2025 though the number of customers being served was higher. Consistent with the long-term average participation, the program saw just over 9,800 residents making use of the facility in 2025.

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.

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

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 the new Northwest Landfill in Outagamie County, 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 *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 achieved. 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.”

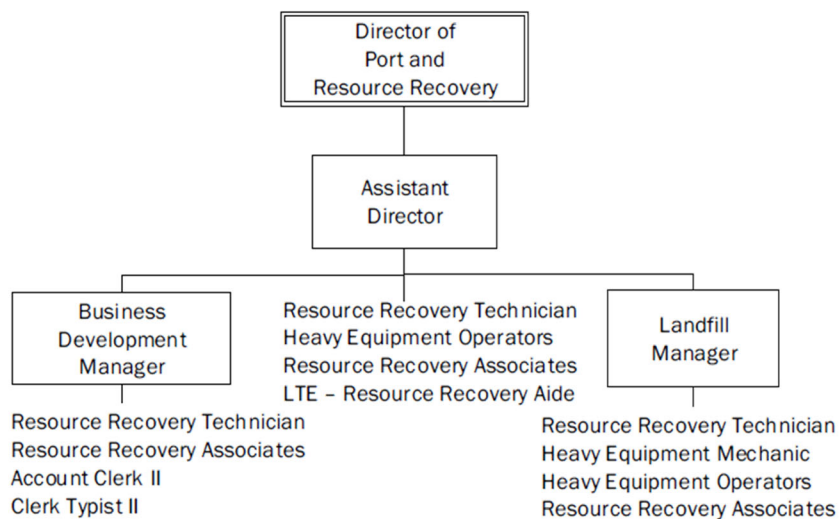
Solid Waste Management Board

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	Michael Lefebvre
Mark Vanden Busch, Vice-President	John Myers
Norb Dantine	Bill Seleen
Kevin Gannon	Mike VanLanen
Sean Gehin	

Port & Resource Recovery Department Table of Organization



Dean Haen, Director
 Chad Doverspike, Asst. Director
 Mark Walter, Business Dev. Mgr.
 Ben Hintz, Landfill Manager
 Theresa Slavek, Accountant II
 Chris Blan, HMR Technician
 Jon Logan, Landfill Technician
 Derek Tess, Landfill Technician
 Melissa Martens, Acct. Clerk II
 Katie Platten, Clerk Typist II
 Riley Bell, Operator
 Josh Engels, Operator
 Guillermo Flores, Operator
 Jonathon Kahler, Operator
 Josh Linssen, Operator

Kyle Snyder, Operator
 Jason Van Rossum, Operator
 Stan Kaczmarek, Mechanic
 Ariana Alvarez, Associate
 Tonya Champeau, Associate
 Laura Lackey, Associate
 Robert Sabatka, Associate
 Ian Schiltz, Associate
 Grayor Thomas, Associate
 Chip Wilda, Associate
 David Flores, LTE
 2 vacant, Operator
 1 vacant, Associates
 1 vacant, LTE

Solid Waste & Resource Recovery

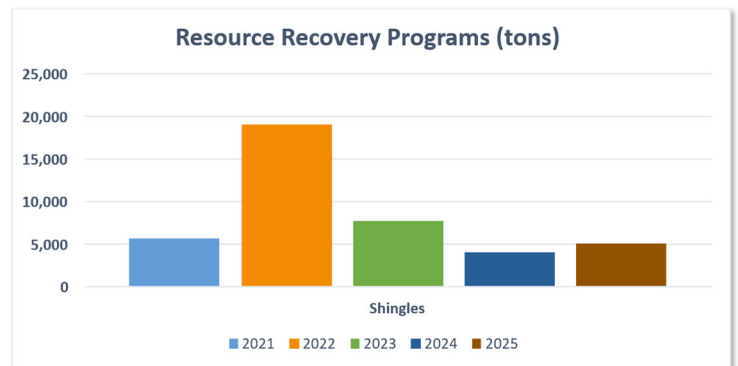
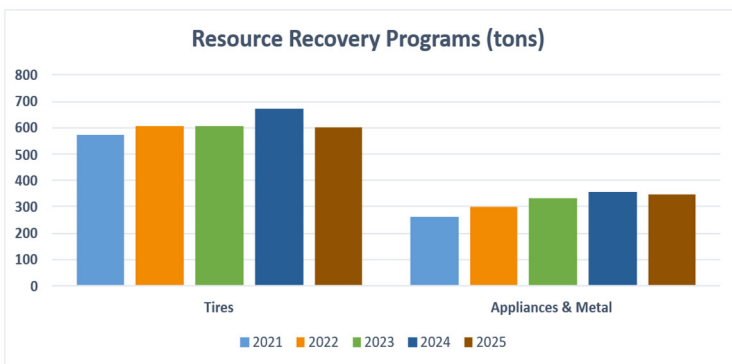
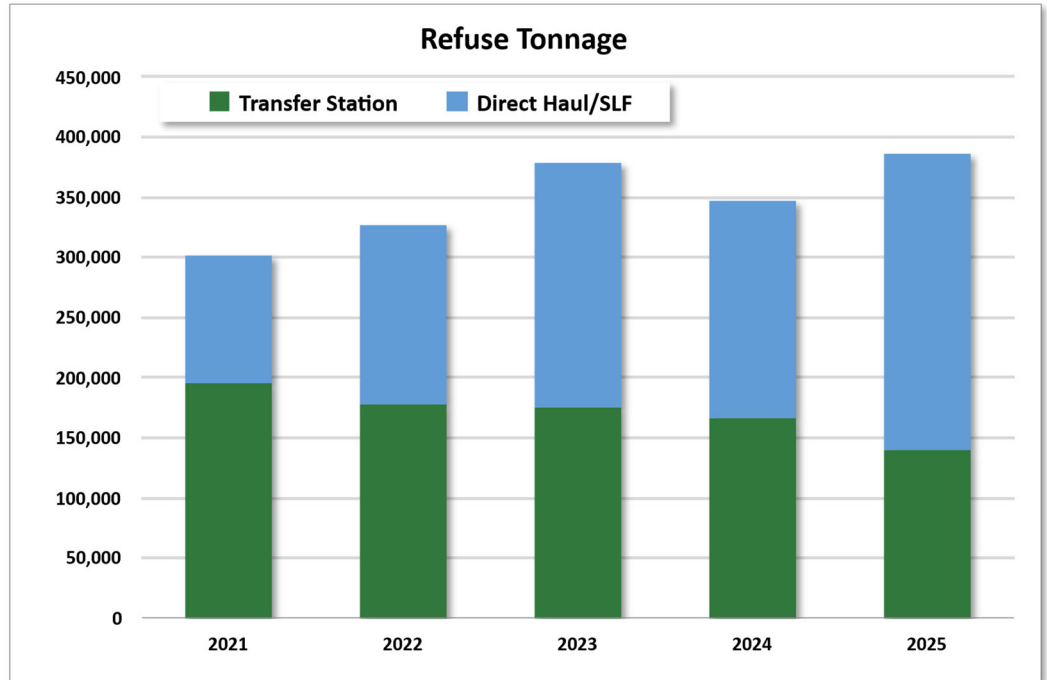
The Department operates the South Landfill which receives waste from the Solid Waste Transfer Station and material directly hauled from residential, municipal, commercial and industrial customers. The Solid Waste Transfer Station receives and compacts refuse produced by county residential and commercial customers and transports it primarily

to the South Landfill. More than **139,900 tons of refuse** were processed through the Brown County Solid Waste Transfer Station in 2025 for transport to one of the BOW landfills.

Another **245,850 tons** of waste were delivered directly to the landfills for a **total of 385,750 tons**.

In 2025, **5,073 tons of shingles** were recycled, as

were **599 tons of tires** and **347 tons of appliances and scrap metal**. Affordable tire recycling prices at Brown County continue to promote a high number of used tires.



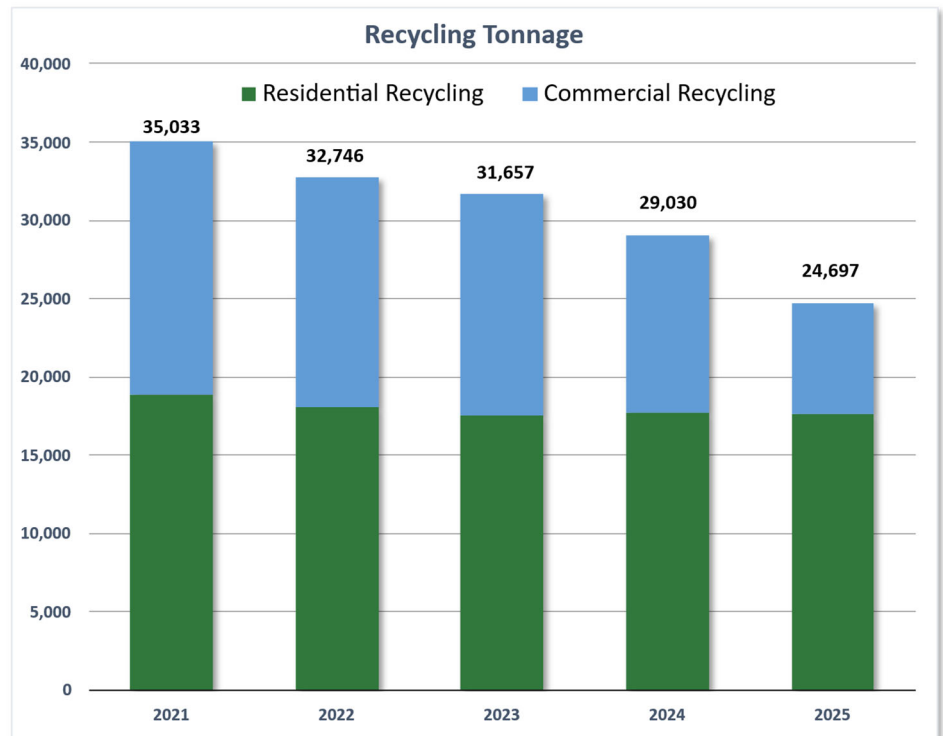
Recycling

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.



The BOW Recycle Right Master Class, developed in 2024, helps to 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. The **Waste Wizard**, an online search tool located on the Tri-County Recycling website (RecycleMoreTricounty.org) allows users to look for locations to get rid of almost any type of waste material. The tool is complemented by **Betterbin**, a mobile recycling app that allows users to scan a product barcode and find out if the product is recyclable and how to recycle it.



In 2025, **24,697 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 coming to the BOW MRF. The BOW facility continues to serve municipal and residential customers in more than ten counties in northeast Wisconsin.

Hazardous Material Recovery

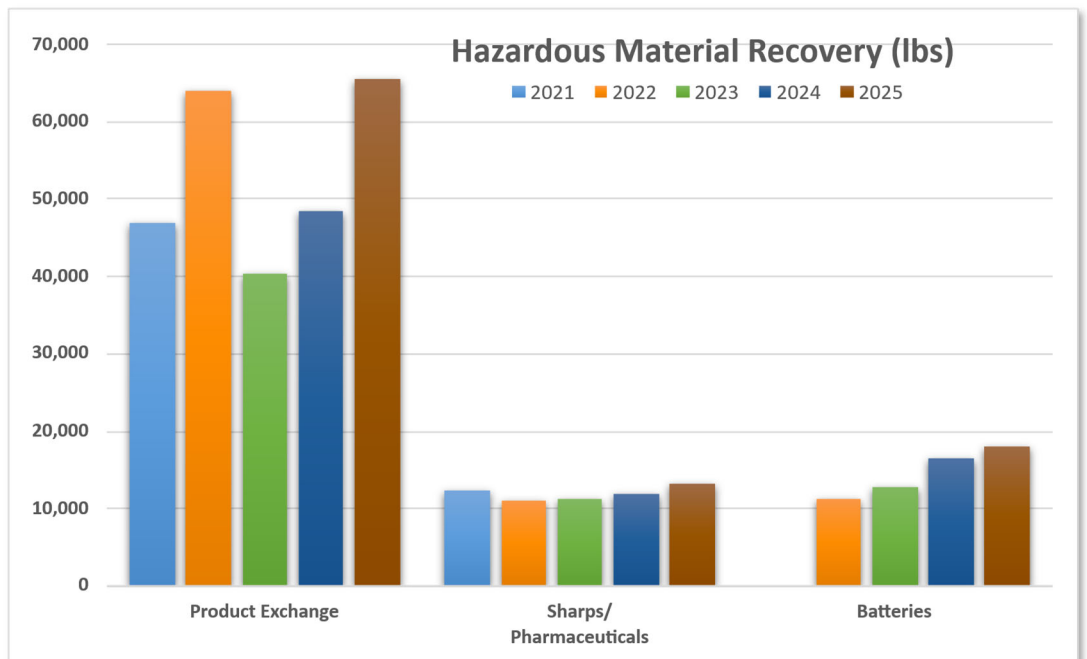
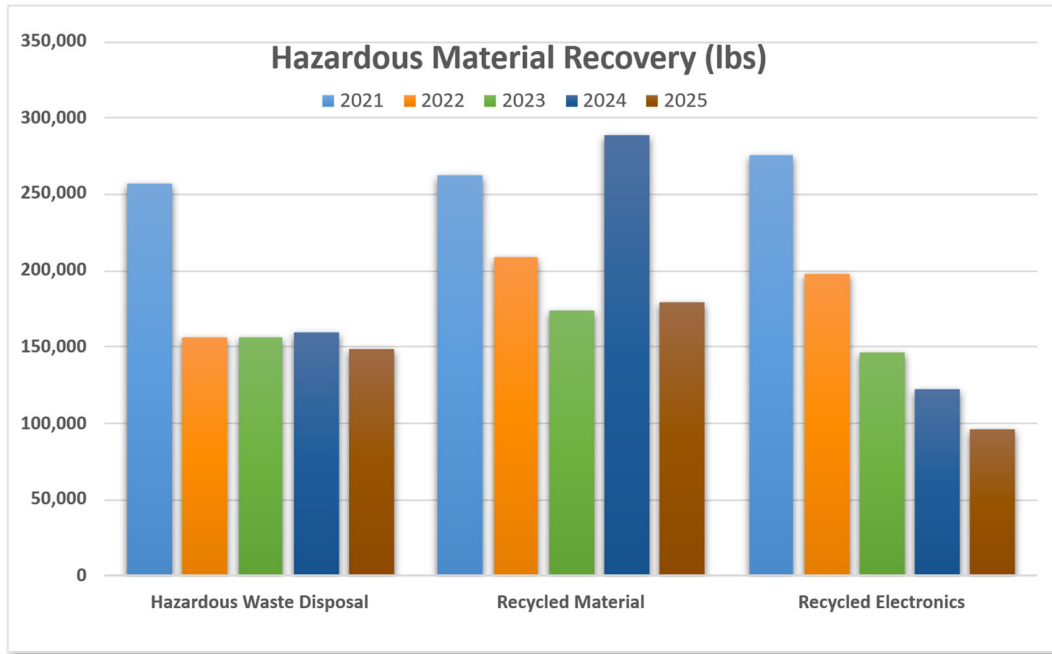
The Department operates the Hazardous Material Recovery Facility (HMR) providing an environmentally responsible outlet for hazardous, universal and special wastes for residents of Brown County and northeast Wisconsin. This program is funded in partnership with NEW Water, the Oneida Tribe and other rural 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 2025, the facility took in **569,140 pounds of hazardous and nonhazardous materials** from an estimated **10,128 residential and business sources**, an

increase of 3 percent from 2024. More than two-thirds of the collected material was able to be recycled or made available to the public while **163,832 pounds of hazardous waste** was kept out of the environment and properly destroyed. Tuesday collections have become busier as the public has 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 **18,109 pounds of batteries** were collected from the public in 2025, an 8.3 percent increase from 2024. Since the start of the program, Brown County has collected nearly 50,000 pounds of batteries keeping them out of our waste handling facilities.



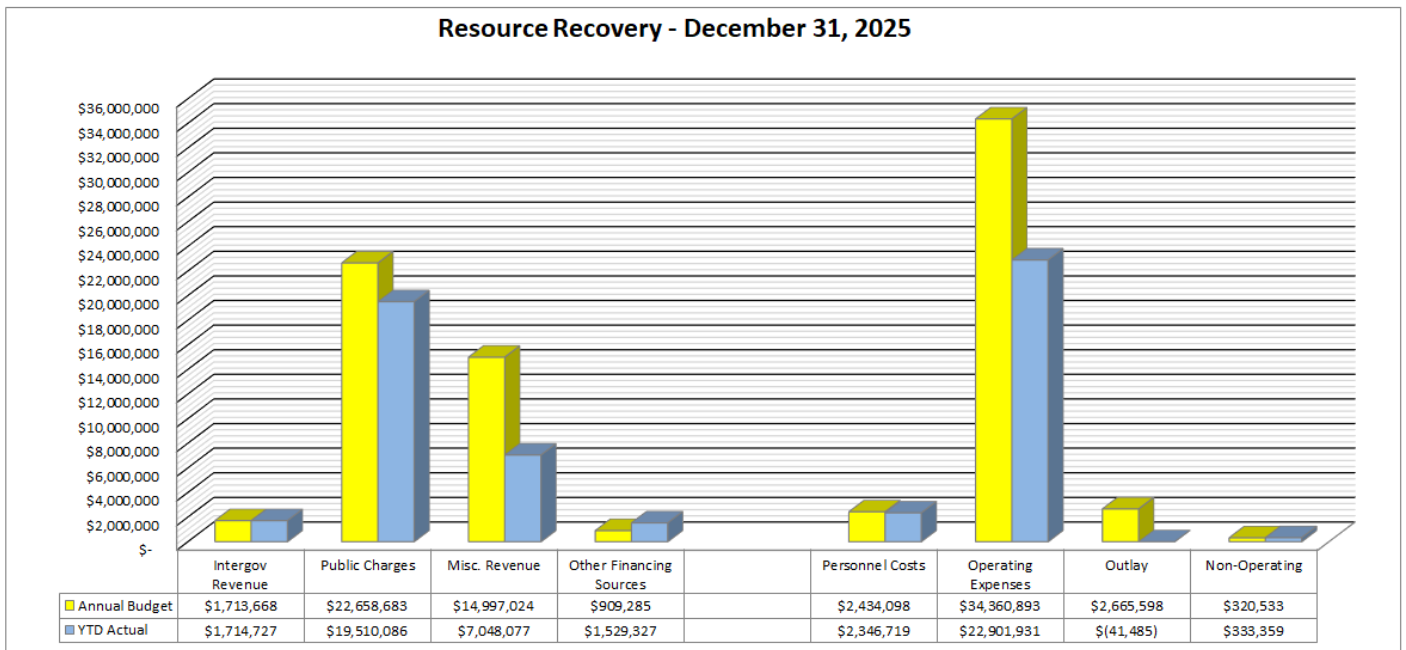
Sharps & Pharmaceutical Collection Programs

The Department and the County Health Department collaborate in managing the Brown County Household Sharps Program collecting more than **13,168 pounds of sharps** (needles, syringes and lancets) in 2025.



Brown County Port & Resource Recovery Department
Resource Recovery Area Budget Status Report (unaudited)
December 31, 2025

		Annual Budget	YTD Actual	YTD %	YTD Total	Comments
Revenue	Intergov Revenue	\$ 1,713,668	\$ 1,714,727	100%		Intergov Revenue on budget. Public Charges, Operating Expenses and Misc. Revenue are under budget due to lower tonnage received. Misc. Revenue is lower due to changes in recording BOW transfers. Additional interest is higher than budgeted due to higher return on investments. Other Financing Sources is overstated due to separation of the East and West Landfill into each their own divisions.
	Public Charges	\$ 22,658,683	\$ 19,510,086	86%		
	Misc. Revenue	\$ 14,997,024	\$ 7,048,077	47%		
	Other Financing Sources	\$ 909,285	\$ 1,529,327	168%		
					\$ 29,802,217	Corresponding expense in in the Operating Expense. Other Financing Sources an intrafund transfer used to make the HMR whole at year end and recording of cost of capital revenue journal entry. A tranfer is done at the end of the year between Resource Recovery, General and the HMR. Personnel Costs on budget. Operating Expenses and under budget due to lower tonnage received. Outlay will be lower as construction projects and equipment acquisition which have not occurred today or not recorded at this time or projects not completed by the end of the calendar year. Non Operating Expense is the cost of capital calculation for the SLF. Journal Entry done at year end.
Expense	Personnel Costs	\$ 2,434,098	\$ 2,346,719	96%		
	Operating Expenses	\$ 34,360,893	\$ 22,901,931	67%		
	Outlay	\$ 2,665,598	\$ (41,485)	-2%		
	Non-Operating	\$ 320,533	\$ 333,359	104%		
					\$ 25,540,524	



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

2025 Goals

Completed

◆ South Landfill

1. Continued placement of 12-inch intermediate cover layer of clay on outside slopes
2. Built east side haul road
3. Continued excavating Sequence 2 placing material in north stockpile area, as time allowed
4. Designed, bid and awarded contract for South landfill gas skid and flare
5. Issued a request for proposals and selected contractor to beneficially utilize South Landfill gas
6. Installed 20-foot litter fence around portions of perimeter of landfill working area

◆ East and West Landfills

1. Planned 3-year West Landfill improvements including razing a barn, improving the back road and constructing a maintenance building
2. Designed, bid and initiated construction of a maintenance building for West Landfill equipment storage

◆ General

1. Prepared a Request for Proposals for 5-year Engineering and Consulting and entered into a contract with a new engineering consulting firm
2. Developed facility mowing plan
3. Completed scale computer hardware and software upgrades
4. Seamlessly performed all duties while continuing to meet the communities' resource recovery needs during the 2025 NFL draft

◆ Waste Transfer Station

1. Installed a replacement compactor
2. Replaced the concrete tip floor

◆ Recycling and Recycling Transfer Station

1. Installed infrared fire detection cameras with the capability to communicate with residents using the residential recycling drop-off window at the Recycling Transfer Station

◆ Hazardous Material Recovery Facility

1. Established a sharps collection program for businesses that generate less than 50 lbs. of sharps per month
2. Expanded partnerships with other Northeastern Wisconsin communities including Manitowoc County
3. Researched the development of diversion programs for vaping devices and diabetic insulin pumps

In Progress

1. Acquire one additional 'Partner County' for the HMR program
2. Installed 2nd system of horizontal gas/leachate system
3. Install wash curtain in maintenance building

Deferred

1. Develop a Memorandum of Understanding with the Town of Ledgeview for a Bike Path at the East Landfill
2. Update BOW Strategic Plan

2026 Goals

◆ South Landfill

1. Install wash curtain in maintenance building
2. Design Phase 2 construction and bid out construction
3. Construct South landfill gas skid and flare
4. Negotiate 20-year contract to beneficially utilize South Landfill gas

◆ East and West Landfills

1. Plan West Landfill improvements including razing a barn and improving the back road

◆ Waste Transfer Station

1. Finish constructing maintenance building

◆ Recycling and Recycling Transfer Station

1. Purchase replacement front-end loader

◆ Hazardous Materials Recovery Facility

1. Promote the County's established sharps collection program for businesses that generate less than 50 lbs. of sharps per month
2. Continue to expand partnerships with other Northeastern Wisconsin communities
3. Promote the diversion programs for vaping devices and diabetic insulin pumps

◆ General

1. Prepare Request for Proposals for 5-year Waste and Recycling Transfer Station Hauling
2. Develop Department-wide facility mowing plan purchasing tractor and trailer and coordinating resources
3. Install additional cameras to increase viewing/monitoring at WTS and RTS
4. Evaluate department reorganization with significant changes in the Port, South Landfill and Administrative responsibilities





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