



BROWN COUNTY
PORT & RESOURCE RECOVERY
DEPARTMENT

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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The Waste Not

Recycling & Solid Waste Issues in Brown County

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2015 Tri-County Recycling Guide

The 2015 Tri-County Recycling Guide was distributed in local newspapers on Saturday April 18 just prior to this year's Earth Day. It features information on the newest materials that can be recycled curbside. These include items such as: cartons (milk, juice, soup, wine, etc.); dairy containers & lids (yogurt, sour cream, margarine, cottage cheese, etc.); and, produce, bakery and deli containers (berry, donut, potato salad, etc.).

2014 Recycling Success!!!

Last year **97,998 tons** of material was diverted from the landfill and recycled. This is equal to 6,533 semi truck loads!

Recycling More... Landfilling Less

When it comes down to it, most recycling is not that complicated. Your curbside bin is the first step in recycling most paper, plastic, metal and glass containers. Many other items and different kinds of materials are recyclable as well, just not in your curbside bin. It is all about knowing how to properly recycle.

One example for the proper way to recycle other items is taking plastic bags to grocery

and retail stores. When plastic bags are placed in the curbside recycling bin they cause maintenance problems for the recycling machinery and end up in the garbage. Separating them out of your curbside bin and collecting them with other material such as plastic film, bubble wrap and bagged air allows them to be properly recycled.

Instead of tossing leftover vegetables or fruit cores in the garbage composting is another way to recycle. Vegetables and fruit waste that is composted turns into a valuable soil amendment.

For more information on all of the different types of things that can be recycled, check out the *Tri-County Recycling Guide*. The 2015 *Tri-County Recycling Guide* may be found on our website (BrownCountyRecycling.org) or picked up at the Brown County Resource Recovery Facility, your local City/Town/Village Hall or any of the Brown County Libraries.

TRI-COUNTY RECYCLING GUIDELINES

PLASTIC
ACCEPT

- All Food, Beverage & Household Bottles
- Jars & Jugs
- Dairy Containers & Lids
- Deli, Bakery & Produce Containers & Lids

DO NOT ACCEPT

- Plastic Bags, Wrap or Film
- Motor Oil Bottles
- Styrofoam

GUIDELINES

Empty and rinse all bottles and containers. Remove and discard all plastic screw caps.



PAPER
ACCEPT

- Newspapers & Inserts
- Cardboard & Paperboard (food boxes)
- Junk Mail & Catalogs
- Office & School Paper
- Milk, Juice & Soup Cartons
- Phonebooks, Books & Magazines

DO NOT ACCEPT

- Paper Contaminated with Food or Grease
- Tissue paper
- Gift Wrap

GUIDELINES

Place shredded paper in a paper bag and staple shut. Flatten and cut boxes to 3 ft x 3 ft or smaller.



METAL & GLASS
ACCEPT

- Aluminum Bottles & Cans
- Steel, Tin & Bi-metal Cans
- Empty Aerosol Cans
- Food & Beverage Bottles and Jars

DO NOT ACCEPT

- Aluminum Pans or Foil
- Empty Paint Cans
- Large/Bulky Scrap Metal Items

GUIDELINES

Empty and rinse all bottles, cans and jars. Remove and discard all plastic screw caps. Metal jar caps and lids are recyclable.



Recycle More, Landfill Less

How the Tri-County Recycling Facility is shaping the future of recycling *from Natures Pathways*

It's a simple lesson we've all been taught: the more we recycle, the less we put into our landfills. But recycling's benefit to our planet - and northeast Wisconsin - doesn't stop there. By using your recycling bin more than your trash can, you're helping save money, energy and even jobs.

A tale of three counties

What makes recycling in our area distinctive is a truly unique partnership of three counties: Brown, Outagamie and Winnebago. Fifteen years ago, the three counties all had their own individual recycling facilities and landfills. But in 2001, the leadership of the three solid waste departments questioned whether there was a better way to manage the area's waste.

"It's pretty rare to have that much infrastructure within a 60-mile radius," explains Jennifer Semrau, recycling specialist for Winnebago County. The counties realized that they could operate one landfill at a time, with the other two counties transferring their waste to that landfill. This would save money by cutting down on resources, equipment and energy needed to run the two other landfills. The counties also increased the efficiency of their recycling process by combining efforts. A powerful tri-county recycling team was born. Brown, Outagamie and Winnebago counties committed to a 25-year agreement to share landfill space and coordinate recycling efforts. The Tri-County Recycling Facility, located in Appleton, is owned by all three counties. In 2008, the tri-county partners began to examine whether they could offer single-stream recycling. Single-stream recycling means individuals don't need to separate their recyclables; instead, all items (paper, cans and bottles) go into one large bin.

"Because the three counties worked together, we were able to invest the necessary capital. The initial cost of the facility was nearly \$10 million, so it's very cost prohibitive for an individual county, but by putting our resources together we were able to renovate the existing Outagamie County recycling facility into the single-stream facility we have today," Semrau says. "It is actually the largest municipally owned and operated recycling facility in the state of Wisconsin."

Another aspect about the Tri-County Recycling Facility that might surprise you is that it's not paid for by tax dollars. "None of the three counties' solid waste programs are on the tax levy," explains Semrau. "They are all independent... and essentially operated as businesses."

So how does the Tri-County Recycling Facility make money? It all starts at the curb.

Recycling has a local impact

"All of the materials we collect here get sold to a third party for further recycling," explains Mark Walter, Brown County Business Development Manager. "It's a goal of ours to try to sell as locally as possible for the betterment of the Wisconsin and Midwest economy." The three counties sell most of the collected paper to local paper mills in Neenah, Menasha and Green Bay. Plastics are sold mostly to Michigan and Wisconsin facilities, while glass goes to a buyer in East Troy, near Milwaukee.

In addition to bettering the local economy, the Tri-County Recycling Facility's efforts conserve energy (it takes less energy to use recycled material rather than virgin material in manufacturing), save natural resources (fewer trees and land are used to produce items we use in our everyday lives), and reduce landfill space (only 7 percent of the items received by the Tri-County facility are landfilled).



Did You Know?

- Recycling isn't just good for the environment; it's good for Wisconsin's economy with more than 111,500 jobs and over \$40 million generated from the sale of recyclables!

Recycle More, Landfill Less (continued)

An eye on the future

If your recycling efforts are the star of the show, the Tri-County Recycling Facility and its staff are the supporting cast — and they're always looking to improve the script.

Just last year, the counties invested another \$2 million into the facility to modify it, adding additional equipment and sorting stations, all with the goal of accepting more packaging products, like milk and juice cartons and plastic deli, produce, bakery and dairy containers. "In the past, plastic recycling was incredibly confusing. Of all the items people recycled, whether or not a particular plastic item was recyclable or not was the biggest question we received, hands down," Semrau says. "With the investments that we made this past year, we're able to now say you can recycle all plastic bottles and containers... don't sweat the numbers, just put all your plastic bottles and containers in your recycling."

- April 2015 Nature's Pathway

AROW Award

The Tri-County Single Stream Recycling Facility was awarded the Associated Recyclers of Wisconsin (AROW) award for Outstanding Achievement in Recycling - Public Sector at the annual Wisconsin Integrated Resource Management Conference this past February. The BOW is the largest municipally owned and operated Material Recovery Facility (MRF) in the State of Wisconsin. Since 2009, Brown, Outagamie and Winnebago (BOW) Counties have been a leader in recycling processing and education due to the pioneering sharing of resources. 2014 represented a banner year for BOW due to the expansion of its service area to accept nearly 100,000 tons of recyclable material, modification of its MRF to accept additional plastics and cartons, and innovative education strategies to promote recycling of the new materials. With these modifications and the additional materials now accepted at the facility, the Tri-County Recycling Facility should continue to grow and prosper into the future.



New Resource Recovery Logo!

In April, the Resource Recovery side of the Port & Resource Recovery Department unveiled a new logo. The new logo is more modern and better represents the goals of the Resource Recovery side of the Department. The blue and green colors in the logo bring to mind recycling and recovery of resources better representing the goal of Resource Recovery in its effort to recovery or divert material from landfills while striving to maintain the health of the environment as much as possible.

When recycling comes to mind, many people may immediately think of the chasing arrows symbol. In the new logo we tried to keep with that though put also signify that recycling is only a part of the process of



BROWN COUNTY
**Resource
Recovery**

resource recovery. Our department's goal is to recover as much material as possible and find a way to reuse it. While residential recycling is a large part of what we do, we also work to find sources for more difficult to recycle materials like shingles, tires and construction waste.

**BROWN COUNTY
PORT & RESOURCE
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Shingle Recycling

Last year Brown County Port & Resource Recovery entered into a contract with a private company for shingle recycling. In March 2015, the company notified Brown County that they would no longer be accepting shingles for recycling ending our program. Brown, Outagamie and Winnebago (BOW) Counties subsequently drafted a Request for Proposal and awarded a contract to SPS Roofing to recycle shingles from all three counties.

Brown County will be constructing a concrete pad on the southwest corner of the Transfer Station to accept both clean and dirty shingles. This work is expected to be completed by mid to late June.

When the concrete pad is complete Brown County will be able to restart its shingle recycling program. Rates will be \$20 per ton for clean shingles and \$30 per ton for dirty shingles. It will be determined by the scale operator at the Waste Transfer Station whether or not shingles are clean or dirty.

Shingles may be brought to the Solid Waste Transfer Station before construction is complete; however, they will not be recycled. Rates are currently set at \$45 per ton until further notice.

Household Hazardous Waste

Hazardous waste items are banned from the landfill and therefore must be disposed of by bringing them to the Household Hazardous Waste Facility. By bringing items such as electronics, lightbulbs, paint, cleaners, pesticides, etc. to the Household Hazardous Waste Facility at 2561 S. Broadway you are lessening your carbon footprint and doing the right thing. The Hazardous Waste Facility ensures that these items are either reused or properly disposed of.

The Hazardous Waste Facility is open to the public on Thursday 12:00 pm - 6:00 pm and Saturday 8:00 am - 2:00 pm. Businesses looking to dispose of hazardous waste material must make an appointment.



Annual Stakeholders Meeting

Brown County Port & Resource Recovery will host its 4th annual Stakeholders Meeting on June 17th at the Ashwaubenon Village Hall located at 2155 Holmgren Way in Ashwaubenon. Discussion of the South Landfill and Resource Recovery Park will be a focus of the meeting. Additional information will be presented on the Brown County solid waste and recycling efforts over the past year. Due to limited space, the Stakeholders Meeting is by invitation and advanced registration is required.