

PORT AND RESOURCE RECOVERY DEPARTMENT

Brown County

2561 SOUTH BROADWAY
GREEN BAY, WI 54304

PHONE: (920) 492-4950 FAX: (920) 492-4957



DEAN R. HAEN
DIRECTOR

Recharge Your Knowledge About Battery Disposal

For Immediate Release

February 12, 2023

(Brown County, Wis.) – Batteries come in all shapes and sizes and help power devices that make our everyday lives easier. But when those batteries run out of charge, what do you do with them? With **National Battery Day** approaching (February 18), it's the perfect time to brush up on proper disposal of batteries and battery containing devices.

Tossing batteries in the trash is what many people do. However, a battery, even a dead one, has the capability to combust and cause fires in your home or at a material recovery facility. "We assume that once a battery stops powering our devices, the battery's power is fully drained," said Chris Blan, Brown County Resource Recovery Technician. "The truth is that even a 'dead' battery can be punctured or compressed to a point where it overheats and combusts resulting in a fire. It's becoming more and more common." Fires due to batteries and battery containing devices began to increase in 2022, with more than 2,000 fires occurring in the U.S. and Canada.

To help area residents safely dispose of their batteries and battery containing devices, Brown County Resource Recovery created a program at its [Hazardous Material Recovery \(HMR\) facility](#) called [Batteries NOW Included](#)," explained Mark Walter, Brown County Resource Recovery Business Development Manager. "It allows all Brown County residents to bring in their household batteries and battery containing devices for FREE disposal."

The program includes all household batteries such as button cells, AA, AAA, C, D, F, lithium ion and any rechargeable battery. Resource Recovery asks that the terminals be taped over (with non-conductive tape) and placed in a container or bag that can be left at the facility. "We also accept a variety of battery containing devices, the kind where the batteries cannot be removed, such as electric toothbrushes, portable chargers, Bluetooth speakers and even cellphones," added Walter.

, It can be easy to take batteries and their disposal for granted," added Blan. "What we all have to remember is that a "dead" battery has the same potential to start a devastating fire as a lit match."

A small fee is charged for batteries and battery containing devices from businesses and residents outside of Brown County.

The Hazardous Material Recovery facility, located at 2561 S. Broadway, is open to the public on Tuesdays and Thursdays. For additional information on other materials accepted at the HMR along with rates, please visit the Resource Recovery [website](#).

###

Brown County Resource Recovery: The purpose of the Brown County Port & Resource Recovery Department is to meet the solid waste disposal needs of local communities and businesses through methods which are environmentally sound and economical.

For more information, visit our website at: www.BrownCountyRecycling.org

Follow us on: [Facebook](#) | [Twitter](#) | [YouTube](#) | [Pinterest](#)

Media Contacts:

Chris Blan

Resource Recovery Technician

[Brown County Resource Recovery](#)

(920) 492-4954

Katie Flanigan

Leonard & Finco Public Relations, Inc.

(920) 965-7750

kflanigan@lfpublishrelations.com