



# Recycling E-News

Recycling Information from Waukesha County

[www.waukeshacounty.gov/recycling](http://www.waukeshacounty.gov/recycling)

## Challenge Winners!

Happy Holidays from Waukesha County Recycling! We wish you a safe and joyous holiday season!



Keep an eye out in early 2011 for a revamped recycling website at [www.waukeshacounty.gov/recycling](http://www.waukeshacounty.gov/recycling)!

On November 13th, Waukesha County Recycling announced the winners of the Reduce Your Waste Stream Team Challenge.

The Baas family, of Brookfield, took home the grand prize for reducing their trash output by 90% during the 4 week *Challenge*.



In second-place, the Beyerleins from Waukesha reduced their trash by 88%.

The Lippe household of Brookfield took home the recycling top prize for an increase in recycling from 7 to 86 lbs per week.



In total, 34 participating households reduced their weekly trash output by 50% and increased their recycling by 66%.

To see photos, statistics, read the blog and learn more about the *Challenge*, visit:

[www.ReduceYourWasteStream.org](http://www.ReduceYourWasteStream.org)

## Thrifty Gifting

For the green-minded shopper, the holiday season offers a great opportunity to purchase with the environment in mind. Buying second-hand gifts is one of the easiest ways to make a positive impact with the least impact on your budget.



Consignment shops and thrift stores are among the easiest options for finding gently used pre-owned items such as clothing, books, CD's, and DVD's, home décor, toys, athletic equipment, cookware and much more at discounted prices.

Thrift stores obtain most of their merchandise by donations from the public, and then sell the second-hand items at a low cost. Many thrift stores are associated with a charitable organization and profits support programming.

A consignment shop differs from a thrift store in that the person who owns the item retains ownership until someone purchases it from the store. The original owner then receives a share of the profit.

Both consignment shops and thrift stores offer a wide variety of merchandise depending upon their focus. Some specialize in particular items while others are broad in their retail options.

There are many of these shops in the Waukesha County area. Look up "Thrift Shops", "Consignment Serv" or "Resale Shops" in the phone book, or do an online search to find locations near you!

Reflecting Back, Looking Ahead  
with Waukesha County Recycling

Holiday Waste Reduction Tips

2010 was a banner year for recycling in Waukesha County!

New programs and initiatives included the new state [electronics recycling law](#), requiring items such as TVs and computers to be recycled. Waukesha County currently is home to 19 drop-off locations including retail and municipal sites.

The addition of [household carton recycling](#) diverted yet another waste stream from entering landfills.



Perhaps the largest project was the completion of the [Reduce Your Waste Stream Team Challenge](#): a first-of-its kind community project where households competed to reduce waste and increase recycling, and blog about their experience.

The Waukesha County Recycling office also received recognition as the recipient of the [Associated Recyclers of Wisconsin](#) Outstanding Education Award for its efforts in community outreach.

As one example, staff presented recycling lessons to over 6,500 people through in-community presentations or visits to the [Materials Recycling Facility](#) in Waukesha.

The momentum will continue in 2011! Waukesha County Recycling will continue to offer unique programs and opportunities for communities. Feel free to email us anytime at [recycling@waukeshacounty.gov](mailto:recycling@waukeshacounty.gov) with your questions, comments, or suggestions.

Thank you for recycling and Happy New Year!

- Cut down on trash: Give gifts of experiences like concerts, plays, movie tickets, games or park passes.
- Cut down on food waste: Plan ahead and freeze or share leftovers with guests.
- Cut down on packaging: Buy in bulk or items not pre-packaged.
- Cut down on disposables: Use wrapping, foodware, and decorations that can be reused or recycled.

#### A favor to ask...

At Waukesha County Recycling, one of our biggest goals is to keep community members informed of the latest recycling news.

We'd like to ask YOU to help spread the word!

Please FORWARD this email and encourage others to [join the mailing list](#)!

Thank you for your help!