

Recycling and Solid Waste 2012 Program Review

Community Recycling Dividends

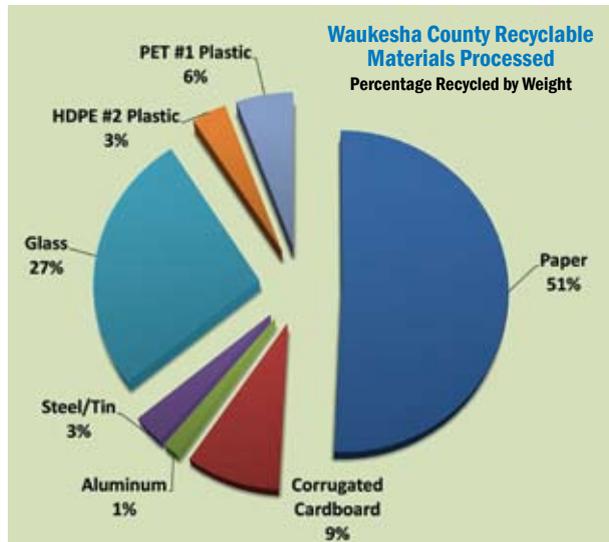
Thanks to the recycling efforts of over 89,000 households, Waukesha County will again be able to provide dividend payments to our 25 partner communities. “The \$1.2 million in recycling dividends are made possible due to strong household participation, state recycling grants and favorable markets for the sale of our recyclable material,” said County Executive Dan Vrakas. As discussed in the next article, Cost Recovery is the key to recycling. “These dividend payments help communities recover some of their recyclable collection costs and reduce local property taxes. We are very glad to be able to provide them.” Since 2002, Waukesha County has distributed almost \$11 million in dividends to the 25 partner communities.

Materials Recycling Facility (MRF)

The Waukesha County MRF received, processed and shipped out an average of 75 tons of recyclable material per operating day for a total of 19,286 tons in 2012. Paper and mixed glass comprised 78% of the materials recycled by weight, with plastics, corrugated cardboard, steel, and aluminum making up the other 22%. The majority of the materials are shipped to domestic markets with a percentage of paper being shipped to Ontario, Canada.

Education and Outreach

During 2012 over 8,000 residents participated in a variety of County education programs on recycling, composting, vermicomposting, green cleaning, organic lawn care and business/school recycling. Waukesha County Land Resources staff



conducted 132 MRF tours, 60 in-school presentations, 43 in-community presentations, and 16 municipal presentations. There were also 54 outreach appearances at events such as Lake County Community Fest, Farmer’s Markets, National Night Out and many more!

Yard Waste Composting

Approximately 5,839 tons of yard waste was processed during 2012 from households in 15 participating communities along with Waukesha County Public Works and Parks departments. Since 2004 the County yard waste composting operation has processed 58,824 tons of yard waste creating roughly 42,000 cubic yards of finished compost. The compost is being used as a topsoil substitute to reclaim

a county gravel pit. In addition to the yard waste collection, over 400 residents participated in 16 County composting workshops and purchased over 300 home composting bins.

Household Hazardous Waste (HHW)

In 2012 there were 5,616 residents that dropped off 205,347 pounds of hazardous materials for safe disposal at either a permanent or satellite collection site. There were also 390 residents that reused material dropped off by others at the three permanent sites. Since 2002 the Waukesha County HHW program has safely disposed 2.16 million pounds of hazardous waste from 52,252 residents.

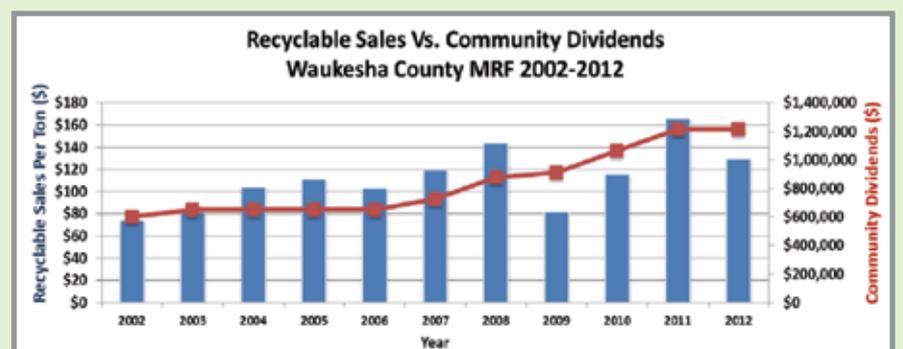
Special Events and Initiatives

The County sponsored two Reduce Your Waste Stream Challenges that engaged 245 residents and resulted in an average 17% reduction in waste and 44% increase in recycling rates. Also, in collaboration with Carroll University the first annual Game Day Challenge, a national recycling competition among universities, was held on November 3, 2012. This challenge resulted in a 74% reduction in waste, 76% increase in recycling at the event and recycling education to the 1,500 attendees. County staff also assisted with recycling at 45 community events by providing temporary bins, conducted 16 business waste assessments, assisted with recycling at three high school sports complexes, two park systems and one youth baseball complex as well as provided an educator professional development workshop.

Cost Recovery is Key to Recycling

It costs taxpayers about \$60 per ton to dispose of their trash at the landfill. On the other hand, last year the average income for the sale of recyclables at the Waukesha County MRF was about \$129 per ton, which is shared with the private operator. Assuming it costs about the same to collect the material either way, this is a net savings of \$189 per ton for recycling. With over 19,000 tons recycled in 2012, this adds up to over \$3.6 million in savings. While the economics may not be quite that simple, the conclusion is clear: recycling is good for the taxpayer and the environment.

State grants encourage consolidated recycling programs like Waukesha County’s because they have proven to be cost-effective. The chart above shows how the County was able to sustain or even increase dividend payments (red) to our 25 partner communities even when recyclable markets (blue) declined, such as in 2009 and 2012. This year’s \$1.2 million payment



recovers about 1/3 of community’s annual recyclable collection costs. The recovery of these taxpayer costs will be the measure by which the County plans for the future of recycling, as discussed further in the single sort article below.

Looking to the Future – Single Sort Recycling

Change is in the works for the Waukesha County recycling program. Our current recycling system is called “dual sort” because paper/cardboard are separated from bottles/cans. As the name implies, a “single sort” system only requires residents to separate the recyclables from the trash.

Paper, cardboard, bottles, cans, and other recyclable materials are all mixed together, usually in a large wheeled cart. Single sort recycling has many advantages for the resident, the hauler and the community:

- **Resident:** easier, no more bundling of paper/cardboard, larger bin capacity, more

materials accepted, and no lifting on collection day if wheeled carts are used.

- **Hauler:** faster, more efficient collection, reduced vehicle costs (same truck design as for trash), reduced worker injuries (mechanical lifting arm on truck).

CONTINUED ON PAGE 3



Household Recycling Guide

Please keep bottles/cans/cartons separate from paper.



- ✓ **Steel/Tin and Aluminum Cans**
- ✓ **Aluminum Foil Pans** (cleaned)
- ✓ **Empty Aerosol Cans**
- ✓ **Glass Bottles and Jars** (all colors)
- ✓ **Milk, Juice and Soup Cartons**
- ✓ **#1 and #2 Plastic Bottles, Jars and Jugs**
(i.e.: include soda, juice, water, cooking oil, milk, detergent, toiletries, etc.)
(Do not include margarine or yogurt tubs, deli and fruit containers.)

Recycling bottles/cans/cartons is easy:

1. Empty and rinse containers.
2. Place loose in the blue bin not in plastic bags.
CAPS ON IS OK!

X NO Plastic Bags



- ✓ **Newspaper**
- ✓ **Magazines and Catalogs**
- ✓ **Office Paper and Shredded Paper**
- ✓ **Junk Mail** (windowed envelopes are okay)
- ✓ **Beverage Carriers, Paper Egg Cartons**
- ✓ **Paper Towel and Toilet Paper Rolls**
- ✓ **Phone Books and Paperback Books**
- ✓ **Corrugated Cardboard**
- ✓ **Cereal, Snack and Tissue Boxes**

Recycling paper is easy:

1. Place clean, flattened food boxes, newspapers, magazines, etc. in paper bags or tie in bundles. All paper types can be combined.
2. Flatten cardboard boxes (cut large pieces to 3 ft. by 4 ft.). Bundle with string or put in a paper bag, and place next to or on top of the blue bin for pick up.



Thanks for Recycling!

Recycling Drop-Off Sites Chart

These 6 sites accept these materials from all County residents:

COMMUNITY	HOURS	SUMMARY OF ACCEPTED ITEMS FROM ANY RESIDENT
City of Brookfield	April - Nov: Tues & Thurs 1 pm - 7 pm All Year: Saturdays, 8am - 5 pm	Paper/Cardboard, Motor Oil/Filters, Antifreeze, Electronics, Scrap Metal
Village of Hartland	April - Nov: 2nd & 4th Sat. 9 am - 1 pm April - Nov: 2nd & 4th Tues. 6 pm - 8 pm All Year: Fridays, 8 am - 5 pm	Bottles/Cans, Paper/Cardboard, Motor Oil/Filters, Antifreeze, Scrap Metal, Electronics
Town of Lisbon	All day, every day (unstaffed drop-off)	Motor Oil/Filters and Antifreeze
Town of Merton	All Year: Saturdays, 8 am - 12 pm	Bottles/Cans, Paper/Cardboard, Motor Oil/Filters, Antifreeze, Scrap Metal, Electronics, Textiles
Village of Pewaukee	April - Oct: Wednesdays, 4 pm - 7 pm March - Dec: Saturdays, 9am - 3pm	Bottles/Cans, Paper/Cardboard, Motor Oil/Filters, Antifreeze, Scrap Metal
City of Waukesha	April - December: Wednesdays, 11am - 7pm All Year: Saturdays, 8am - 4 pm	Bottles/Cans, Paper/Cardboard, Motor Oil/Filters, Antifreeze, Electronics, Textiles

ADDITIONAL COMMUNITY SITES

Big Bend	Menomonee Falls	Oconomowoc (City)	Pewaukee (City)
Delafield	Merton	Oconomowoc (Town)	Summit
Elm Grove	Muskego	Ottawa	Waukesha (Town)
Hartland	New Berlin	These sites accept certain materials just from their residents.	

Household Hazardous Waste Information

Safely dispose of your chemicals and household hazardous items.

Most common items include: Oil-based paint, turpentine, stains/varnishes, wood preservatives, fertilizer, insect/bug/rodent killer, gasoline and/or oil mixtures, fluorescent bulbs/ballasts (and much more.)

To view a detailed brochure, visit waukeshacounty.gov/hazardouswaste

Year-Round Sites

Waukesha

900 Sentry Dr.

- April - November
2nd and 4th Saturdays, 8am - 4pm
3rd Wednesday, 11am - 7pm
- December - March
2nd Saturday, 8 am - 4 pm

Muskego

W144 S6347 College Ct.

- January - December
1st and 3rd Saturdays, 8am - noon

Menomonee Falls

W124 N9451 124th St. (Boundary Rd.)

- January - December
Mondays and Wednesdays, 11am - 6pm
Saturdays, 8am - 2pm

Franklin (Milw. County)

10518 S. 124th St.

- January - December
Saturdays, 8am - 2pm

Special One-Day Collections

All times are 8:00 am - noon

- Mukwonago - May 18, 2013
- Brookfield - June 1, 2013
- Delafield - June 15, 2013
- Oconomowoc - September 14, 2013

Locations, days, and times of year-round and one day collections subject to change

LATEX PAINT

Frequently Asked Questions

Question: What should I do with latex paint?

Answer: Latex paint must be dried (solidified) and then can be placed with your garbage.

Question: How do I dry the paint?

Answer: There are several methods people use to dry it out. First, simply take the lid off and let it sit until dry; or, pour the liquid into a disposable container to spread out and quicken drying. Another method is to mix the paint with an absorbant such as kitty litter or 'waste-paint-hardener'.

Question: Can I take my latex paint to a Household Hazardous Waste site?

Answer: No, they will not accept latex paints.



Got Milk Cartons?

Waukesha County Green Schools Program Offers Assistance

School milk carton and juice box recycling is now available! As part of the Waukesha County Green Schools program, schools can get county assistance to start the simple process of diverting substantial volumes of resources headed to the landfill and reduce trash fees. Many schools are able to add these materials to their existing recycling dumpsters. Remember, all participating communities can now recycle cartons!

The Waukesha County Green Schools Program enrolled seven more schools in 2012 for a total of 54 Green Schools! This program provides funds for school initiatives related to Land Resources Division goals including: recycling, composting and vermicomposting, storm water and erosion control (rain gardens and barrels), on-site water conservation & pollution prevention, conservation-based community service-learning projects, outdoor classroom development and more!

For more information, contact our office (262-896-8300) or visit: waukeshacounty.gov/schoolrecycling



SINGLE SORT RECYCLING FROM PAGE 3

• **Community:** reduced cost with every-other-week collection, increased recycling rates (and sales revenue) and reduced landfill disposal fees.

Switching to a single sort system doesn't just affect the collection process. It would also require all new processing equipment at the County Material Recycling Facility (MRF), which is operated by a private contractor. The 22-year old MRF is in need of major upgrades regardless. Since two out of three local private haulers have already made the switch to single sort and no longer offer dual sort collection services, the County has been studying all options for the MRF. About half of the MRFs nationwide have successfully switched to a single sort system, and consultants have strongly recommended the County do the same. The challenge is to make the switch a cost-effective proposition for our 25 partner communities. To that end, the County is considering expanding the current partnership to include the City of Milwaukee, which studies show would increase the return on investment for all communities.

For many years, the Waukesha County recycling program has been held up as a successful model of a public-private partnership and intergovernmental cooperation. The plan is to build on that success. Across the country, studies show where communities have switched to a single sort system, it is very popular with citizens and rewarding for the community as a whole. We are confident that will hold true here as well.

Currently, Waukesha County is working with the City of Milwaukee on joint Request for Proposals for single sort processing of recyclables. Land Resources staff will be working with all participating communities and holding public meetings later this year.

Citizen Scientists Look for *Answers*

Volunteer citizen stream monitors regularly take to local rivers and streams to collect data and look for answers. While many of our local rivers and streams have fairly consistent water quality, volunteers have found a few that can change dramatically from month to month. Most often, this is seen in the water clarity or clearness, the turbidity measure.

One of the streams with clarity problems is Mason Creek—a stream that flows into North Lake. Rebecca Mattano has been a level 2 monitor at Mason Creek for the last year and enjoys monitoring as a way to get outside and have fun in the water with her two young daughters. Throughout 2012 Rebecca has noticed some fluctuations in the clarity of Mason Creek. Mattano says, "I enjoy collecting the stream data, but it will be really meaningful if the data can be used to help improve the quality of the water in Mason Creek." A movement is currently under way to generate a watershed plan for Mason Creek where the data should be put to good use by concerned citizen groups as well as agencies such as Southeast Wisconsin Regional Planning Commission (SEWRPC) and the Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources (WDNR).

Is There a Citizen Scientist in You?

Waukesha County wants to tap your inner scientist! Volunteers are needed to gather valuable data about our local rivers and streams. Once a month, April through November, volunteers visit



a site and test water for various qualities such as temperature, flow and the presence of oxygen. Also, to measure stream quality, volunteers collect a sample of aquatic macro-invertebrates (bugs) to test the biotic index.

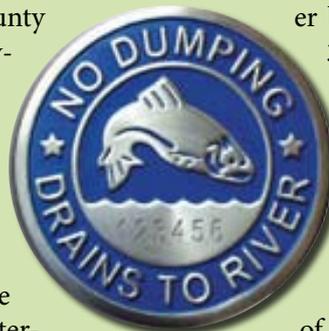
Training and equipment are provided at no cost and the next training for new volunteers will be held on May 4th from 8:30 to 2:30. Call 262-896-8305 to receive registration information.

New Look for Storm Drains

It's a simple message: "No Dumping, Drains to River", although it is probably one of the least understood. Recent telephone surveys revealed that just over 50% of adults do not know that storm water in Waukesha County drains untreated into our lakes, rivers and wetlands. This misunderstanding is part of the reason "runoff" is the leading cause of water pollution today.

Four decades ago, discharges from factories and municipal treatment plants (point sources) were the top causes of pollution in our waterways. The Clean Water Act (1972) changed this by setting clean water standards and instituting enforcement and funding mechanisms to implement the standards.

Today the water seen going down the storm drain contains many types of pollution: fertilizers, grass clippings, pet waste, oil, salt, gas and more. As discharges from factories and sewage treatment plants were cleaned up in the 1970s, up to 5 square miles per year were being converted to urban land uses. Now runoff from this



urbanized landscape is the leading source of water pollution in Waukesha County. A Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources study found that 60% of sediment in the Upper Fox River basin is from construction sites and 30% from urban runoff. Interestingly, the perception of where pollution comes from has not really changed. People still perceive that treatment plants and other industries are causing most of the water pollution.

To help improve public awareness of urban water pollution and protect our water resources, Waukesha County staff has been assisting communities to stencil storm drains with the message "Dump No Waste, Drains to River". Previously, stencils were painted on by volunteers and had to be repainted every couple of years. Now there is a new, more permanent stencil for storm drains. Metal markers (pictured above) will now be installed over storm drains to help residents understand that the storm drain is not a place to dump anything—it is a pipeline straight to our rivers and streams.

5 Easy Steps to Reduce Water Pollution

- 1) Wash your car on the grass or at the car wash—not on the driveway.
- 2) Reduce fertilizer use—test your soil first and apply fertilizers only as needed.
- 3) Pick up after your pet—pet waste is a source of bacteria and nutrients to our lakes and rivers.
- 4) Use rain barrels to capture roof runoff for use around your yard.
- 5) Keep grass clippings and leaves out of the street and off the pavement.

You're Invited!

Waukesha County Recycling and Land Resources is proud to present our 2013 series of environmental workshops at Retzer Nature Center. FREE and open to the public! Attendees must register by calling 262-548-7801.

April 27
Wiggle With Worms Workshop

1 – 2 pm
Family program

May 11
Discover Composting Workshop

10 – 11 am
Adult program

May 18
Discover Composting Workshop

9 – 10 am
Adult program

Organic Lawn Care Workshops

11 – 12 pm and 1 – 2 pm
(2 sessions)
Adult program

August 24
Soils Exploration Workshop

9 – 11 am
Family program

Organic Lawn Care Workshop

1 – 2 pm
Adult Program

September 14
Turn Over a New Leaf/Composting Workshops

10 – 11 am and 1 – 2 pm
Adult program



Coming to your Community!

Got questions?
Need information?
Want to talk some 'green'?

Come and visit our table at a community event near you! See our website for specific locations, dates, and times!



APRIL

- Recycling Facility Open House
- Greener Oconomowoc Bike Summit
- After-School Event at Waukesha Expo
- Retzer Nature Center Outreach

JUNE

- Oconomowoc Farmers' Market
- Dousman Farmers' Market
- Waukesha Farmers' Market
- Lake Country Clean Water Festival
- Retzer Nature Center Outreach

JULY

- Recycle Raccoon in 4th of July Parades
- Brookfield Farmers' Market

AUGUST

- YMCA Pabst Farms Kids' Fest
- Waukesha National Night Out
- Retzer Nature Center Outreach
- Waukesha Taste of the Garden
- Delafield Farmers' Market

SEPTEMBER

- Oconomowoc Farmers' Market
- Community libraries (9)
- Apple Harvest Festival

OCTOBER

- Elm Grove Community Fair
- Minooka Mash
- Hartland Trick or Treat
- Waukesha Hispanic Family Health Fair
- Oconomowoc Community Harvest Festival
- Retzer Nature Center Outreach

NOVEMBER

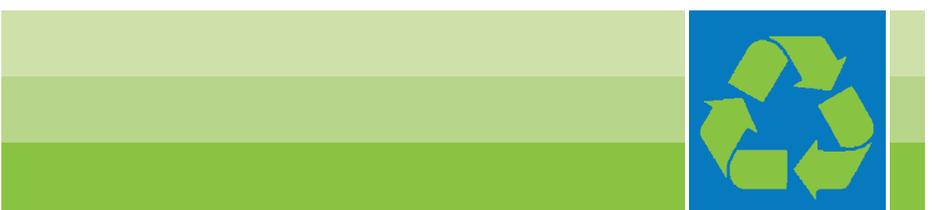
- Recycling Facility Open House
- Recycle Raccoon in Christmas Parades

And many more! If you would like us to come to your event, contact us today!

PRSR STD
US POSTAGE
PAID
WAUPACA, WI
Permit #47

Compost Bin Sale!
Only \$45 May 11th, 2013
9 a.m. – Noon
Retzer Nature Center

Department of Parks and Land Use
Land Resources Division
515 W. Moreland Blvd., AC 260
Waukesha, WI 53188



CELEBRATE EARTH DAY!
JOIN US FOR OUR
COMMUNITY OPEN HOUSE
SATURDAY ★ APRIL 20 ★ 10 AM - 12 PM
FREE ADMISSION
MUSIC ★ PRIZES ★ TOURS ★ AND MORE

WAUKESHA MATERIALS RECYCLING FACILITY
220 S. PRAIRIE AVE, WAUKESHA, WI 53188 | 262-896-8300
WAUKESHACOUNTY.GOV/RECYCLING



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