

Recycling and Solid Waste 2014 Program Review

Community Recycling Rebates

Another successful year of recycling means that Waukesha County will again be able to provide dividend payments to our 25 partner communities. "The strong partnerships and participation along with state recycling grants and favorable markets for the sale of our recyclable material made \$1.2 million in recycling dividends possible," said County Executive Dan Vrakas. "These dividend payments help communities recover some of their recyclable collection costs and we are pleased to be able to provide them." Since 2002, Waukesha County has distributed over \$12 million in dividends to the 25 partner communities.

Materials Recycling Facility (MRF)

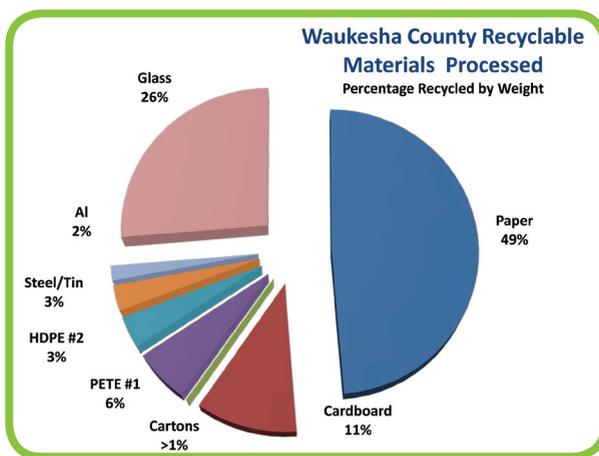
The Waukesha County MRF received, processed and shipped out an average of 70 tons of recyclable material per operating day for a total of 18,829 tons in 2013. Newspaper and mixed glass comprised 75% of the materials recycled by weight, with plastics, corrugated cardboard, steel, and aluminum making up the other 25%. The majority of the materials are shipped to domestic markets with a small percentage of paper being shipped to Ontario, Canada.

Education and Outreach

During 2013, over 7,000 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 101 MRF tours, 71 in-school presentations, 33 in-community presentations, and 10 municipal presentations. There were also 69 outreach appearances at events such as Lake Country Community Fest, Farmers' Markets, National Night Out and many more!

Yard Waste Composting

Approximately 7,060 tons of yard waste were pro-



cessed during 2013 from households in 14 participating communities and from Waukesha County Public Works and Parks Departments. Since 2004, the County yard waste composting operation has processed 65,884 tons of yard waste, creating roughly 47,000 cubic yards of finished compost. In addition to the yard waste collection, residents participated in seven county composting workshops and purchased approximately 150 home composting bins.

Household Hazardous Waste (HHW)

In 2013, 5,820 residents dropped off 216,238 pounds of hazardous materials for safe disposal at either a permanent or satellite collection site. There were also 426 residents that reused material dropped off by others through a Product Exchange Program at three permanent HHW sites. Since 2002, the Waukesha County HHW program has safely disposed of 2.3 million pounds of hazardous waste from 58,072 residents.

Special Events and Initiatives

The County sponsored two *Reduce Your Waste Stream Challenges (RYWSC)*, engaging residents and resulting in an average 21% reduction in waste and

33% increase in recycling rates. Also, the second annual Game Day Challenge, a national recycling competition among universities, was held on September 28, 2013 in collaboration with Carroll University. This challenge resulted in a 76% diversion rate and 10th place along with recycling education for all attendees. County staff also assisted with recycling at 59 community events by providing temporary bins, conducted 23 business waste assessments, assisted with recycling at municipal parks and local sports venues, and provided a professional development workshop and chamber of commerce presentations.



Single Sort Recycling Coming Your Way

Changes are coming in 2015 for residents that participate in the Waukesha County recycling program! Next year, communities in the County recycling program will begin converting from the current dual stream recycling (blue bins) to a single sort recycling system. With single sort, residents will use a larger container and only need to separate recyclables from trash. Due to the increased convenience (no more bagging and bundling of paper & cardboard), single sort has proven to be very popular with residents around the region and the country.

A single sort system will also accept more materials, including plastics (#1-7) along with paper, cardboard, aluminum, glass, steel, and cartons. "We are excited that the shift to single sort collection and processing will help us improve recycling rates and reduce landfill disposal costs while sustaining tax relief for our partner communities," said Dan Vrakas, County Executive. On April 8th, the Waukesha County Board approved an intergovernmental agreement with the City of Mil-

waukee to implement the new program.

The conversion to single sort comes after several independent studies concluded that Waukesha County should make the switch and partner with the City of Milwaukee to improve the economics of a new recycling model. In the Fall of 2013, the County and the City jointly completed a competitive Request for Proposals process. This resulted in hiring a private company (ReCommunity) to design, build and operate a facility to process single sort recyclables from the City and County. The new facility will be retrofitted into the existing City-owned building along the Menomonee River, and is scheduled to open in early 2015.

Stay tuned for more information as local recycling collection contracts are updated to take advantage of a single sort system.

Household Hazardous Waste (HHW) Information

Safely dispose of your chemicals and household hazardous items.

Year-Round Collection Sites - Open to all Waukesha County residents

MUSKEGO

W144 S6347 College Ct.

1st and 3rd Saturdays, 8am – 12pm

MEMOMONEE FALLS

W124 N9451 124th St. (Boundary Rd.)

Mondays and Wednesdays, 11am – 6pm

Saturdays, 8am – 2pm

FRANKLIN (MILWAUKEE COUNTY)

10518 S. 124th St.

2nd and 4th Saturdays, 8am – 2pm

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

WAUKESHA

900 Sentry Dr.

• April – November

2nd and 4th Saturdays, 8am – 12pm

• December – March

2nd Saturday, 8am – 12pm

SPECIAL ONE-DAY COLLECTIONS

8am – noon

Mukwonago – May 17th

Brookfield – June 7th

Delafield – June 21st

Oconomowoc – September 13th

Items Accepted at HHW Collection Sites

- Cleaning solutions with solvents
- Thermometers, thermostats w/ mercury
- Fertilizer w/ weed killer
- Pesticides/herbicides
- Rat/rodent poison
- Insect/bug killer
- Compact fluorescent light bulbs and tubes (check local retailers for recycling)
- Gasoline, fuels
- Lead-based/oil-based paint
- Paint remover
- Paint thinner/turpentine
- Stain, varnish, lacquer
- Automotive chemicals & solvents

Most hazardous products are labeled with key words to identify them.

Some signal words are:

- Flammable
- Poison
- Danger
- Combustible
- Warning
- Corrosive

Unacceptable at HHW Drop-offs:

- Ammunition/fireworks
- Batteries
- Waste from businesses or institutions
- Radioactive materials (Smoke Detectors)
- Antifreeze & motor oil (check our website for municipal oil recycling locations)
- Empty containers
- Latex paint
- Sharps (Needles/Syringes)
- Medicines

Use less toxins in the home

Before purchasing a cleaning, automotive, or garden product, see what's available at a Product Exchange Program. This free program is available at all permanent county HHW sites. Quantities and types of materials vary. Participants are required to sign a liability waiver and standard release forms and IDENTIFICATION IS REQUIRED.

For more information about household hazardous waste (HHW), including a detailed list of what is accepted at collection sites and the holiday closing schedule, visit: waukeshacounty.gov/hazardouswaste

Recycle Beyond Your Blue Bin

You don't have to be limited by what can be recycled in your blue bin! There are many other common household items that can be recycled locally, including at retail stores, thrift shops, non-profit organizations, home improvement, and electronics stores.

PLASTIC BAGS & FILMS

Clean, dry plastic bags and films are recyclable and utilized by manufacturers to make wood-alternative, composite decking. These plastic films can be brought to many retail stores, including grocery stores, which have recycling bins near store entrances. Acceptable materials include plastic bags from produce, newspaper, bread, dry cleaning, plastic case wrap from snack and beverage cases, and plastic packaging wrap from napkins, paper towels, bathroom tissue, and diaper packaging.

RECHARGEABLE BATTERIES, SMALL LEAD BATTERIES, & CELL PHONES

Rechargeable batteries, small lead batteries, and cell phones are recyclable at participating businesses, as these materials have valuable metals and chemicals that can be used in the manufacturing of new products.

LIGHT BULBS

Many light bulbs, such as compact fluorescent bulbs and tubes, circular fluorescents, U-bend fluorescents, plastic coated and shatter shield, spot/flood lamps, UV and germicidal lamps, incandescent, halogen, cold cathode, metal halide, high pressure sodium, mercury vapor, and ballasts are recy-

clable. Minimal fees may apply.

ELECTRONICS

Wisconsin's electronics recycling law bans electronics from landfills. Local municipal drop-off sites, electronics retail store, or Goodwill may accept televisions, DVD players, VCRs, speakers, computers, monitors, printers (ink cartridges may also be accepted), cables and connectors, iPods, MP3 players, boom boxes, alarm clocks, GPS, digital cameras/camcorders, chargers, CDs, DVDs, e-readers, hair dryers, curling and flat irons, vacuums, fans and other electronics for recycling or donation.

APPLIANCES

Appliances, such as washers, dryers, air conditioners, dehumidifiers, ovens, stoves, microwave ovens, dishwashers, refrigerators, freezers, furnaces, boilers, and water heaters, are banned from Wisconsin landfills. These items are recyclable through municipal drop-off sites or local electronics retailers.

TEXTILES

There are several local opportunities for donating gently used clothing, as well as old, worn out clothing and other textiles for resale or recycling into industrial wiping cloths and other products.

For more information about items that can be recycled beyond the blue bin, visit our website www.waukeshacounty.gov/recycling



Recycling Drop-Off Sites

Recyclables and other common household items are accepted from all Waukesha County residents at these municipal sites:

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

ADDITIONAL COMMUNITY SITES

Big Bend	Merton	Ottawa	Sussex
Delafield	Muskego	Pewaukee (City)	Vernon
Elm Grove	New Berlin	Summit	Waukesha (Town)
Hartland	Oconomowoc (City)		
Menomonee Falls	Oconomowoc (Town)		

These sites accept certain items from their residents only.



6TH ANNUAL WAUKESHA COUNTY Drug Collection

Drop off your items on Saturday, April 26th between 10 a.m. and 2 p.m. at the following eight locations:

- Community Memorial Hospital, Menomonee Falls
- WCTC, Pewaukee
- Moorland Reserve Health Center, New Berlin
- D.N. Greenwald Center, Mukwonago
- Waukesha State Bank, Downtown Waukesha
- Oconomowoc Memorial Hospital, Oconomowoc
- Muskego Police Department, Muskego
- Highway Department Recycling Center, Brookfield

NO SHARPS!

For more information, visit: waukeshacounty.gov/drugcollection or call (262) 548-7902.

WAUKESHA COUNTY SCHOOLS

Reduce, Reuse, Recycle & Rot!

2013 WAUKESHA COUNTY RECYCLING EDUCATION HIGHLIGHTS

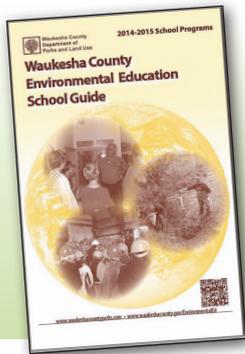
• Bonnie Czarnik's and Melissa Staub's **Meadowbrook Elementary, Waukesha**, Kindergarten students became pulping machines and created their own recycled paper. They felt paper samples made from cotton, linen and elephant dung! It was a perfect complement to their science unit on Trees/Wood & Paper.

• The **Marcy Elementary, Menomonee Falls**, student body learned that food waste is a big problem everywhere, including at school. They shared healthy food ideas and realized uneaten snacks could go back home for later instead of into the trash. The school now donates edible leftovers to a local food rescue program.

• Fifth graders in Kathy Biernat's class at **St. Mary's Visitation School, Elm Grove**, studied worm behavior and anatomy along with microscopic observations of other microorganisms in a vermi-composter (worm bin) habitat. It was a perfect transition from studying decomposers to an animal unit.

• Over 109 sixth graders, organized by teacher Megan Bruins from **Elmwood Elementary, New Berlin**, had an action-packed spring day touring the county recycling facility and participating in a water lesson at the Fox River in Bethesda Park with Waukesha County Land Resources Water Educators.

All of these programs and more are FREE and available to any Waukesha County school or educator through the Waukesha County Recycling Office. Classroom presentations, field trips, school assemblies, and lessons are listed in a comprehensive *School Program Guide* along with Water Studies and Environmental Health Programs. Also featured are Retzer Nature Center and Charles Z. Horwitz Planetarium Programs (fees apply). The guide is available online or hard copy. Go to: waukeshacounty.gov/EnvironmentalEd. An Environmental Education guide for public programs is also available at this site.



To find out more about our programs or field trips for your class or school, visit waukeshacounty.gov/EnvironmentalEd for a downloadable copy of the **Waukesha County Environmental Education School Guide!**

GREEN & HEALTHY SCHOOLS WISCONSIN

Green & Healthy Schools Wisconsin is a statewide, web-based program that is both self-paced and voluntary and is available to all Wisconsin PK-12 public and private schools. The program is administered through a partnership between the Department of Natural Resources, Department of Public Instruction, and Wisconsin Center for Environmental Education. Green & Healthy Schools Wisconsin provides information, resources and updates for all school staff, community members, and others interested in green and healthy initiatives and activities.

Through this program, schools can find support to get started, continue to move forward at their own pace, and even receive recognition for green and healthy measures already in place. For more information, visit: GHSWisconsin.org



Follow the Flow - From your Lush, Green Lawn

Summer is coming—finally!

And with summer comes the season of lawn care—mowing, fertilizing, and watering. Before dousing the lawn with spring fertilizer, follow the flow during one of our spring rains and see where the water goes as it leaves your lawn. In urban areas, water flows to the storm drain where it connects directly to the nearest lake, river, or stream. This means that anything we put on our lawn—fertilizer, pesticides, pet waste—can run off and enter our water resources. Once in our water, these pollutants fuel weed and algae growth and poison aquatic habitats.

Alternatively, organic lawn care practices avoid dangerous chemicals and run-off creating a healthier environment. Here are some simple tips to a healthier, more natural lawn:

1. TEST YOUR SOIL. Before using fertilizers, test your soil. It is a simple procedure that explains exactly how much fertilizer is actually needed to support the growth of grass. Excess application results in water pollution.

2. SET REALISTIC EXPECTATIONS. Is a completely weed free lawn necessary? Realize that weeds are a symptom. The problem could be soil compaction—not a lack of nutrients. Test the soil to treat the problem—not the symptom.

3. MOW HIGH. Set the lawn mower blade at 3". The longer grass will shade out weed sprouts and compete better against the weeds. Mow often enough to avoid removal of more than 1/3 of the grass blade—this will stress the grass, resulting in increased susceptibility to weeds.

4. LET IT GO. Unless caring for newly established lawn, allow the lawn to go dormant during hot, dry times. This will not harm the grass and will save money on the water bill. If watering is required, water only one inch, once per week and use a rain gauge to measure the amount applied. Frequent watering promotes shallow roots and can harm your lawn.

5. CLEAN UP! After fertilizing or mowing the lawn, be sure to sweep any leftovers off the pavement and back onto the lawn. Fertilizers and grass clippings will wash into the storm drain and fuel weed and algae growth in local lakes and rivers.

These are just a few tips to get started on having a healthy lawn that is safe for everyone to enjoy. Look for more information on our website at www.waukeshacounty.gov/cleanwater

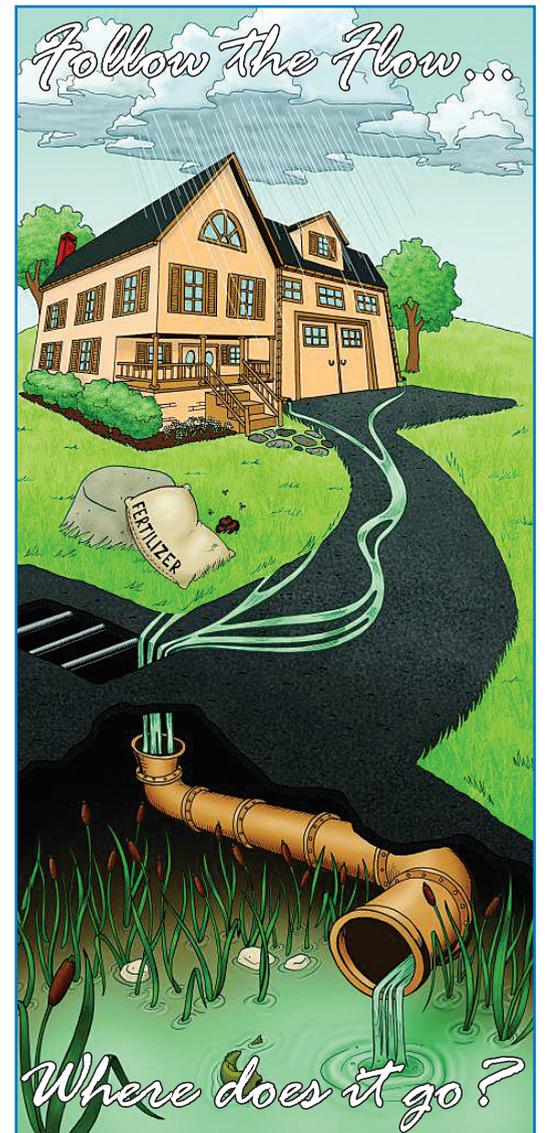


IMAGE COURTESY THINK BLUE MAINE

Like **Waukesha County Recycles** on

Follow **WaukCntyRecycle** on

Sign up for our Recycling E-News at waukeshacounty.gov/recycling

Waukesha County Business Recycling Assistance

Join the growing list of county businesses reaping benefits from a **free, non-regulatory waste evaluation** by our Business Recycling Specialist. Whether it's an office, restaurant, manufacturer, or retail operation, trash disposal represents profit loss. Find easy ways to improve the bottom line!

AN EVALUATION INCLUDES:

- An on-site visit scheduled at your convenience to evaluate opportunities to reduce trash volume

& costs, recycle more, and find solutions for disposing of unusual materials. Depending upon the size of your business, the visit can last from 10 minutes to 1 hour.

- Following the visit, recommendations are provided verbally or in writing, as preferred.
- In addition, small businesses may be provided with indoor office recycling containers & posters to assist with collections in the workplace.

WAUKESHA COUNTY CHAMBER CONNECTIONS

The Waukesha County Business Recycling Specialist offers chamber of commerce presentations and is able to provide assistance directly through the chamber as a benefit to members. Green Business Awards for recycling & reducing waste are also available. Call 262-896-8317 for more information or to schedule an evaluation.

Schedule a FREE Public Program!

Waukesha County Recycling & Water Resources are proud to present our 2014 workshops! FREE for scouts, community groups and organizations! Contact us today! (262) 896-8300

■ RECYCLING PRESENTATION (Youth or Adults) 45 mins-1 hr

Expect to be amazed by recycling factoids, neighborhood "how-tos," and more! See a video of our recycling facility in action! Go home understanding the system and having had all your questions answered.

■ HOME COMPOSTING WORKSHOP (Adult) 1 hr-- Available in Spring/Fall

Learn how to create your own compost, how to use it, and about different bin styles. Find out the Top 10 Reasons to compost! Discover how compost creates healthy soil for beautiful lawns & gardens.

■ TURN OVER A NEW LEAF WORKSHOP: EASY FALL YARD CARE (Adult) 1 hr-Available in Fall

Learn how to handle large amounts of fallen leaves without burning, raking, piling, bagging, or dragging. These easy and efficient methods will keep your lawn in shape and improve air quality while saving time and tax dollars.

■ ORGANIC LAWN CARE WORKSHOP (Adult) 45 mins-1 hr-Available in Spring/Fall

Find out the latest approaches and steps to a green & healthy lawn through organic practices that create the best growing conditions for the biggest crop in America: the LAWN.

■ GREEN CLEANING WORKSHOP (Adult) 45 mins-1 hr.

Is there another way to keep our homes and workplaces healthy and clean rather than using toxic chemicals? Find out what common household ingredients can be used to keep your home healthy, clean, and safe. Find out what really works and which products on the market pass as "green." (Presentation Add-

on: "Make & Take" a creamy soft scrub to try at home!)

■ UNDERSTANDING YOUR WATER RESOURCES PRESENTATION (Youth or Adults) 45 mins-1 hr

Where does your water come from? Where does it go when you are done with it? What is the difference between storm sewers and sanitary sewers? We'll answer these questions and more in this interactive presentation about water. Have you wondered about the Waukesha water issue? We'll talk about that, too. Find out what a watershed is and what impacts you have on our waters—for better or worse.

■ THE VALUE OF RAIN GARDENS & RAIN BARRELS WORKSHOP (Adult) 45 mins-1 hr.

Rain barrels have been used for many generations. Discover how they can help restore a more natural water flow within the environment while saving you money. Not only will we explore how to install rain barrels, we will learn about rain gardens, too! Rain gardens and rain barrels can be a beautiful solution to water pollution.



Find these great programs and many others for you and your family in the **Waukesha County Environmental Education Activity Guide!** Get your downloadable copy today at waukeshacounty.gov/EnvironmentalEd

You're Invited!

Got questions? Need information?

Looking for something fun to do? Come and visit our booth, event or themed workshop at a community near you! See our website for specific locations, dates, and times.

ALL PROGRAMS ARE FREE!

■ APRIL

- April 22 Home Composting Workshop - Elm Grove Public Library ■ 6:30pm-7:30pm
- April 26 **WAUKESHA MATERIALS RECYCLING FACILITY OPEN HOUSE** ■ 9am-12pm
- April 27 Organic Lawn Care Workshop - Elm Grove Public Library ■ 2pm-3pm
- April 29 Home Composting Workshop - Muskego Public Library ■ 7pm-8pm
- April 29 Rain Garden/Rain Barrel Workshop - Delafield Public Library ■ 6:30pm-7:30pm

■ MAY

- May 6 Organic Lawn Care Workshop - Mukwonago Public Library ■ 6:30pm-7:30pm
- May 8 Home Composting Workshop - Delafield Public Library ■ 6:30pm-7:30pm
- May 10 **COMPOST BIN & RAIN BARREL SALE** at Retzer Nature Center's Spring Sale ■ 9am - 12pm
- Home Composting Workshop - Retzer Nature Center, Waukesha ■ 10am - 11am
- Wild Life of a Wisconsin Stream Booth - Retzer Nature Center, Waukesha ■ 9am - 1pm

■ JUNE

- June 14 **LANDSCAPE PLASTICS RECYCLING EVENT** at Johnson's Nursery, Inc. ■ 8 am-12 pm
- June 21 Lake Country Clean Water Festival Booth - Pewaukee Lakefront Park Beach ■ 10am -3pm

■ AUGUST

- August 12 YMCA Pabst Farms Kids' Fest Booth - Roosevelt Park, Oconomowoc ■ 9am-1pm
- August 13 Waukesha National Night Out Booth - Frame Park, Waukesha ■ 5pm-7pm

■ SEPTEMBER

- September 20 Apple Harvest Fest Booth - Retzer Nature Center, Waukesha ■ 9am-4pm

PRSRT STD
US POSTAGE
PAID
WAUPACA, WI
Permit #47

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



Spring Sale

May 10, 2014 9am-Noon

RAIN OR SHINE

Native Plants \$4-\$20

Compost Bins \$50

Rain Barrels \$60-\$100

Retzer Nature Center
S14 W28167 Madison St., Waukesha, WI
262.896.8300
waukeshacountyparks.com

CELEBRATE EARTH DAY

JOIN US FOR OUR

COMMUNITY OPEN HOUSE

SATURDAY ★ APRIL 26TH ★ 9 AM - 12 PM

FREE ADMISSION

LEARN HOW RECYCLING WORKS!
MUSIC ★ PRIZES ★ TOURS ★ AND MORE

LOCATION

WAUKESHA MATERIALS RECYCLING FACILITY
220 S. PRAIRIE AVE, WAUKESHA | 262-896-8300
waukeshacounty.gov/recycling