



WATER Conservation

FALL 2010



RECYCLING

Waste Reduction NEWS

Reduce, Reuse, Recycle & Everybody Wins!

Early October marked the beginning of Waukesha County's Reduce Your Waste Stream Team Challenge. Residents in the 25 recycling partner communities in the county were invited to participate via an email blast to various organizations, groups and municipal offices. The Challenge will show the potential savings that can be generated when residents decrease the amount of waste they throw away by reducing, reusing and recycling more. "Although residents who volunteered to participate will receive a prize, all communities really win when the cost to dispose of trash decreases and recycling rates increase," said County Executive, Dan Vrakas.

In 2009 state landfill fees increased 120% to \$13/ton. The total cost to landfill a ton of garbage is about \$40/ton. The average value of recyclables is about \$100/ton. If residents were able to reduce the amount of garbage they produced by 10% and increase recycling by 10%, total landfill costs would be reduced over \$320,000 and the value of recyclables would increase by more than \$210,000 for a total savings of over \$500,000/year.

The *Reduce Your Waste Stream Team Challenge* pits neighborhood teams against one another in a friendly

competition to reduce their waste stream while sharing their stories via blogs. Participants were given simple tips to help them reduce waste: *Buy products with less packaging *Recycle all possible items – including new items such as milk, juice and soup cartons *Recycle electronics including TVs, computers, printers, VCRs, DVDs, cell phones *Learn to compost.

The ultimate goal of the Challenge is to identify those solutions that reduce waste and increase recycling that participants feel are the easiest to do. With this data, the county can then initiate a county-wide program that will significantly reduce the overall waste stream in our communities, increase recycling, and minimize what we put into landfills.

For more information about the Challenge and to follow the progress of the Challenge Teams, go to www.ReduceYourWasteStream.com.

Waukesha County
Department of Parks and Land Use
Land Resources Division
515 W. Moreland Blvd-AC260
Waukesha, WI 53188

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ECRWSS
RESIDENTIAL CUSTOMER

REDUCE YOUR WASTE STREAM TEAM CHALLENGE



Challenge Sponsors



Carton Council

FCR Recycling
Materials Processing Corporation
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Johns Disposal Service, Inc.

E-CYCLE Wisconsin: New law keeps electronics out of landfills



“E-Cycle” Recycles

- Computers
- Laptops
- Keyboards & Mice
- Hard Drives
- Flash Drives
- Modems
- Speakers
- Monitors
- Desktop Printers
- Televisions
- DVD, VCR & DVR Players
- Fax Machines
- And More!

A new statewide electronics recycling law is creating recycling opportunities for Wisconsin households and schools. The law bans many common electronics including computers, printers, TVs and cell phones from Wisconsin landfills effective Sept. 1, 2010.

Non-profits such as Goodwill and many retailers that sell these products will now take them back for recycling. Also, some municipal recycling drop off sites will accept electronics, including the cities of Brookfield, New Berlin and Waukesha. Some haulers will collect large TVs. Call the company that picks up your trash, or your municipal office, for more information. Also, visit the county website for updated information.

The E-Cycle Wisconsin program,

created by the Department of Natural Resources to implement the new law, provides incentives to manufacturers of electronics to responsibly manage their products at the end of their useful life. This Product Stewardship concept has created new markets for used electronic equipment and partnerships with non-profit groups, local governments, retailers and recyclers. The law also requires documentation by the recycler to assure proper handling and tracking of the electronics collected.

Recycling your old electronics is important because they contain valuable materials that can be recycled and reused, including precious metals like gold and copper. Many devices also contain materials such as lead, mercury, cadmium, chromium and chemical flame retardants. If disposed of improperly, these materials can

leach into the environment where they may affect human and environmental health.

“After September 1, no one in Wisconsin may put items such as TVs, computers, printers and cell phones in the trash,” said Ann Coakley, director of the DNR’s Waste and Materials Management Program. “Electronics are resources that are too valuable to waste, and we can help both our economy and the environment by recycling them.”

For a complete list of items and recycling locations, go to www.waukeshacounty.gov/recycling

LEAVES CAN BE GOOD FOR YOUR LAWN



ined and mulched using two mower passes in October.

For comparison, a typical wooded lot drops about 3000 lbs/acre of tree leaves & litter per year. Purdue studies used equivocal amounts as high as 4000 lbs/acre. A final MSU study applied leaves at rates up to 18,000 lbs/acre, which correlates to a layer 18 inches thick!

Benefits of Mulching...

Less time and strain for the caretaker is one major benefit, as there is no bagging and dragging, no costly bags and no transportation hassles or expense. For those who used to burn leaves, neighbors appreciate not having to close their windows to the acrid smell of smoke creating pollution, respiratory problems and potential fire hazards.

The trees also appreciate the returned nutrients and organic matter from their leaves, rather than having them hauled away and replaced with a bag of fertilizer. In addition, other testing from MSU determined that leaf mulching increased organic matter in the soil and softened athletic field surfaces, both signs of improved soil quality.

The easiest and cheapest way to dispose of leaves is to mulch them into the lawn.

While this idea isn’t new, only recently have major universities compiled enough data to determine that proper leaf mulching has no long-term negative effects on turf. Studies out of Michigan State (MSU), Purdue, Cornell and Rutgers conclude that it is an excellent disposal method that doesn’t harm healthy turf. The leaves had no effect on turf quality or color, thatch build-up, soil pH or nutrient availability, weed infestation or a variety of diseases. Leaves used for the study included maple and oak mulched on Kentucky bluegrass, perennial ryegrass and fine fescue. Different application rates were also exam-

Leaf Mulching Tips...

1. Use a sharp blade. (A mulching blade is even better, but not essential.)
2. Mow before leaves pile up too high. More than 3-4 inches is difficult to handle. Also, a dense layer of unmulched leaves left on the lawn—especially if wet & matted—is not advised. If there is an extended rainy spell, raking may be necessary.
3. Don’t mow fast. The leaves won’t chop up as well. A normal speed or slightly slower will work best, reducing leaves to dime-size pieces.
4. Don’t mow wet leaves. Dry leaves chop up much better.
5. Be sure you can see the top half of the grass blade above the leaves, which will also indicate when you are done mulching!

Looking for more tips on effective leaf mulching and organic yard & turf management? Sign up for our quarterly e-newsletter, The Green Gardener at:

recycling@waukeshacounty.gov



Dog POOP. It’s a serious health problem. Why? Because it contains disease-carrying bacteria that can make people sick. And because there are over 100,000 dogs in Waukesha County. Do the math. Then do this. Pick up after your pooch. Remind your neighbors to pick up after theirs. Good manners, great health policy.

Your dog can’t help it. But you can.

MRF OPEN HOUSE

Family-friendly fun for all ages

10 AM to Noon

Saturday, Nov. 13, 2010

Saturday, Apr. 16, 2011

County Materials Recycling Facility
220 S. Prairie Avenue, Waukesha

For details, call 896-8300 or visit www.waukeshacounty.gov/recycling

NEW!

CARTONS are now RECYCLABLE.

It's easy:

- 1 Empty and rinse your milk, juice & soup cartons.
- 2 Throw caps and straws away.
- 3 Place cartons in your blue bin with bottles & cans.

RECYCLE MORE
www.waukeshacounty.gov/recycling

Waukesha County Recycling Team Wins State Award



The **Outstanding Achievement in Education Award** was presented to the Waukesha County Recycling Team by the Associated Recyclers of Wisconsin (AROW) at their annual conference last March. The group was recognized for excellent educational efforts, related to solid waste and recycling, including the County Green Schools, Healthy Body/Healthy Planet program for health clubs, a recycling bin loan program for community festivals, tournaments and events; and summer workshops and seminars for teachers.

Pictured above left to right: Back - Wess Damro, AROW President with Linda Wainstock, Dustin Nolan, Meribeth Sullivan, Toral Jha, AROW Executive Director; Front - Karen Fiedler, Analiese Smith

Household Hazardous Waste Green CLEANING TIPS

While there is nothing better than the smell of a freshly baked apple pie, the odors emanating from your oven cleaner and other traditional cleaning supplies are much less desirable. Chemicals found in traditional household cleaners can cause health problems, especially for infants and people with respiratory problems or asthma.

An easy solution is to make your own! Call 262-896-8300 to schedule a **Green Cleaning Party**. Learn, make, and take with friends or your civic group.



Paint disposal questions are some of the most frequently asked. To reduce leftover paint, use online calculators to determine the amount needed for your space. Also, proper storage of paint will make it last longer and make touch-ups easier. To keep the lid from sticking, use a nail to make a few holes on the inner lip of the can so excess paint can drain. Also, float a piece of waxed paper or tin foil on top of the paint so a "skin" doesn't form. Store paint in an area that is not too hot or too cold. Basements are good options so the paint will not freeze. To dispose of left-over latex paint, completely dry it out and leave opened cans for regular garbage collection. Liquid oil-based paints and stains must be taken to a HHW Collection Site.

Product Exchange Program

If you find you need a small amount of something...visit one of our Household Hazardous Waste Collection Sites to utilize the Product Exchange Program.

You may find cleaning, automotive, or lawn products available for your use. Everything is free, but you must sign a waiver.

Disposing of certain chemicals found in the home requires special care so that they do not harm people or the environment. Fertilizer with weed killer, pesticides, lighter fluid, pool chemicals, rodent poison, and herbicides all must be dropped off at one of the county's special collection sites.

Visit our website or Google Waukesha County Household Hazardous Waste Collection Site to find the location nearest you.

Try this quick and easy all-purpose cleaner

1 tsp liquid soap
1 tsp borax
2 fbsp vinegar
1 qt water

For more recipes visit
www.waukeshacounty.gov/recycling

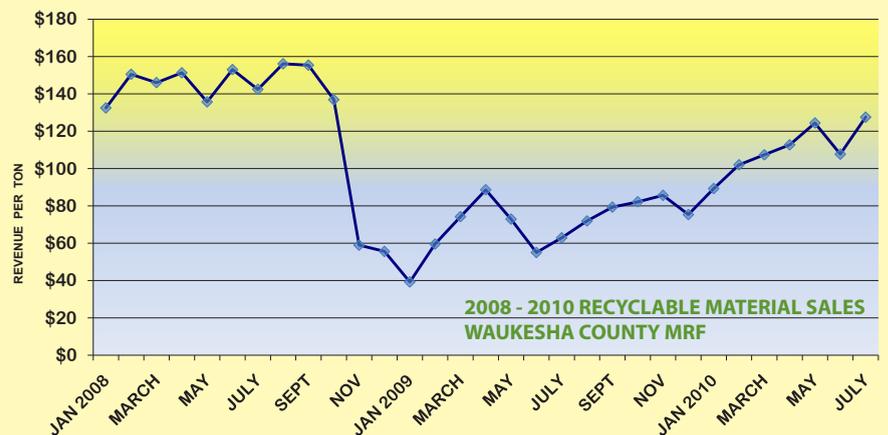
Green Roof Has Many Benefits



A green roof installed at Oconomowoc Memorial Hospital offers a more aesthetic view than a conventional roof, but has practical benefits too.

A roof covered with plants has a longer lifespan than a conventional roof as it is protected from damaging sunlight. A green roof can also lower heating and cooling bills, reduce storm water runoff, and mitigate the "urban heat island" effect. This particular green roof is a tray system. The 1' x 2' trays of plants can be lifted out of the way for roof maintenance.

Recycling Markets Recover



The average revenue of bottles, cans and paper set out for recycling by residents has rebounded from the dramatic drop accompanying the economic downturn in January 2009 to more than \$100 a ton this year.

This reflects more demand in our economy for products made from recycled materials, so it is important to recycle all you can all the time! Otherwise, you are throwing away tax dollars (\$40 per ton to bury it in a landfill plus \$100 per ton of lost revenue) as well as resources that will cost more in the future.



Down the drain....to where?

Water that goes down the storm drain goes to the nearest lake, river or stream carrying with it a variety of pollutants such as grass clippings, oil, pet waste—normal stuff that washes off our homes and yards.

Learn 10 easy steps to clean water at www.waukeshacounty.gov/cleanwater ...and start taking steps for clean water today!

The Fairest Recyclers at the Fair

The 2010 Waukesha County Fair was one to remember! In addition to the traditional gut-busting rides, rockin' bands, and pig races, fair-goers could also experience a sea lion show, walk on water, and take a ride on a monster truck through the mud.

Impressively, with all of the fun to be had, many patrons partook in a more subtle, but important activity - making sure bottles and cans found their way into a recycling bin.

With over 65 recycling locations around the grounds and in the buildings, fair-goers didn't have to look far to find a recycling bin for their bottles and cans. And, in record numbers, they found and used them.

In total, over 800 pounds of empty bottles and cans were collected at the 2010 fair and brought directly to the Waukesha Materials Recycling Facility. From there, these materials were processed and shipped off to be recycled into new products.

Vendors at the fair did their part as well. Over 1,000 pounds of cardboard were collected and recycled.

"Hopefully, residents are beginning to discover that wherever they go throughout the county, they can find recycling nearby. We want this to become the norm, not the exception," said Dustin Nolan, who assists with public place recycling in Waukesha County.

In addition to the county fair, Waukesha County Recycling has helped make recycling the norm in many other public venues, including county parks, Waukesha School District high school sports fields, Wales Community Park, and the City of Waukesha softball and baseball complexes.

Waukesha County Recycling encourages all community members to look for recycling bins when they are out and about and, when planning an event, to contact the recycling office for assistance.

GREEN TAG on your recycling bin?

In an economy with ever-increasing demands on quality and efficiency, the recycling industry is no different from any other. As a result, all haulers are becoming more mindful of the guidelines set by the recycling system when making residential pick-ups.

The recycling guidelines are determined by two main factors: First, the County Materials Recycling Facility, where recyclables are sorted, baled and shipped to markets, is a working plant with an operations system in place. The current system is designed with one sort line for paper and a separate line for bottles and cans. As a result, hauling companies must keep paper and containers separate when they deliver them to the facility, and residents are asked to separate them when placing out for collection at their homes.

A second factor for recycling guidelines is the end markets where recyclables are sold to be made into new products. These markets determine which materials can and cannot be collected for recycling. They have strict standards (specifications) for the materials they purchase.

When a recycling driver observes



mistakes on the part of the household to meet these standards, the policy is to Green Tag the bin, with a checkmark explaining why the materials were not picked up. In the past, with minimal mistakes, the hauler could be flexible and take the material; however, now with markets being more demanding in what they will take, everyone has to be more diligent.

The County Recycling Office makes every effort to inform residents about the recycling guidelines and to keep the program as efficient and easy as possible. As the recycling industry evolves, the County's system will adapt with it. In the meantime, residents are asked to stay mindful of the many benefits of recycling when asked to follow the guidelines.

If you would like to see how your household recyclables are processed, call 896-8300 to arrange a free group tour of the Materials Recycling Facility (MRF) in Waukesha or attend the Open House on November 13 from 10 a.m. – noon.

Q and A

Q. How do I recycle small boxes such as cereal, tissue boxes and other paper packaging?

Clean boxes such as cereal, snack, gift and tissue boxes and other paper packaging should be flattened and placed in a paper bag with your newspapers, magazines, junk mail and other paper products. Do not place boxes or other paper loose in the blue bin! The only recyclables that can be placed loose in a blue bin are: steel and aluminum cans, glass and plastic bottles and jars, and milk and juice cartons. If corrugated cardboard is too large to place in a paper bag, please bundle with twine or string and place alongside the blue bin. Cardboard should not exceed 3 x 4 feet, as conveyors at the MRF can not handle items larger than that.

Q. I have brush, branches and railroad ties that I need to dispose of. What are my options?

Yard waste collection is a city, town or village issue, so always check with your municipality first. If they have no provision for yard waste collection, please follow the suggestions on the county recycling website. Railroad ties are pretreated and can not be recycled as wood chips. Call your local municipality or trash hauler first to see if they'll take them. If not, contact one of the privately-owned landfills in the county for drop-off information and fees. Although yard waste is banned from landfills by state law, some landfill operators have grinding equipment on site to prepare these materials for mulch or compost.



Reducing Runoff

RAIN GARDENS & RAIN BARRELS are two ways to reduce storm water runoff from your home. This can help keep your home drier and local rivers and streams cleaner. To find out about our rain garden grant program or where to buy a rain barrel, visit our website at www.waukeshacounty.gov/cleanwater

