

# Waukesha County Stormwater and Recycling Municipal Updates

April-May 2026

**New Staff - Collin:** Hello everyone, my name is Collin Duffy and I'm the newest Recycling Specialist for Waukesha County, replacing Travis Ripley who moved back to his home state of Texas. I've been with Waukesha County Parks and Land Use for the last 4 years in a variety of roles and I'm excited to work with each of you! If you have any questions or would like to connect, please feel free to reach out to me at [cduffy@waukeshacounty.gov](mailto:cduffy@waukeshacounty.gov)

**Recycle Right Campaign:** Waukesha County is launching a "Recycle Right" campaign from April through October 2026 to help residents recycle correctly and reduce contamination. The campaign features media outreach; social media posts, ads, and videos; email newsletters; a postcard; and community events/direct engagement. Monthly messaging highlights specific materials like paper, cans, glass, plastics, and cartons, with tips to keep items loose, empty, and dry. We encourage you to share these resources to help residents recycle confidently.

***Please support Recycle Right outreach by using the ready-to-share posts in your social media channels and newsletters, or by sharing directly from the Waukesha County Recycling Facebook page; we kindly ask that each post be shared only during its designated month, so residents receive timely, relevant information. Questions? Please contact [recycling@waukeshacounty.gov](mailto:recycling@waukeshacounty.gov)***

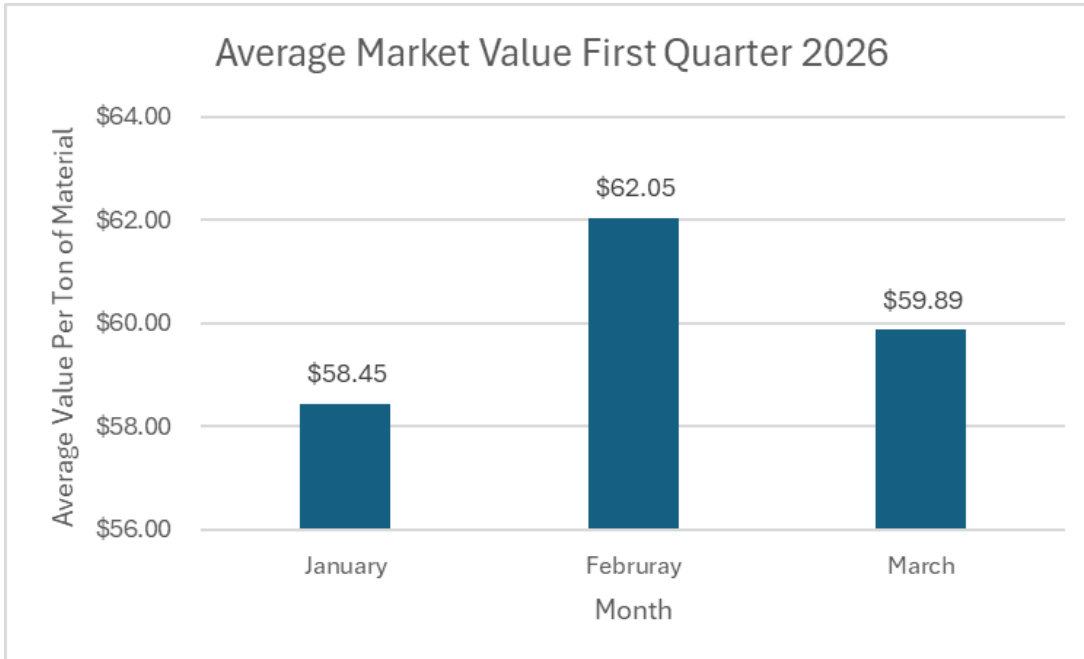
**Compost Bin Workshops and Presale-** Bins are available for preorder now, while supplies last, with pickup on May 9th at Retzer Nature Center from 8:00am-11:00am. Please see the attached flyer for bin purchase information and details about the free workshops offered on pick up day. We'd appreciate your help promoting the compost bin sale to your residents through your social media channels and newsletters. Remember, composting helps divert waste from landfills and finished compost can be added to soil to help reduce stormwater runoff. It's a win-win! If your community has a stormwater poster for yard waste and composting, please print the compost sale flyer and place it in the empty space on your poster.

**Homeowner Association Education Meeting** - This year's virtual meeting will be September 24<sup>th</sup> at 6:30 pm. Even if your topic is not homeowner association education, you can still promote this virtual meeting. The flyer is attached.

**2025 Actual Recycling Costs Reporting (Municycle):** Thank you to all our recycling partners for providing this important information for the DNR's annual report. In the Fall, we will request your budgeted 2027 costs for the required DNR application. We appreciate your ongoing assistance through this process!

**Recycling Ordinance Update:** As of July 1, 2025, administrative code that oversees Responsible Unit ("RU") effective recycling programs and other aspects of Wisconsin's recycling law has been revised. Waukesha County had already met the updated standards as it relates to education, however; an update to the Waukesha County Recycling and Solid Waste Ordinance, Chapter 14, Article 4 was required. The updated ordinance was passed by the Waukesha County Board of Supervisors on March 24, 2026, and includes prescriptive standards for multiple-family dwellings, nonresidential facilities, and properties. It also removes outdated guidelines for Waukesha County purchasing products made from recycled and recovered materials. More information can be found here: <https://events.waukeshacounty.gov/Committee>

**Recycling Performance:** Below, please find the monthly average market value per ton for recyclables:



For January through March 2026, Midwest recycling market index reporting shows a mixed recycling market: aluminum remained the strongest of the listed commodities, steel improved modestly and then held steady, and cardboard (OCC) posted a small upward move by March, while mixed paper recyclables stayed essentially flat at low levels. Plastic containers like milk jugs and laundry detergent bottles (HDPE) performed better than plastic water bottles (PET) during the quarter, with natural-colored HDPE strengthening into March, in contrast to PET, which weakened significantly over the same period. PET is the clearest negative trend in Q1 2026. After starting the year at already weak levels, it fell further by March, reflecting continued oversupply and soft demand in end markets. Overall, the January–March 2026 Midwest market shows that metals provided the most resilience, fiber was stable but subdued, and PET remained the primary area of concern and the commodity to watch most closely as we move into the second quarter of 2026. Average Market Value of recyclables for the month of April is expected to exceed first quarter performance.

**Event Recycling:** With warmer weather around the corner, many municipalities around Waukesha County are planning their community events. The Waukesha County Recycling and Solid Waste team offers a free recycling bin-lending program for events in Waukesha County. Supplies are limited during peak event-season so coordinate now with [cduffy@waukeshacounty.gov](mailto:cduffy@waukeshacounty.gov) to get your supplies secured for your upcoming events!

**Upcoming Events:**

Tuesday April 21<sup>st</sup>- 6-7pm Green Cleaning Workshop at Hartland Public Library

Saturday April 25<sup>th</sup> – 10am- 1pm Earth Day Celebration at Retzer Nature Center

Thursday April 30<sup>th</sup> – 10 am – 12 pm Master Recycler at Retzer Nature Center

Thursday April 30<sup>th</sup>- 4:30- 6:30 pm Master Recycler at Retzer Nature Center

Saturday May 9<sup>th</sup>- 8-11am Compost Bin Pick Up at Retzer Nature Center

Saturday May 9<sup>th</sup>- 10- 10:30 am Yardening at Retzer Nature Center

Saturday May 9<sup>th</sup>- 10:30- 11am Composting: From Start to Finish at Retzer Nature Center

Monday June 9<sup>th</sup>- 2-4pm Master Recycler at Brookfield Public Library

Saturday, June 13<sup>th</sup> – 10:00 to 11:00 am Sustainable Yardening at North Lake Town Hall Library

Saturday, June 27<sup>th</sup> 10:00 am to 3:00 pm – Outreach at Clean Water Festival, Pewaukee Beach

Monday June 29<sup>th</sup>- 10:30-11:30 am Composting: From Start to Finish at Waukesha Public Library



**Email List:** Is someone at your municipality missing out on these updates? Please share their email with [cduffy@waukeshacounty.gov](mailto:cduffy@waukeshacounty.gov) to get added to the distribution list!

# Recycle Right Campaign – Resources for Municipalities

## Facebook Posts

Month	Text	Image
<p><b>April</b></p>	<p>Celebrate Earth Day by recycling right! Follow these easy tips to reduce your waste:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• DO place recyclables loose (no bagging), empty (food and liquids out – no half full water bottles!), and dry in your recycling cart.</li> <li>• DON'T “wish-cycle” questionable items. When in doubt, check Waukesha County’s recycling guide or leave it out of your bin. Not sure about an item? View Waukesha County’s recycling guide here: <a href="http://waukeshacounty.gov/recycling">waukeshacounty.gov/recycling</a></li> </ul>	
<p><b>May</b></p>	<p>Crush it in May and focus on recycling cans. Follow these easy tips to Recycle Right and keep scrap metal out of your cart:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• DO recycle aluminum and steel cans and make sure they are empty, rinsed, and placed loose in your cart. Crushing is OK and can save space.</li> <li>• DON'T put scrap metal (car parts, pots, pans, pipes, or wires) in curbside recycling as it can damage sorting equipment. Take those items to a scrap recycler instead – they’ll pay you for it, so you can make some money!</li> </ul> <p>Not sure about an item? View Waukesha County’s recycling guide here: <a href="http://waukeshacounty.gov/recycling">waukeshacounty.gov/recycling</a></p>	

## Newsletter Articles

Month	Text	Image
<p><b>April</b></p>	<p><b>Earth Day Recycling Right: Do's and Don'ts</b>            Celebrate Earth Day by recycling right! Follow these easy tips to reduce your waste:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• DO place recyclables loose (no bagging), empty (food and liquids out – no half full water bottles!), and dry in your recycling cart.</li> <li>• DON'T “wish-cycle” questionable items. When in doubt, check Waukesha County’s recycling guide or leave it out of your bin.</li> </ul> <p>Not sure about an item? View Waukesha County’s recycling guide here: <a href="http://waukeshacounty.gov/recycling">waukeshacounty.gov/recycling</a></p>	 <p><b>EARTH DAY RECYCLING RIGHT</b></p> <p>Keep ‘em loose, empty, and dry!</p> <p>Waukesha County Recycles  <a href="http://waukeshacounty.gov/recycling">waukeshacounty.gov/recycling</a></p>
<p><b>May</b></p>	<p><b>Crush It in May! Cans In, Scrap Metal Out!</b>            Crush it in May and focus on recycling cans. Follow these easy tips to Recycle Right and keep scrap metal out of your cart:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• DO recycle aluminum and steel cans and make sure they are empty, rinsed, and placed loose in your cart. Crushing is OK and can save space.</li> <li>• DON'T put scrap metal (car parts, pots, pans, pipes, or wires) in curbside recycling as it can damage sorting equipment. Take those items to a scrap recycler instead – they’ll pay you for it, so you can make some money!</li> </ul> <p>Not sure about an item? View Waukesha County’s recycling guide here: <a href="http://waukeshacounty.gov/recycling">waukeshacounty.gov/recycling</a></p>	 <p><b>CANS IN, SCRAP METAL OUT!</b></p> <p>Save space - crush your cans!</p> <p>Waukesha County Recycles  <a href="http://waukeshacounty.gov/recycling">waukeshacounty.gov/recycling</a></p>

# COMPOST BIN SALE

Pre order your bin today for pick up on May 9th.

**\*While supplies last\***

\$60

+tax

[waukeshacounty.gov/composting](http://waukeshacounty.gov/composting)

**Retzer Nature Center**

S14 W28167 Madison St, Waukesha, WI 53188

**MAY 9, 2026**

**8:00 AM- 11:00 AM**

## FREE WORKSHOPS

### 10AM- Yardening

Make your space a contributor to a healthy environment by creating habitat, planting natives and protecting water.

### 10:30AM- Composting: From Start to Finish

Learn how to create and use your own compost and how it improves the health of your soils in lawns and gardens.



# Are you part owner of a stormwater pond?



Learn what that could mean for you at this  
online education event.

## Homeowner Association Education Meeting

September 24, 2026 at 6:30 pm

Virtual meeting – send request for meeting  
link to [water@waukeshacounty.gov](mailto:water@waukeshacounty.gov)

Learn about:

- Maintenance required
- Associated costs
- Liability
- Life span

