

Waukesha County Stormwater and Recycling Municipal Updates

August September 2026

Recycle Right Campaign: The campaign isn't over yet and will continue through Fall to help residents recycle correctly and reduce contamination. The campaign features media outreach; social media posts, ads & 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. A news release about the campaign was distributed in May and is attached to this email for reference. We encourage you to share these resources to help residents recycle confidently.

Next month, residents across Waukesha County recycling communities will be mailed the attached postcard to promote positive recycling habits. An estimated 52,000 residents will receive the postcard across Responsible Unit communities.

Recycling Composition Study: Preparations are underway for Waukesha County's annual recycling composition study, which will take place this fall. This study analyzes recyclables collected from the Waukesha County Responsible Unit to estimate the material mix, overall quality, and amount of non-recyclable contamination in incoming loads. County staff will work directly with contracted community haulers to coordinate accurate and efficient sampling as materials are delivered to the MRF. The study results will help determine the average market value of collected recyclables for the coming year. Please continue encouraging residents to recycle right, by sharing Recycle Right campaign resources through your channels, to help improve material quality and support strong results.

2027 Budgeted Recycling Costs Reporting (Municycle): Thank you to all our recycling partners for providing this important information for the DNR's annual RU grant application. We appreciate your ongoing assistance through this process! All data is due August 19th.

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



Recycling markets appear to be stabilizing across commodity types. From May through July 2026, market prices showed noticeably less volatility than during the first two quarters of the year.

Muskego HHW Site update: Following closure of the Muskego HHW Collection Site in 2023, Waukesha County continued to explore options and partnership opportunities to reestablish a HHW collection site in Muskego. It's important to note that siting HHW collection areas have become increasingly difficult due to a combination of operational, logistical, and community/land-use constraints. We are happy to announce that the Muskego site reopened on August 1st at the Emerald Park Landfill site which is managed by GFL. These collection events will take place on the first and third Saturdays of each month between February and November, from 8AM- 12PM. The official address of the site is listed below:

GFL Environmental Emerald Park Landfill
W124S10629 South 124th Street

Tax Insert: Please fill out the following survey to indicate if your municipality is interested in receiving the annual Recycling/Stormwater/Parks tax insert. Please only have one person from each municipality complete the survey. The tax insert will be sent to all residents with their tax bills.

Survey Link:

https://forms.cloud.microsoft/Pages/ResponsePage.aspx?id=rHo-5yO_U0ezPfQFUpw_tvS3CjLUsixMm2iylrGm0nFUNDI3WkZWSDVZTlhMREVOREk5RVpZNIhHTS4u

WI Stormwater Week September 19th to 27th: We will have special stormwater education tables in the passport event at Apple Harvest Fest at Retzer Nature Center on September 19th. There will also be 3 webinars that week. Please help promote these to your residents!



The graphic features a background image of a wooden dock extending into a body of water. At the top left is a logo of Wisconsin with a cloud and raindrops. To its right, the text "2026 STORMWATER WEEK" is displayed in blue. Below this, a blue banner reads "REGISTER FOR FREE EDUCATIONAL WEBINARS @ WISTORMWATER.COM!". Three rows of event details are listed, each with a date and time in a blue box on the left and a topic in a light blue box on the right, connected by a yellow arrow.

Date & Time	Topic
TUES, SEPT. 22 (6 - 7 PM)	WHOSE POND IS IT ANYWAY?
WED, SEPT. 23 (6 - 6:45 PM)	ONLY RAIN DOWN THE DRAIN!
THUR, SEPT. 24 (6 - 7 PM)	INFILTRATION: WE'RE NOT TALKING COFFEE!

Salt Wise Winter Equipment Open House in Mukwonago on October 8th from 9:00 AM to 11:30AM.

The Village of Mukwonago is hosting an equipment open house aimed at accelerating the adoption of best practices in snow and ice control. We will discuss current practices and facilitate conversations around next steps through a show-and-tell of winter maintenance equipment. Expect peer-to-peer conversations among public and private sector equipment operators, policy discussions, and lots of learning for all. Please take the time to invite your elected officials to come and learn!

Thursday, Oct. 8, 9:00 AM – 11:30 AM: Salt Wise Winter Equipment Open House -
[Register here by Friday, September 25](#)

Virtual Homeowner Association Education Meeting – September 24, 2026 Learn how to properly maintain your stormwater best management practices to extend their life. Request a meeting link at water@waukeshacounty.gov

Event Recycling: Event season is still in full swing. The Waukesha County Recycling and Solid Waste team offers a free recycling bin-lending program for events in Waukesha County. Supplies are limited during event-season so coordinate now with cduffy@waukeshacounty.gov to get your supplies secured for your upcoming events!

Upcoming Events:

September 19 – Stormwater and Recycling Outreach at [Apple Harvest Festival](#) 9:00 AM – 4:00 PM at Retzer Nature Center.

September 19 – 27 [Wisconsin Stormwater Week](#)

September 24 – [Virtual HOA education meeting](#) 6:30 PM - 7:30 PM

September 24 – [Healthy Lakes Conference](#) 8:30 AM - 3:00 PM at Golden Mast

October 8 – [Saltwise Equipment Open House](#) at Mukwonago Village Hall 9:00 AM – 11:30 AM

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

Recycle Right

Social Media:

Month	Copy
August	Paper is the backbone of recycling. More than 50 percent of the County's collected recyclables are paper. Follow these easy tips to Recycle Right and keep non-recyclables out of your cart: • DO recycle dry paper and cardboard. Flatten boxes, keep paper loose, and remove excess food residue. • DON'T put garbage in the recycling cart. Food waste and dirty items contaminate other recyclables and can be rejected, meaning that material must go to a landfill.
September	You can improve plastic recycling by placing the right items in the cart and keeping "tanglers" out. Follow these easy tips to Recycle Right and keep problem materials out of your cart: • DO recycle accepted plastic bottles, jugs, and tubs. Empty them, rinse them, and place them loosely in the cart (#1, 2, 4 and 5). Remember, keep liquids out and caps on! • DON'T include tanglers like hoses, cords, chains, clothing, or plastic wrap. These jam equipment and endanger recycling workers. Not sure about an item? View Waukesha County's recycling guide here: waukeshacounty.gov/recycling
October	Thank you for doing your part! Together, Waukesha County residents help keep nearly 25,000 tons of materials out of landfills each year. Recycling works best when items are loose (unbagged), empty, and dry, so recycling staff can sort and recycle more material successfully. As fall cleanup begins, stick to the basics: • DO recycle cans, cartons, glass, paper and acceptable plastics only.

	• DON'T include scrap metal, plastic bags/film, hazards, garbage, or tanglers. Not sure about an item? View Waukesha County's recycling guide here: waukeshacounty.gov/recycling
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Newsletter Copy (monthly)

August

Headline: Paper, Please! No Garbage, No Grime

Copy: Paper is the backbone of recycling. More than 50 percent of the County's collected recyclables are paper. Follow these easy tips to Recycle Right and keep non-recyclables out of your cart:

- DO recycle dry paper and cardboard. Flatten boxes, keep paper loose, and remove excess food residue.
- DON'T put garbage in the recycling cart. Food waste and dirty items contaminate other recyclables and can be rejected, meaning that material must go to a landfill.

September

Headline: Keep It Simple: Plastic Bottles, Jugs, and Tubs Only

Copy: You can improve plastic recycling by placing the right items in the cart and keeping "tanglers" out. Follow these easy tips to Recycle Right and keep problem materials out of your cart:

- DO recycle accepted plastic bottles, jugs, and tubs. Empty them, rinse them, and place them loosely in the cart (#1, 2, 4 and 5). Remember, keep liquids out and caps on!
- DON'T include tanglers like hoses, cords, chains, clothing, or plastic wrap. These jam equipment and endanger recycling workers.

Not sure about an item? View Waukesha County's recycling guide here: waukeshacounty.gov/recycling

October

Headline: Recycle the Basics

Copy: Thank you for doing your part! Together, Waukesha County residents help keep nearly 25,000 tons of materials out of landfills each year. Recycling works best when items are loose (unbagged), empty, and dry, so recycling staff can sort and recycle more material successfully.

As fall cleanup begins, stick to the basics:

- DO recycle cans, cartons, glass, paper and acceptable plastics only.
- DON'T include scrap metal, plastic bags/film, hazards, garbage, or tanglers.

Not sure about an item? View Waukesha County's recycling guide here:
waukeshacounty.gov/recycling

August:



September:

PLASTIC JUGS, BOTTLES, AND TUBS ONLY!



#1, 2, 4, 5 are
recyclable.

Replace your caps!



October:

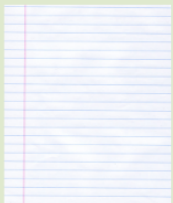
RECYCLE THE BASICS



RECYCLING MADE EASY! ✓

Keep them **loose, empty, & dry** - that's recycling right!

PAPER



- Loose in your bin
- Pieces larger than 4x4

CARDBOARD



- Flattened & empty

CARTONS



- Rinsed & empty
- No straws

PAPER CUPS



- Cups only
- No lids, straws, or stirrers

GLASS JARS & BOTTLES



- Lids off
- Recycle metal lids loose in cans

PLASTIC BOTTLES, CUPS, & CONTAINERS



- Liquids out, caps on
- Accepted numbers: 1, 2, 4, 5

STEEL & ALUMINUM CANS



- Rinsed & empty

Don't forget to courtesy rinse!

**SORT WITH CONFIDENCE;
FOLLOW THE GUIDE!**



KEEP THESE OUT OF YOUR RECYCLING! X

PLASTIC BAGS



- Don't bag recyclables
- Return plastic bags to retail store

SCRAP METAL



- No car parts or metal waste
- No propane or oxygen tanks

BATTERIES



- No batteries or electronics (may cause fires in recycling trucks or at facilities)

TANGLERS



- No hoses, wires, or chains

GARBAGE



- No food or liquids
- No full containers

These items have a different home - not with your recycling.

Scan for more recycling resources!



Waukesha County Recycling
515 W. Moreland Blvd., AC 260
Waukesha, WI 53188

PSRST STD
U.S. POSTAGE
PAID
Milwaukee, WI
Permit No. 4607