



RECYCLING and Waste Reduction

News

Fall 2007

www.waukeshacounty.gov/recycling

Phone: 262-896-8300

The **RECYCLE MORE** Challenge Countdown *How is your community doing?*

Last summer, the county's 25 community recycling partners accepted the **RECYCLE MORE** Challenge to increase residential tons recycled by 5% (or more) by the end of 2007. An increase in recycling saves natural resources and energy, increases rebates to communities, reduces pollution, and saves tax dollars. The community with the greatest increase over 2006 will win a prize that can be enjoyed by all residents.

With three months to go, we thought you might like to see how your community

is doing compared to last year. The three communities with the greatest percentage increase from January through August 2007 are: Lac LaBelle with 53% (7 tons), Dousman with 18% (20 tons), and Big Bend with 13% (11 tons). Some communities, however, show a decrease. The three with the largest percentage decrease are: Village of Pewaukee -30% (-96 tons), Oconomowoc Lake -29% (-13 tons), and City of Delafield -22% (-83 tons).

All communities will still receive their annual rebates from the sale of recyclables.

Those that increased recycling tonnage will see an increase in their checks.

These numbers change monthly. You have until December 31 to help your community and the environment by recycling more, so encourage your family, friends and neighbors to do their best – good luck to all!

To see every community's standing, go to www.waukeshacounty.gov/recycling and **RECYCLE MORE** Challenge under News & Events, and click "RECYCLE MORE Challenge Report".

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Turn Over a New Leaf – Don't rake or burn

FREE Workshops teach better ways to manage leaves



Did you know that burning leaves not only creates a large amount of air pollution but is also a health and fire hazard? Come join us to learn about the many alternative methods of dealing with leaf debris such as composting and mulching leaves in place to improve the soil and save time. Pre-registered workshop attendees will be eligible for a drawing to win a free home composter (\$68 value).

For more information or to register, please call the recycling office at 262-896-8300. Any county resident can attend any workshop.

New Berlin – Hickory Grove Center:

October 3, 7:00 – 8:30 pm

Brookfield – City Library:

October 11, 7:00 – 8:30 pm

Waukesha – Retzer Nature Center:

October 13, 10:00 am - Noon

DID YOU KNOW:

1 -The visible smoke from leaf fires is predominantly made up of tiny particles that can reach deep into lung tissue and cause symptoms such as coughing,

wheezing, and shortness of breath.

The particle pollution from these local sources can be higher than that from factories or motor vehicles. (WI DNR)

2 -Backyard management of yard debris saves municipal tax dollars from collection and processing fees.

3 -Mulching leaves in place reduces raking time, improves the health and fertility of soil, and prevents wind and water erosion.

To view a video demonstration, visit the county recycling website and click on *Yard Waste*.

Residential Recycling Reward Winners - Spring 2007

By putting only acceptable recyclables in their blue bins, these residents were random winners of \$100. The awards are made possible by donations from FCR, Inc. operator of the county's material recycling facility (MRF); Veolia Environmental Services and Waste Management, Inc.

David & Patricia Engen

- Village of Wales

Richard & Carol Heubschen

- Village of Merton

Mark & Pamela Hodson

- Town of Waukesha

Susan Lucht

- City of Oconomowoc

Kenneth & Jeanne Menting

- Town of Brookfield

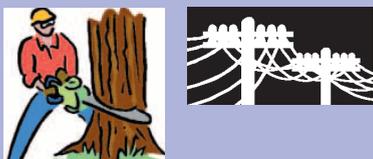
Marjorie & Dennis Vedder,

- City of Delafield, (shown below, after receiving their reward)



Recycling DOES make a difference!

The nearly 24,000 tons recycled at the County Materials Recycling Facility in 2006:



- Saved 174,396 trees
- Reduced greenhouse gases equal to keeping 11,377 cars off the road for one year
- Reduced water pollution by 107 tons over manufacturing with virgin materials
- Saved enough energy to serve 4,335 households for one year

To see a fun recycling calculator that shows the impact of recycling, visit the National Recycling Coalition website www.nrc-recycle.org.

County Recycling Program Plans for the Future

By the year 2025, experts predict the population of Waukesha County to increase by about 50,000 residents to almost 425,000 - a 13% increase from 2005. To find out how this growth and other factors may impact local recycling efforts, the county hired a consultant to review the existing program. Currently, the county owns a recycling facility in Waukesha that processes paper and containers from 25 communities. The county also coordinates a recycling education program for those communities, including this newsletter. Each community handles its own recycling and garbage collection through contracts with private haulers or private subscription.

DNR data shows that recycling rates in Waukesha County are currently almost 40% higher than state averages for large communities. This is good news for participating communities because higher recycling rates means more revenue sharing from the county recycling facility and lower landfill fees for trash disposal. However, since the current recycling rate still amounts to only 21% of what is landfilled, there is room for improvement. One of the consultants' recommenda-

tions is to restructure current community hauling contracts to provide contractor incentives for increased recycling and reduced landfilling. This process, though more complicated, offers significant promise and some communities are already considering it for future contracts.

Another recommendation is to switch to "single stream" recycling, which consultants estimate could increase recycling rates 20-30%. Single stream means all recyclable materials are placed together in a large wheeled cart with a cover, rather than separating paper from containers as is currently done. An arm attached to the truck picks up the cart and dumps the contents, saving the hauler significant time and avoiding worker injuries.

While "single stream" is very convenient for residents and efficient for haulers, it would require major reinvestments in the county recycling facility. The final report describes the pros, cons and options to making such a switch, and the costs involved. Some important decisions lie ahead for the county and the communities on what path to take. Stay tuned. See the county recycling website for the complete report.

RECYCLE MORE Challenge



www.waukeshacounty.gov/recycling



How to dispose of Old Medicines - DON'T FLUSH!

Medicine Collection Day
Saturday, October 20, 2007 from 9 a.m.- 1 p.m.
WCTC-Pewaukee Campus, 800 Main St.
For directions call: 262-691-5463 or visit
<http://www.wctc.edu/web/about/maps/pewaukee.htm>

Look for the signs! The collection will take place in one area of the parking lots.

BRING expired or unused prescriptions or over-the-counter medicine in original containers, although you may mark out your name if you wish. DO NOT BRING: Needles, sharps, inhalers, biohazardous materials, illegal drugs, personal care products (shampoo, soaps, lotions, sunscreen, etc.)

This special collection will provide proper disposal of medicines to help keep drugs out of the environment and out of the hands of kids. Pouring medicines down the drain or flushing down the toilet can pollute our lakes and streams.

Proper disposal of household pharmaceuticals (medicines) is a major issue with no simple answers, involving public health and safety and

the environment. Pharmaceuticals and related compounds have been found in treated wastewater and in surface waters, but there is a lack of conclusive scientific evidence about the source of drugs in wastewater. Medicines are involved in accidental poisonings, medication errors, drug abuse and drug abuse-related crime. Regulations pertaining to controlled substances make take back programs difficult, and drug manufacturers have not taken responsibility for proper disposal of unused medication.

For more information on this complex issue visit www.waukeshacounty.gov/recycling and click on Medicine Disposal.

Changes at Household Hazardous Waste Collection Site in Waukesha

As you clean out the garage or basement this fall and discover old unusable chemicals, remember that there are three sites for proper disposal of household hazardous waste from county residents: Menomonee Falls, Muskego and Waukesha. Also, be aware that the household hazardous waste collection area at the old Waukesha incinerator building has been moved to the back of the building.

Residents now have easier access to the Product Exchange area where usable



lawn and garden products, household cleaners, and automotive products can be picked up free during operating hours.

Hours of operation, a list of eligible items, and maps are available at the county recycling website. Information on a special Clean Sweep program for farms, growers and agricultural businesses is also available at www.waukeshacounty.gov/recycling

Free Recycling Bins at Community Events

Residents of the 25 participating communities who need a replacement for a broken or lost bin, or families who need a second bin to hold all their recyclables, have found bins available at community events such as Waukesha Janboree (photo); Open House at the County Materials Recycling Facility (MRF); Lake Country Community Fest; workshops at Retzer; Waukesha Garden Club's Plant sale; Fiesta Waukesha and various health fairs and gardening seminars at libraries and businesses.

Volunteers are needed to help with the distribution. If you have an upcoming event and would like to help make sure that residents have a recycling bin, contact us at 896-8300.



What is "Product Stewardship"?

Product stewardship means whoever designs, produces, sells or uses a product takes responsibility for minimizing the product's environmental impact throughout all stages of the product's life cycle. Generally, manufacturers have the greatest ability - and therefore the greatest responsibility - to reduce the environmental impacts of their products. There are four primary reasons for instituting product stewardship policies:

1. to recapture lost resources
2. to reduce the amount of garbage
3. to reduce waste management costs to government and taxpayers
4. to reduce potential harm from toxic material exposure.

According to the U.S. EPA, "Product stewardship recognizes that product manufacturers can and must take on new responsibilities to reduce the environmental footprint of their products...so we as a country can make significant progress toward improved resource conservation and a sustainable economy."

Some states and countries have passed legislation that requires manufacturers of computers and TVs, pharmaceuticals, and other products to establish and pay for systems to collect and recycle or properly dispose of their products. For more information visit www.productstewardship.us or www.epa.gov/epr

WANTED: Your Opinion on Recycling

To improve our programs, Waukesha County and the Wisconsin Be SMART Coalition will be conducting some recycling opinion research. Those who qualify may be eligible for incentives. If you are interested in participating please email your contact information to recycle-more@uwm.edu

Computer Recycling



Some manufacturers are now offering recycling programs for their computers. Check with the manufacturer or retailer to see if they offer a computer take-back program before purchasing your next computer or printer. Visit www.computertakeback.com for a list and description of manufacturer take back programs.

Residents who want to recycle their old computers, monitors, printers, keyboards, scanners, and peripherals have four county drop-off locations available. Cascade Asset Management has been contracted to pick up used computer equipment from the first three sites listed. The fourth site is state sponsored.

City of Waukesha Recycling Drop-off Site, 900 Sentry Drive
Hours: Saturday 8am-4pm, Wednesday (April-Nov) 11am-7pm

City of Brookfield Highway Department, 19450 Riverview Drive
Hours: Saturday 8am-5pm, Tuesday/Thursday (May-Nov) 1pm-7pm

New Berlin Recycling Center, 3711 S. Casper Drive
Hours: Saturday 8am-4pm, Tuesday/Thursday (May-Nov) 10am-7pm

Ethan Allen School, W323 South Boy School Road, Wales
Hours: Monday-Sunday 8am-8pm
(*Only 5 pieces at a time)

These sites are for residential computers only. Businesses can call 262-896-8300 or visit www.waukeshacounty.gov/recycling for more information.





Recycling Questions & Answers



Q. My neighbor claims that I'm wrong to recycle glossy paper and empty aerosol cans. Who's right?

A. You're right! Glossy paper such as magazines, catalogs, and newspaper ad inserts can be recycled right along with your other clean household paper. Aerosol cans are recyclable also if they are empty.

Q. Often I have things I'd like to get rid of, but they are still useful. Is there an alternative to sending them to the landfill?

A. You are in luck! **Waukesha County Freecycle Network** was set up for just this reason. Many of us have items that we don't need, want or that no longer match our décor, although still perfectly useful. Now you can list your items on "Freecycle" and someone who wants them will contact you and arrange for pickup. Go to www.waukeshacounty.gov/recycling, under Quick Links click on "Where do I go with?" on that page you will see a link to "Freecycle". Remember, you can also donate items to reuse organizations such as Goodwill, Salvation Army, Purple Heart – just to name a few.

Q. How do I dispose of my old TV?

A. We receive many calls about disposal of TVs, especially the large-screen units. The county currently has funding for recycling of residential computers only – no other electronics. We strongly suggest that when purchasing a new TV, arrange with the seller to haul away your old one – or contact the company that picks up your trash.

Q. How do I dispose of paint?

A. Latex paint is not considered hazardous and can be thrown out with your curbside trash if hardened. Mix the paint with either cat litter or a product called 'Waste Paint Hardener' found in most hardware stores. Then set the open cans out with your regular trash. Oil-based and lead-based paints must be taken to one of the County Hazardous Waste Sites in Menomonee Falls, Muskego, or the City of Waukesha.



Family Open House at the MRF*

Waukesha County
*Materials Recycling Facility
220 S. Prairie Avenue, Waukesha

• Tours • Refreshments • Prizes
• Hands-on activities for children

Saturday, November 10, 2007
In celebration of America Recycles Day

Saturday, April 19, 2008
In celebration of Earth Day

FREE for all ages – Twice each year 10 a.m. to Noon

www.waukeshacounty.gov/recycling



"Recycle Raccoon" as drawn by a Kindergarten student from Magee Elementary School.

BULB SMARTS: Using & Recycling CFLs

Many consumers have been pleased with the drop in their energy bills after replacing even just a few incandescent light bulbs with new compact fluorescent light bulbs (CFLs). Replacing a single incandescent bulb with a CFL can reduce carbon dioxide emissions by about 1000 pounds. If every US household used energy-efficient lighting, 90 average-sized power plants could be retired, according to the US EPA. For more consumer information about CFLs, visit www.energystar.gov and use the "lighting" link.



receipt. If the bulb fails within the warranty period, return it to your retailer.

Some people are surprised to learn that these bulbs should be disposed of as a hazardous waste when they burn out, due to a small amount of mercury sealed within the glass tubing. Although Energy Star qualified bulbs last for years—up to 10 times longer—these bulbs will need to be recycled properly at the end of their long lives. Waukesha County residents are fortunate to have regular drop-off sites available to dispose of household hazardous waste. Visit the county website for locations and hours.

The County Recycling Office suggests that people store spent bulbs in the original package (or a box to prevent breakage) until enough bulbs or other hazardous waste are collected to make a disposal trip worthwhile.

As with other consumer products, not all bulbs are created equal! If bulbs are not lasting as long as expected, switch to another brand. When purchasing, look for bulbs that meet Energy Star requirements. Energy Star qualified CFLs have a warranty. Keep the original packaging &

What we learned at the MRF

Many groups visit the county Materials Recycling Facility (MRF) each year. Last year over 1300 people visited the MRF. Teachers and other group leaders can schedule an education room visit or tour by calling 262-896-8300.

A seventh grade class from Mount Calvary Lutheran in Waukesha toured the MRF this spring. Here are some excerpts from their thank you letters:

"...it was the most fun field trip all year! I also learned the true value of recycling...and will be sure to do more of it in the future. P.S. I was the guy who asked a lot of questions."

"Thank you for giving us a tour of the recycling place, and for telling us about how recycling helps the ecosystem. I saw how plastic bags don't work in the machine thingy."

"I thought it was strange and interesting that plastic comes from petroleum."

"The bales of different materials amazed me to see how much stuff gets recycled. I did not know that two liter soda bottles became carpets."

"It was really fun, and interesting. It made me very sad to see how some people treat our earth. It's a good thing there are people like you to help out."



Your Guide to Curbside Recycling

Reminder: Two Separations

1. Bottles and Cans

Labels need not be removed



Remove lids



Rinse containers

1. Bottles and cans should be loose in the blue bin. No plastic bags.



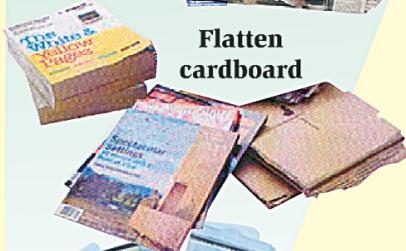
2. Paper



Bundle or bag paper



Flatten cardboard



2. Paper should be bundled or bagged in paper bags and placed next to or on top of the bin.



Feed the Hungry and Reduce Waste

FACT: Food waste is the second largest component in Wisconsin's landfills and 1 in 12 households in Wisconsin have an inadequate supply of food. In 2002 the Food Pantry of Waukesha County developed a Food Recovery Program to help address this need. The program accepts freshly prepared foods and perishables, then redistributes it to food pantries, shelters, meal sites, and group homes in the area.

According to Nilda Toro, Food Recovery Coordinator, the success of this growing program is attributed to partnerships with over 100 local businesses including restaurants, food marketers, caterers, and vendors that are willing to donate food instead of throwing it away. "Last year we recovered over 400,000 pounds of food. We share this food with over 60 nonprofit agencies that have tight grocery budgets and who welcome the variety and quality of foods that are donated. It's a wonderful collaboration in reducing waste, saving businesses on their trash pickups and helping our neighbors in need."



Nilda Toro stores donated sandwiches in the cooler until they are picked up by non-profit agencies.

What can you do? Ask your favorite restaurant, hotel, grocery store, or employee cafeteria if they participate in the Food Recovery Program. To receive a guide to safe food donations or to learn more about this program, please call 262-542-5300. Information is also available on the county recycling website under *Business Recycling/Food Recovery*.

Most municipal drop-off sites have scrap metal collection dumpsters. If your community doesn't, please take miscellaneous metal items to a local scrap metal dealer – check phone book for listings.

Municipalities participating in the County Recycling Program are: Cities of Brookfield, Delafield, New Berlin, Oconomowoc, Pewaukee, Waukesha; Towns of Brookfield, Delafield, Lisbon, Merton, Oconomowoc, Summit, Waukesha; Villages of Big Bend, Chenequa, Dousman, Eagle, Elm Grove, Hartland, Lac La Belle, Merton, Nashotah, Oconomowoc Lake, Pewaukee, and Wales.

It's in the Numbers!

In 2006 the county:

- Provided service to more than 4,900 households at hazardous waste collections sites and collected over 213,000 pounds of waste for proper disposal
- Processed 23,800 tons of recyclables at the county recycling facility
- Received revenues of over \$1 million from the sale of recyclables and

returned \$650,000 to participating communities

- Collected 92 tons of computers for recycling from residents at three sites
- Processed over 8,000 tons of leaves, brush and yard debris from municipal residential collections into compost

Thanks for your participation!



RECYCLE MORE Challenge

Earn Money for Your Community & Save Resources

www.waukeshacounty.gov/recycling

Department of Parks and Land Use
Office of Recycling and Solid Waste
1320 Pewaukee Road, Waukesha, WI 53188
Fall 2007

PRSRT STD
US POSTAGE
PAID
Hartland, WI
Permit No. 26

Where do I go with...?

"Where do I go with plastic bags, appliances, carpeting, railroad ties?"

"What do I do with my old propane tank?"

"Is there some place that will take old clothing not fit for wear?"

These are just a few of the phone call questions received at the county recycling office on a daily basis from residents looking for ways to recycle and dispose of items properly. As more and more people turn to the internet for information, the county is providing answers on our website. Check it out!

Visit www.waukeshacounty.gov/recycling and look under Quick Links for "Where Do I Go With?" This webpage will provide the answers for those special items you need to clear out of the house or garage. Businesses have their own requirements, and can follow the "Business Recycling" link for more information.

If you have any comments or suggestions to improve this newsletter, please email us at recycling@waukeshacounty.gov

This publication is printed on newsprint with 30% recycled content. Recycle when finished.

RECYCLE MORE Challenge



www.waukeshacounty.gov/recycling