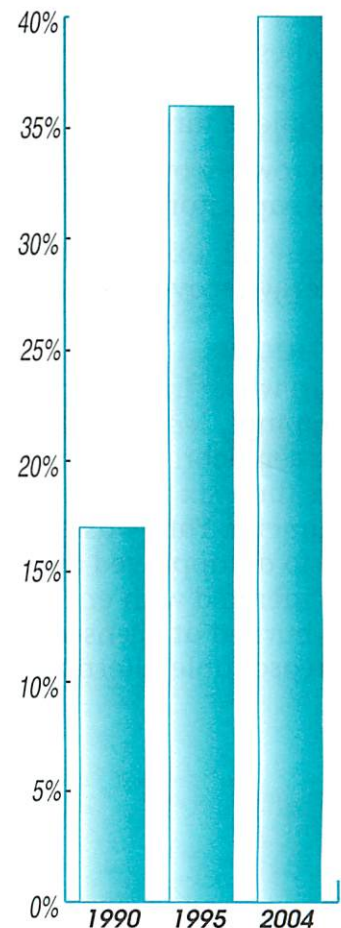




Wisconsin Waste Reduction and Recycling Program



Municipal Solid Waste Recycled In Wisconsin



Background

The solid waste reduction, recovery and recycling law was enacted to create new ways to manage solid waste and encourage reduction, reuse and recycling of Wisconsin's solid waste. When the law passed in 1990, only about 17% of municipal solid waste was recycled. By the end of 2004, ten years after the landfill bans and recycling requirements were fully implemented, the percentage climbed to 32%. With home management of yard wastes and energy recovery added in, that total rises to 40%. Results for 2004, the most recent year for which totals are available, show that nearly 1.7 million tons of wastes were diverted from Wisconsin's landfills. Our state has been very successful with consistently saving between 1.6 and 1.7 million tons of waste from landfills each year since 1995.

This publication is intended to provide an overview of Wisconsin's statewide recycling program with references to the original and updated state statutes, now Chapter 287 of the Wisconsin Statutes, and related administrative rules found in Wisconsin Administrative Code, chapters NR 542 to 549. For specific situations, the appropriate statutes and administrative rules should be consulted. Links to the Wisconsin Administrative Codes and Wisconsin Statutes pertaining to recycling are available at www.dnr.state.wi.us/org/aw/wm/information/wiacssr.htm.

Continued on page 2

The policy outlined in the law establishes a hierarchy of preferences for solid waste management options. Those options ranked from most to least preferred are:

- ✓ reduction of the amount of solid waste generated;
- ✓ reuse of solid waste;
- ✓ recycling of solid waste;
- ✓ composting of solid waste;
- ✓ recovery of energy from solid waste;
- ✓ land disposal of solid waste; and
- ✓ burning of solid waste without energy recovery.

The law also instituted a graduated series of disposal bans on landfilling and incineration of certain materials that went into effect at the beginning of January 1991, 1993 and 1995 respectively. However, there are some exceptions. The main points of Wisconsin's Recycling Law are summarized below.

Banned in 1991

- ⊗ Lead acid batteries
 - ⊗ Major appliance including air conditioners, clothes washers and dryers, dishwashers, refrigerators, freezers, stoves, ovens, dehumidifiers, furnaces, boilers and water heaters
- Microwave ovens may only be landfilled if the capacitor has been removed.
- ⊗ Waste oil, except when it is incinerated with energy recovery

Banned in 1993

- ⊗ Yard waste including grass clippings, leaves, yard and garden debris and brush less than six inches in diameter. Yard waste can go to an approved compost facility or be incinerated with energy recovery. Brush may be burned at licensed woodburning facilities if reasonable alternatives are not available.



Banned in 1995

- ⊗ Aluminum containers
 - ⊗ Corrugated paper or other containerboard
 - ⊗ Foam polystyrene packaging, either designed for serving food or beverages, loose particles intended for packing (peanuts), or rigid materials shaped to hold and cushion a packaged article
- Currently foam polystyrene packaging can be landfilled or incinerated under the same variance that applies to #3 through #7 plastic containers.
- ⊗ Glass containers
 - ⊗ Magazines and other materials printed on similar paper
 - ⊗ Newspaper and other materials printed on newsprint
 - ⊗ Office paper
 - ⊗ Plastic containers #1 through #7
- Currently a variance issued by the DNR allows plastic containers #3 through #7 to be landfilled or incinerated. If at some future time, the DNR determines that adequate markets for these plastics exist, they will be banned from disposal.
- ⊗ Steel containers and containers made from a combination of steel and aluminum (bi-metal cans)
 - ⊗ Waste tires (except when incinerated with energy recovery)

Exceptions

- ☛ The 1995 bans do not apply to residuals of the banned material being collected, treated and disposed of by a responsible unit (RU) with an effective recycling program. Even a good recycling program will not capture 100% of all potential recyclables, and some materials are unable to be recycled through use or contamination. Examples would be plastic jugs used for waste oil collection or newspaper used for cleaning. There are also exceptions for emergencies, unintentionally contaminated materials, the approved beneficial reuse of a material within a landfill and certain plastics if recycling is not feasible.
- ☛ RUs in the service area of a waste-to-energy (WTE) incinerator that was in operation as of April 1990 have an exception under the recycling law. These RUs are only required to recycle steel, aluminum and glass containers. They are allowed to burn other combustible materials for energy. However, many RUs in WTE incinerator service areas require paper and plastics recycling by local ordinance. The two WTE facilities currently operating in Wisconsin are the Barron County Incinerator and the La Crosse/Excel Energy resource recovery facility.
- ☛ More information regarding the exceptions can be found in s. 287.07, Wis. Stats, www.dnr.state.wi.us/org/aw/wm/information/wiacssr.htm or by contacting a DNR regional recycling specialist www.dnr.state.wi.us/org/aw/wm/contacts/regions.htm

The DNR Role

The DNR administers the disposal bans and effective program requirements and has shared responsibility with local units of government to enforce those provisions. The DNR is authorized under s. 287.95 Wis. Stats., to issue citations and to collect forfeitures from individuals and companies that violate state recycling laws. In general, DNR's implementation of the recycling law emphasizes achieving compliance through education, technical and financial assistance.



Responsible Units

The statutes delegate responsibility for implementing municipal recycling programs to RUs. A RU can be a municipality, county, tribe, solid waste management system or other unit of local government that is responsible for planning, operating and funding a recycling program. Each RU must develop and implement a recycling program to manage the banned materials generated within its region in compliance with the law and Wisconsin's solid waste management priorities.

A RU is also charged with educating its residents and businesses about the recycling law. An on-going educational campaign that reminds residents and businesses about local recycling programs is essential for maintaining high recycling rates in communities.

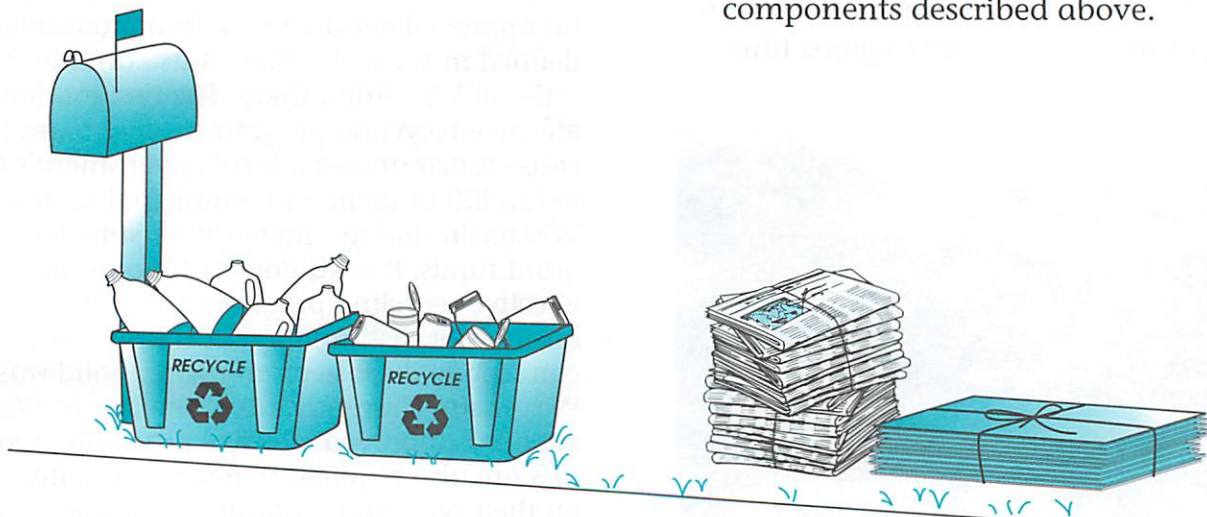
Effective Recycling Programs

Each RU in Wisconsin is required to maintain an approved effective recycling program as defined in s. 287.11, Wis. Stats., and the NR 540 series of Wis. Adm. Code. The designation of an effective recycling program is significant because it determines a local government's ability to landfill or incinerate municipal solid waste in Wisconsin and its eligibility for state recycling grant funds. If a RU does not maintain an effective recycling program, no individual, business or institution within that jurisdiction can legally dispose of municipal solid waste in Wisconsin. Currently, all of the RUs in Wisconsin have approved effective recycling programs. RUs are also required to report annually to DNR on their recycling program, including the amount of materials collected.



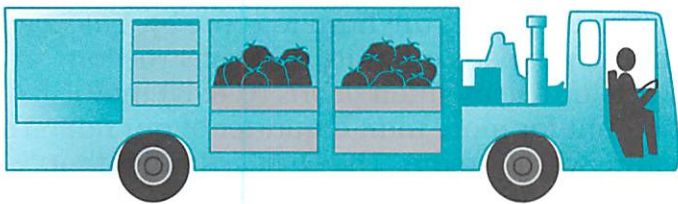
The criteria for an effective recycling program for managing the banned materials are:

1. A public education component to inform residents of the reason to recycle, local opportunities to recycle and the materials that are banned from landfills and incineration.
2. A requirement that occupants of residential, commercial, retail, industrial and governmental buildings either separate for recycling materials banned from landfills or incineration from post consumer wastes or treat these wastes at a processing facility that will recover those materials.
3. A requirement that the owners of a building containing five or more dwelling units provide adequate, separate containers for recyclables, notify tenants about the recycling program and provide for the collection and recycling of the materials.
4. A requirement that owners of commercial, retail, industrial and governmental facilities provide adequate, separate containers for recyclables, regularly notify all users and occupants of the facility about the recycling programs and provide for the collection and delivery of recyclable materials to a recycling facility.
5. A system for collecting separated recyclable materials from single family residences.
6. A system for the processing and marketing of recyclable materials collected by the RU or by municipalities located in the RU.
7. A prohibition on disposing of recyclable materials in a landfill or incinerator.
8. Provisions for the management of waste that is not separated for recycling or recovery that is consistent with the preferred solid waste management options outlined in the law.
9. An annual report with the tonnage of recyclable materials collected to be submitted to DNR by April 30 of each calendar year.
10. Adequate enforcement of the above components. By August 1, 2006, each RU shall have a Compliance Assurance Plan (CAP) developed and ready to be implemented. At a minimum, the CAP shall contain the procedure to follow when addressing at least one specific compliance issue. RUs are encouraged to address more compliance strategies than the minimum. For more information on compliance assurance plans, see DNR publication "Developing a Compliance Assurance Plan for an Effective Recycling Program" publication #WA-427-05 at www.dnr.wi.gov/org/aw/wm/publications/recycle/wa-427-05.pdf.
11. Equipment or means necessary to implement the public education, separation, single-family residence collection, marketing and enforcement components described above.



12. A reasonable effort through the program components described above to reduce as much as possible the amount by weight of each material included in the 1995 ban that is generated within the RU and disposed of in a landfill, converted to fuel or burned without energy recovery.
13. Other provisions as established by DNR by rule.

In addition, administrative rules require that municipalities with populations of 5,000 or more and with an aggregate population density of at least 70 persons per square mile must provide curbside collection of newspaper, glass, aluminum and steel containers, #1 and #2 plastic containers, corrugated cardboard and magazines at least once a month from single family and two to four unit residences. They must also provide drop-off collection for materials that are not collected at curbside. Municipalities with populations less than 5,000 or an aggregate population density of less than 70 persons per square mile must provide either curbside or drop-off collection for single family and two to four unit residences.



New Developments in Recycling

In 2005, recycling rule revisions were made to reflect changes that have occurred in the recycling field since the rules were adopted over ten years ago. These revisions are the result of a six-month stakeholder process during which the DNR convened five regional listening sessions and worked closely with the Recycling Rules Revisions Workgroup to secure stakeholder input in the process. For more information on specific rule revisions, look under subheading “Recycling Program Guidance” at www.dnr.state.wi.us/org/aw/wm/publications/index.html or contact your local DNR recycling specialist www.dnr.state.wi.us/org/aw/wm/contacts/recycle.htm#technical.

One outcome of recycling rule changes was a provision requiring all DNR licensed waste haulers who collect and transport municipal solid waste to notify their clients of the need to comply with state and local recycling laws according to the provisions listed under s. NR 502.06, Wis. Adm. Code. To comply with the hauler notification requirement, a hauler must notify new and existing clients that state and local laws require everyone in Wisconsin to recycle materials subject to Wisconsin’s landfill prohibition, even if the waste materials and recyclables are being hauled out-of-state. Guidance on how to comply with the state requirement is available in the DNR publication “Notification of Recycling Requirements for Waste Haulers” at www.dnr.wi.gov/org/aw/wm/publications/recycle/wa-425-05rev.pdf.

The DNR commissioned two studies in 2002 that analyzed and characterized the municipal solid waste stream in Wisconsin. One objective of the studies was to look at a breakdown of the banned materials to assess how effective the recycling law has been in changing disposal habits. In a number of significant categories the percentage of material recovered for recycling was over 50%, which compares favorably to national averages. For example, the study reflected the following percentages of recovery in 2000.

- >95% of vehicle batteries
- 72% of corrugated cardboard
- 67% of newspapers
- 60% of glass containers
- 55% of aluminum cans
- 54% of steel cans

Data from 2004 indicates that the recovery market remains strong for most recyclable items such as paper, plastics and steel. Wisconsin is challenged to find more markets for glass recovery and reuse.





Single Stream Recycling

Single stream recycling refers to a curbside collection system option in which all paper fibers and containers are mixed together in a collection truck, instead of being sorted into separate commodities (newspaper, cardboard, plastic, glass, etc.) by the resident and handled separately throughout the collection process. Proponents of single stream note several advantages including:

- reduced sorting effort by residents which may increase amount of recyclables collected;
- reduced collection costs because single-compartment trucks are cheaper to operate; and
- collection of more paper grades.

Potential disadvantages of single stream recycling may include:

- initial capital cost for new carts and collection vehicles;
- upgrading the processing facility;
- re-educating residents; and
- increased potential for paper to be contaminated with glass.

Contact your local DNR recycling specialist for more information on single stream recycling.

Electronics Recycling

The recent explosion of electronics entering the waste stream is creating new and complex waste disposal problems.



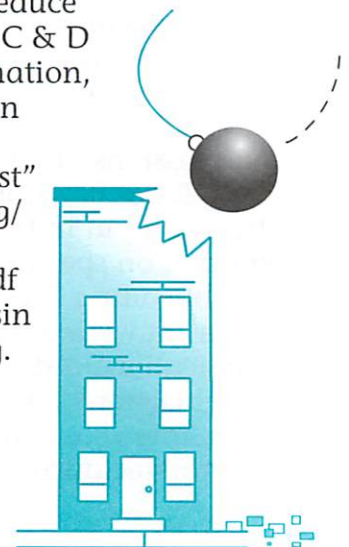
Cathode ray tubes (CRTs) in computer monitors and televisions contain lead, computer circuit boards contain heavy metals such as lead and cadmium, and batteries may contain cadmium. It is estimated that nationwide 5 to 7 million computers, televisions, stereos, cell phones, electronic appliances and toys become obsolete each

year. The infrastructure for collecting, reusing and recycling electronics in the United States has not kept pace with this growing waste stream, and the number of electronic products entering the waste stream is projected to increase unless convenient and affordable recycling options expand. Currently computers and most other electronic items are not explicitly banned from disposal in Wisconsin's landfills. However, because computers, and particularly monitors, contain toxic materials that make them subject to hazardous materials, businesses and institutions must recycle discarded computers or handle the waste as a hazardous material. Recycling opportunities exist in Wisconsin for electronic items, although access varies by area. For more information on electronics recycling, contact your local RU www.dnr.state.wi.us/org/aw/wm/contacts/localcon.htm and refer to DNR publication, "Managing Used Computers: A Guide for Businesses & Institutions" www.dnr.state.wi.us/org/aw/wm/publications/recycle/pubwa420.pdf.

Construction and Demolition Waste Recycling

Precise figures are hard to come by, but industry experts estimate that construction waste and demolition debris (C & D) may account for more than a quarter of our nation's entire waste stream. The DNR estimates that approximately 28% of waste entering the municipal solid waste stream is C & D waste. Much of that material is recyclable or reusable.

As disposal costs increase, businesses are finding that they can reduce their costs by recycling C & D debris. For more information, refer to DNR publication "Pre-Demolition Environmental Checklist" www.dnr.state.wi.us/org/aw/wm/publications/demolition/predemo.pdf and WasteCap Wisconsin at www.wastecapwi.org.



Recycling Away from Home



Wisconsin residents are doing a good job recycling at home, but improvement is needed with recycling when residents are away from home - too many cans and bottles are not being recycled.

According to 2002 data from waste sorts at 14 Wisconsin landfills, it is estimated that **21 million dollars worth of aluminum cans** and **19 million dollars worth of plastic bottles** are buried instead of recycled each year in our state! People are on the move and sometimes recycling receptacles are not readily available, so taking the items home with you where they can be properly recycled is recommended.

Special events such as fairs and festivals also present an opportunity for recycling away from home. While recycling at these events may appear daunting, a number of event organizers have shown that it can be done effectively and efficiently. By coordinating recycling efforts with local voluntary organizations and civic groups, you can increase buy-in and civic pride in your accomplishments. For more information on special events recycling, contact the Wisconsin Be SMART Coalition at www.besmart.org.

State Financial Assistance for Recycling Programs

Since July 1, 1990, over \$370 million in recycling grants has been distributed to eligible project sponsors. Funding for these grant programs comes partially from the state landfill tipping fee - \$3/ton effective January 1, 2002 - and partially from a surcharge on businesses.

There are three distinct grant programs:

1. Recycling Grants to Responsible Units
2. Recycling Efficiency Incentive Grants
3. Waste Reduction and Demonstration Grants

1. Recycling Grants to Responsible Units

This grant is only available to RUs with an approved effective recycling program. To receive this grant, a RU must maintain an effective recycling program, be able to document their operating and equipment expenses and file a complete application by October 1 of the year preceding the grant award. Late applications received before October 30th are eligible, but receive funding at a reduced rate. Additional information and application forms are available at www.dnr.state.wi.us/org/caer/cfa/grants/Recycle/recycle.html.

2. Recycling Efficiency Incentive Grants

This grant is only available to RUs who have already received a recycling grant (above). To be eligible for funding in this category, RUs must achieve efficiency either by:

- formal consolidation (a merger of at least two RUs into a single RU) per ch. 66, Wis. Stats.; or
- by entering into a cooperative agreement with at least one other RU where one or more of the following efficiencies have been achieved: collection and transportation of recyclables, sorting of recyclables at a materials recovery facility, comprehensive program planning and educational efforts about recycling.

A new efficiency is required for each application year and applications must be postmarked no later than October 31. All eligible RUs share in the available funds (\$1.9 million per year, effective 2002) disbursed on a per capita basis. The grant award cannot exceed the difference between the RU's net eligible recycling costs incurred two years previously and the amount of the current grant award. Additional information and application forms are available at <http://www.dnr.state.wi.us/org/caer/cfa/grants/Recycle/efficiency.html>.

3. Waste Reduction and Recycling Demonstration Grants

This grant is available to businesses, counties, municipalities, public entities, non-profit organizations and school districts for funding to implement innovative waste reduction, reuse and recycling projects on a pilot or demonstration scale. The applicant

must provide evidence of having the technical ability, experience and financial support necessary to successfully carry out the project.

Project sponsors may receive a grant for up to 50 percent of the total eligible project costs (not to exceed \$150,000). For community-wide waste reduction demonstration projects, up to 75 percent of the total eligible costs can be reimbursed.

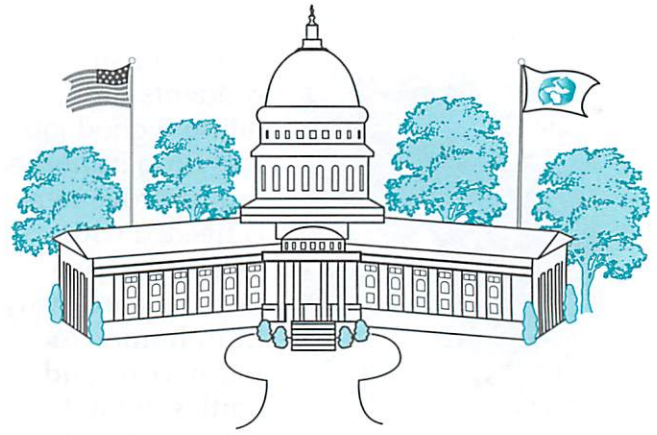
Eligible costs may include wages and fringe benefits, costs of facility and equipment use (prorated for the length of the project), general operating expenses and raw materials and supplies and small equipment. Additional information and application forms are available at <http://www.dnr.state.wi.us/org/caer/cfa/EF/RECYCLE/Index.htm>.

UW-Extension Solid and Hazardous Waste Education Center

The University of Wisconsin-Extension Solid Waste and Hazardous Waste Education Center (SHWEC) was created in 1990 and has offices at UW-Madison, UW-Stevens Point, UW-Green Bay and in Milwaukee. SHWEC continues to provide statewide educational programs and technical assistance related to pollution prevention, recycling and composting for local governments and businesses, working in conjunction with county UW-Extension educators. For more information about SHWEC, visit their website at www.uwex.edu/ces/shwec, or call 608-262-0385.

Council on Recycling

The Council on Recycling (COR) is a citizens group appointed by the Governor to advise the Governor, legislature and state agencies on solid waste reduction, recovery and recycling policy. The Council is attached to the DNR for administrative purposes. Current membership includes individuals representing industry, business and local units of government. For more information on the Council, visit www.dnr.state.wi.us/org/aw/wm/recycle/council/index.htm.



Governor's Blue Ribbon Task Force on Waste Materials Recovery and Disposal

The Waste Materials Recovery and Disposal Task Force was created by Governor Jim Doyle June 15th, 2005 by Executive Order 106. The 19 member task force has representatives from communities, companies and organizations from all over Wisconsin who share the goal of managing our resources safely and efficiently while minimizing waste. The Task Force's mission is to analyze the economic and environmental interrelationships of waste reduction, recycling, reuse and provide recommendations to the Governor by December 2006. For more information on the Task Force, visit www.wasteresources.wisconsin.gov/.

Wisconsin Clean Sweep

Wisconsin Clean Sweep was created in 2003 by the merger of the Agricultural Clean Sweep Program and the Household Hazardous Waste Grant Program. The program is administered by the Department of Agriculture, Trade, and Consumer Protection (DATCP) and uses money from the Recycling Fund to provide grants to counties, cities, towns, regional planning commissions and other municipalities. Grants can be provided for temporary (one-day) collections and permanent facilities with continuous collection.

Wisconsin Clean Sweep allows local governments to collect agricultural, residential and business hazardous wastes with the aid of grant funds. Most local governments offer farmers and residents free or nearly free hazardous waste services while businesses are usually required to pay for most disposal costs. Businesses with agricultural pesticides may be

eligible to receive a subsidy from the department. Additional information on Wisconsin Clean Sweep can be found on DATCP's website www.datcp.state.wi.us/arm/agriculture/pest-fert/pesticides/clean-sweep/index.jsp.

Newspaper Recycled Content



Current law requires printers and publishers of newspapers and some shopper guides to use newsprint that averages a mandated level of 33% postconsumer recycled content. In 2005 the recycled content used by Wisconsin publishers averaged 43%. A newspaper recycling fee is assessed annually to the publisher of a newspaper that fails to meet the recycled content targets. Administrative rule NR 546 implements this provision. For more information, see page 30 of "Solid Waste Recycling and Waste Reduction Informational Paper 64" at <http://www.legis.state.wi.us/lfb/informationalpapers/64.pdf>.

Government Purchase of Recycled Products

The Department of Administration (DOA) is responsible for establishing guidelines for state and local agencies regarding statewide procurement specifications for recycled content in products, purchasing requirements and separation and collection of recyclable materials from government offices. For more information, visit the DOA web site at www.doa.state.wi.us/pagesubtext_detail.asp?link_subcatid=258.

Product Labeling Requirements

The Department of Agriculture, Trade and Consumer Protection (DATCP) has set standards that are largely consistent with nationwide industry standards on the content of products labeled recycled, recyclable or degradable. Labeling or representing a product in violation of these standards is subject to a fine. DATCP also administers a rule that establishes labeling requirements for plastic containers. Accurate labeling provides information needed by operators of recycling programs to facilitate recycling or reuse of the containers. For more information, visit www.datcp.state.wi.us/cp/consumerinfo/cp/factsheets/environment.jsp.

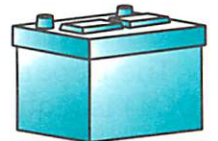
Used Oil Collection and Recycling

Any business that sells automotive engine oil to consumers is required to either maintain a used oil collection center or post a sign informing customers of the nearest used oil collection center. If adequate used oil collection centers are not available, local or county governments are required to provide them. For more information, contact DNR Bureau of Waste & Materials Management at 608 266-2111.



Lead Acid and Mercuric Oxide Batteries

Since 1990 retailers of lead acid automotive batteries are required to accept a used battery in exchange for each new battery sold. A retailer may charge a deposit of up to \$5 when a customer buys a new battery without turning in a used one. Retailers are also required to accept used batteries when a customer has not purchased a new one. Retailers may charge up to \$3 for each battery accepted and can refuse to accept more than two batteries a day from any one customer.

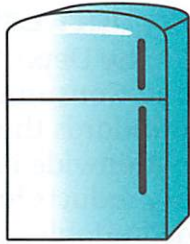


Waste mercuric oxide batteries must be disposed of at an authorized collection site and the collection site operator must recycle all batteries collected.

For more information, contact DNR Bureau of Waste & Materials Management at 608 266-2111.

Refrigerants

Both state and federal regulations prohibit the release of refrigerants that deplete ozone (chlorofluorocarbons or CFCs and hydro chlorofluorocarbons or HCFCs) or contribute to global warming (hydro fluorocarbons or HFCs, and PFCs or perfluorocarbons). These chemicals are used to produce cooling in home appliances such as refrigerators, freezers, air conditioners, dehumidifiers and water coolers. The refrigerants must be properly recovered as these items are recyclable, using approved recovery equipment operated by qualified technicians. The facility recovering these refrigerants must be registered with the DNR, keep records of their recovery activities and supply documentation that the refrigerants were properly removed to whomever receives the scrapped equipment. Anyone hauling appliances that are to be salvaged and that still may contain refrigerants must annually certify "Safe Transport" to DNR. For more information, contact DNR Air Management at 608-264-6049 or visit <http://dnr.wi.gov/org/aw/air/reg/refrig/>.



Recycled Road Reconstruction Materials

The Department of Transportation (DOT) is required to use the maximum amount possible of recovered materials in DOT administered construction projects. The materials include glass, wastepaper, pavement, pottery cull, recycled plastics, high volume industrial waste such as fly ash, bottom ash, paper mill sludge, foundry waste or any other waste with similar characteristics that is approved by DNR. These materials can be used for surfacing material, structural material, landscaping material and fill for all highway and other transportation system improvements. For more information on recyclable materials used in road projects, contact DOT at (608) 246-7950.



Recycling Storage Requirements

The Department of Commerce's commercial building code requires that building owners provide adequate space inside or adjacent to a public building for the separation, temporary storage and collection of materials subject to landfill bans. This code applies to newly constructed public buildings, additions that increase the size of a public building more than 50%, or alterations of 50% or more of a public building that is 10,000 square feet or larger. For more information, contact Wisconsin Department of Commerce at 608-266-1018 or refer to s. 101.126 Wis. Stats, at www.legis.state.wi.us/rsb/stats.html.

Composting Yard and Food Materials

Since 1993, when yard materials were banned from landfill disposal, many communities and individuals have taken up composting. The DNR especially encourages composting of yard, garden and vegetable food materials. For more about backyard composting, see "The Complete Composter" at www.dnr.wi.gov/org/aw/wm/publications/recycle/PUBWA182-05.pdf.

The DNR regulates composting operations to varying degrees, depending on the size of the operation and the "feedstocks" (materials being composted). Local ordinances may also apply to any type of composting, from household to large scale commercial operations.



1. These composting operations may operate without a license or approval from DNR:

- 🌱 household;
- 🌱 50 cubic yards or less of yard waste, manure and vegetable food materials; and
- 🌱 on-site farm composting of certain agricultural wastes (crop residue, manure and animal carcasses utilized for agricultural purposes).

Note: Manure from large scale agricultural animal operations is subject to DNR Watershed Program rules.

2. These composting operations are subject to "permit by rule". Requirements are limited to the initial site inspection request and a license:

- 🌱 up to 500 cubic yards that may include yard waste, manure and vegetable food materials; and
- 🌱 up to 20,000 cubic yards of yard materials.

3. Larger more complex composting operations require submittal of a plan of operation that describes the proposed facility, written approval of that plan and submittal of proof of financial responsibility for closure of the facility:

- 🌱 greater than 500 cubic yards that includes food materials, or greater than 20,000 cubic yards of yard materials; and
- 🌱 meat waste composting by other than a single family or household.
Note: A meat waste composting operation is regulated under s. NR 502.08, Wis. Adm. Code, as a "solid waste processing facility".

DNR provides technical assistance for composting operations of all sizes and may conduct inspections and pursue enforcement, particularly in response to complaints. For more information, contact your local DNR waste management specialist www.dnr.wi.gov/org/aw/wm/contacts/regions.htm and refer to the DNR publication # 182-05.



Open Burning and Trash Incineration

Under state law, individual homeowners may legally burn small quantities of their own dry leaves, plant clippings, brush and clean untreated, unpainted wood. Local ordinances may be more stringent and may prohibit burning certain materials (like leaves and other yard wastes) or may prohibit open burning entirely. Open burning of any waste material is discouraged because it results in air pollution, can cause health problems and is a fire hazard. Before burning it is advisable to contact the local fire authority to find out if a local or state burning permit is needed or if emergency burning restrictions are in effect.

Generally, businesses, industries and municipalities need DNR approval and a license to burn any waste materials, including clean wood waste or brush. State law prohibits anyone (including homeowners and businesses) from open burning of banned recyclable materials (as listed on pages 1 and 2), garbage, wet materials, combustible rubbish, oily substances, asphalt materials, plastic of any kind and rubber products. For more information on open burning, visit www.dnr.wi.gov/environmentprotect/ob/.



Littering

It is illegal under s. 287.81, Wis. Stats. to deposit or discharge any solid waste on or along any highway, in any waters of the state or on any other public or private property unless it is done in conformance with other state laws. It is also illegal to

abandon any automobile, boat, other vehicle or aircraft in the waters of the state.

Additional Resources

National Recycling Coalition
www.nrc-recycle.org

**United States Environmental Protection Agency-
Municipal Solid Waste and Recycling**
[www.epa.gov/epaoswer/non-hw/muncpl/
recycle.htm](http://www.epa.gov/epaoswer/non-hw/muncpl/recycle.htm)

**The Department of Natural Resources-
Waste & Materials Management**
www.dnr.state.wi.us/org/aw/wm/recycle

Recycling Markets Directory and Prices
www.dnr.state.wi.us/org/aw/wm/markets/

Wisconsin Be SMART Coalition
www.besmart.org

Associated Recyclers of Wisconsin
www.arow-online.org

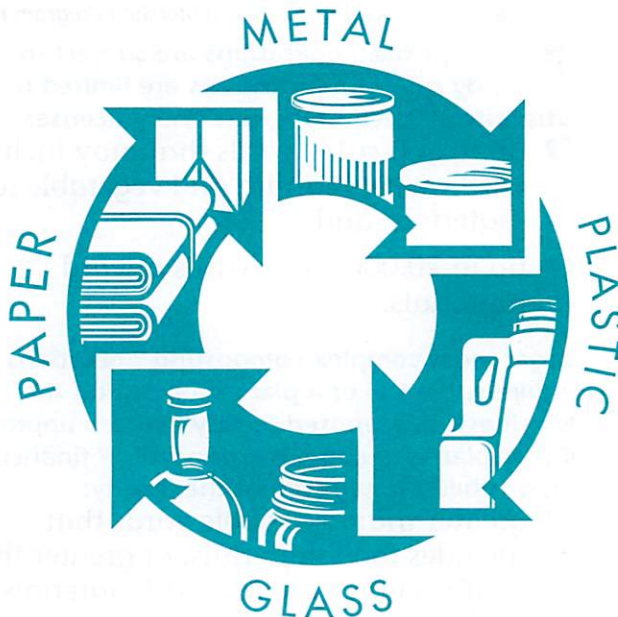
WasteCap Wisconsin
www.wastecapwi.org

This document is intended solely as guidance and does not contain any mandatory requirements except where requirements found in statute or administrative rule are referenced. This guidance does not establish or affect legal rights or obligations and is not finally determinative of any of the issues addressed. This guidance does not create any rights enforceable by any party in litigation with the State of Wisconsin or the Department of Natural Resources. Any regulatory decisions made by the Department of Natural Resources in any matter addressed by this guidance will be made by applying the governing statutes and administrative rules to the relevant facts.

For more information on DNR recycling outreach materials, please contact:

Recycling Educator

Bureau of Education and Information
Wisconsin Department of
Natural Resources
101 South Webster Street
P.O. Box 7921
608-267-2463



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