

This is the last in a series of postings on lithium-ion batteries. Many of these batteries are not being properly disposed of and are creating significant issues for handlers and fire departments. In speaking with landfill operators, garbage haulers and recyclers, they are seeing more and more of these batteries in the trash or recycling bins. Fires in garbage trucks and landfills are increasing. Last fall, we were called to a fire at the landfill in southern Brown County and in January, a garbage truck fire. As you have seen in the previous 2 postings, lithium-ion fires require a considerable amount of time, water, foam and other resources to extinguish.

You can do your part by NEVER PUTTING LITHIUM-ION BATTERIES IN THE TRASH OR RECYCLING BINS! THIS INCLUDES ANY DEVICES OR PRODUCTS THAT CONTAIN SUCH BATTERIES. The Brown County Landfill does not accept these items. However, Brown County residents may properly dispose of them, free of charge, at the [Brown County Resource Recovery](#) center located at 2561 South Broadway in Green Bay. There is a charge for residents outside of Brown County. Please check their website at browncountyrecycling.org for the specific days and times when they are open to the public.

Consumers may also be able to take batteries to most retailers that sell or replace batteries. This disposal/recycling service is usually free to customers who purchase a new battery. It is best to call ahead to see if they accept waste batteries. There are certain precautions that need to be followed when disposing of smaller lithium-ion batteries. Cover battery terminal ends with non-conductive electrical tape or place each battery in a separate plastic bag. Do not remove or cover up manufacturer's labels. If the battery cannot be removed, be sure to take the proper precautions to prevent the device from turning on during transport. If you have more than one battery/device, place them in a non-metal container so they remain secure during transport.

Disposal of large lithium-ion batteries from vehicles or power backup systems differs from smaller devices. The EPA recommends that you contact the manufacturer, vehicle dealer or company that installed the battery for management options. Refer to the manufacturer's instructions and heed warnings and safety instructions.

Please take the time to share this information with others. It is important that everyone does their part to protect the environment, prevent accidents, injuries and prevent fires by properly disposing of lithium-ion batteries.

Remember, all batteries can be recycled.