

# MRF TURE

## Fall 2021

The Quarterly Newsletter of the Manitowoc County Recycling Center & Compost Sites



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### TIRE COLLECTION ENDS OCTOBER 30TH

The Recycling Center offers a seasonal tire collection service. It runs from April through October every year. During this time, residents and businesses can bring their tires in to be recycled for a fee. Participants often ask why it is only a seasonal collection. The pricing for our tire recycling service is based on the cost of having the large accumulation of tires transported and processed at a reputable tire recycling facility. The cost is based on the weight of the tires shipped, any water collected in the tires can be shaken off as they are loaded. However, during cold weather, water freezes inside the tires and does not come out easily; this adds significantly to the weight and the processing cost. Luckily, there are not a lot of people who want to bring tires in during the winter.

### Fees and Guidelines

- \$5.25—per car tire or smaller (5 tires or less).
- \$6.90—per standard truck tire (5 tires or less).
- 17 cents per pound (\$340 per ton) for:
  - Quantities of 6 or more tires
  - Semi tires
  - Tires on rims
- 22 cents per pound (\$440 per ton) for off road tires including:
  - Agricultural equipment tires
  - Mining equipment tires
  - Mixed loads containing off road tires
- Stop in the Recycling Center Main Office **before** dropping off tires.
- Bring your waste tires to the Manitowoc County Recycling Center during normal office hours.
- Collection employees reserve the right to judge, based on tire size, and quantity, whether a customer is charged on a per tire basis or by tire weight.
- Residents and businesses with dump truck load or larger quantities of tires must call the Recycling Center before coming.
- For more information call the Recycling Center at 920-683-4333 or visit [Recycling.manitowocountywi.gov](http://Recycling.manitowocountywi.gov)

### Location & Hours:

3000 Basswood Road  
Manitowoc

Monday—Friday  
7am—4pm  
Saturday  
8am—Noon

### Tires Accepted:

- Car
- Truck
- Semi
- Tractor
- Motorcycle
- ATV
- Bicycle

**\*Rubber products that are not tires are not accepted.**



### Mission Statement

To provide materials recycling and recovery services to the citizens of Manitowoc County and to keep the public informed about recycling issues.



**Manitowoc County Recycling Center & Compost Sites**

3000 Basswood Road, Manitowoc WI

920-683-4333

[Recycling.manitowocountywi.gov](http://Recycling.manitowocountywi.gov)



COMPOST SITE UPDATE

Beginning November 16 the Basswood Road and Woodland Drive Compost Sites will have new operating hours. The Basswood Road Compost Site will be open Monday-Friday, 7:00 am to 4:00 pm and Saturday from 8:00 am until noon. **Beginning November 16, the Woodland Drive Compost Site will be closed until April 2021.** Beginning November 6, the Recycling Center Main Office will be closed on Saturdays and will reopen on Saturdays beginning April 2021.

Both the Basswood Road and Woodland Drive Compost Sites are available for drop off of acceptable yard materials during the posted hours. When using the compost sites drive slow and watch for traffic. It is advisable to avoid using the compost sites during or after heavy rains since they can easily become rutted and slippery. Do not use the compost sites outside of the posted hours.

**Accepted Items:** Grass, leaves, flowers, plants, pumpkins, fruits, vegetables, garden waste, yard clippings, brush, branches (not more than 6 inches in diameter or longer than 5 feet), clean woodchips, clean saw dust, and natural holiday trees.

**Unacceptable Items:** ASHES, plant pots, seedling trays, bags, plant tags, or anything plastic, stumps, animal waste, sod with soil, topsoil or dirt, rocks, gravel, lumber, garbage, large branches greater than 6 inches in diameter or longer than 5 feet.

Loads may be subject to inspection by Recycling Center staff. Illegal dumping is subject to fine per Manitowoc Code Section 6.17. Placing unaccepted items in an otherwise designated recycling container or pile is considered illegal dumping and is subject to fine. The sites are monitored by video surveillance. If you have questions about a particular material, call 683-4333 and ask.

**BASSWOOD COMPOST SITE**

3000 Basswood Rd, Manitowoc  
Mon-Fri 7am-4pm  
Sat 8am-4pm

**WOODLAND COMPOST SITE**

4191 Woodland Dr, Two Rivers  
Mon-Fri 10am-4pm  
Sat 8am-4pm



COMPOST PRODUCTS

Wood mulch and compost are available at the Recycling Center Main Office during the posted office hours. Purchases must be made before loading. Note that the office hours are different than the drop off site hours. Loading is generally available Monday through Friday from 7:30am to 3:30pm. Call 920-683-4333 for more info.



**RECYCLING CENTER OFFICE**

3000 Basswood Rd, Manitowoc  
Mon-Fri 7am-4pm  
Sat 8am-Noon

**SCREENED COMPOST PRICES**

- 1 bushel: \$3.00
- 1 cubic yard: \$15.00

**UNSCREENED COMPOST PRICES**

- 1 bushel: \$1.00
- 1 cubic yard: \$3.00

**WOOD MULCH SPECIAL**

- 1 bushel: \$1.00
- 1 cubic yard: \$10.00

The Manitowoc County Recycling Center has suspended the delivery service for compost products. This is due to a labor shortage and will continue until further notice. Customers may still purchase and pick up compost products and we will load open trucks and trailers M-F from 7:30a to 3:30p. We apologize for any inconvenience and appreciate your understanding.



HOME COMPOSTING

Gardeners and homeowners, turn your household food scraps into rich compost for your garden or plants. Mix kitchen scraps and grass clipping with leaves and turn the pile occasionally until it breaks down. Not only does home composting provide excellent compost, but you can reduce the amount of materials going into your garbage. Large, 13-cubic foot compost bins with locking lids are available at the Recycling Center for only \$60.00 (tax included).

Stop by the Recycling Center at any time during normal business hours and take a look at our floor model. Educational resources for home composting are available as well.



Fall leaves can make a great addition to your home compost pile. Especially if they are shredded with a mower.

## ASHES

Never dump ASHES off at the compost sites. We do not accept them. Our signs, flyer, and website clearly state that we do not accept them. In 2020 there were 2 fires started by people dumping ashes. One of those fires shut the Basswood site down for 2 days.

If you are caught dumping ashes at either compost site, you will receive a \$200 citation, even if you didn't see the signs or look at the guidelines.

Sure, you may have added ashes to your garden at one time, but we do not want them in our compost site for two important reasons. First, even if ashes seem cool they often still contain embers that can start fires, especially after being crushed by vehicle tires during dry conditions. Second, ashes may contain undesirable chemicals from whatever was burned, and we have no way to know if it was clean wood, treated lumber, or worse.

The best thing to do with your ashes is to use them at your property in your garden, or thoroughly douse them in water and let them sit at least a month before sending them to the landfill. If you have curbside pickup service, or use a municipal drop off site, be sure to check their guidelines too; many places do not accept ashes for fire safety reasons.



## AMERICA RECYCLES DAY

Recycling is one of the easiest things that we can all do to improve our communities, conserve natural resources and create green jobs.

America Recycles Day is a nationally recognized day designed to build awareness of recycling and its benefits and to encourage people to recycle correctly and buy recycled products. By recycling, you can help reduce emissions of greenhouse gas and water pollution, save energy, supply valuable manufacturing materials, create jobs, and reduce the need for new landfills. People can easily participate by making an effort to learn about the recycling programs in their community. Visit the Manitowoc County Recycling Center website at [Recycling.manitowoccountymi.gov](http://Recycling.manitowoccountymi.gov) to learn more about local recycling and disposal options. Or try [Recyclemorewisconsin.org](http://Recyclemorewisconsin.org) for information on how to recycle right in Wisconsin. If you want to do more, then make an effort to minimize contamination in your recycling bin, buy green products that contain recycled content, and purchase products that can be easily recycled in your community. You could even take a recycling pledge on the America Recycles Day website at [Americarecyclesday.org](http://Americarecyclesday.org) to show your support for recycling. Reduction and reuse are also great tools that compliment recycling.



Manitowoc County has demonstrated a very proactive approach towards recycling. In the early 90's approximately 58,000 Tons of solid waste per year were landfilled from Manitowoc County. That number has been reduced to about 34,000 per year because of the recycling and waste reduction efforts. In 2020 there was 4.68 million pounds of paper and cardboard, and 646,000 pounds of plastic bottles recycled through the local recycling center. Despite these impressive numbers, there is still room to improve. For example, the recycling center cleaned out 169,600 pounds of contamination from the local recycling stream. The Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) estimates that Americans recycled 63% of their paper and cardboard in 2010. The National Association for PET Container Resources estimated that just 29% of the PET bottles were recycled in 2011.

We would like to encourage everyone to review the recycling guidelines for their curbside program or local drop off site. Ours are listed on page 7. Make sure you know the common items that should be recycled. Contamination in recycling is a big issue and it often happens when people assume they know what to recycle, when in fact they are overlooking some important details.

The Manitowoc County Recycling Center would like to thank Manitowoc County residents and businesses for participating in recycling and special collection programs like the Hazardous Waste Clean Sweep, Drug Disposal Program, Waste Tire Collection, Electronics Collection and the Composting Sites. By taking the time to learn about and use these programs, and others, our participants have helped improve our community, environment and economics. Visit the Recycling Center at [Recycling.manitowoccountymi.gov](http://Recycling.manitowoccountymi.gov) or call 920-683-4333 to learn more about these programs.

For this America Recycle Day, we invite you to participate in a tour of the recycling center. Tours are available on November 11 and 15 starting at 1pm. The tour will take about 1hr depending on participants questions, it will cover the recycling center and associated programs. Please register by calling 920-683-4333 M-F between 7a and 4p. Group size is limited to 12 people each.

## STATEWIDE WASTE CHARACTERIZATION STUDY (press release from WDNR)

New DNR Waste Characterization Study Reveals Increase In Food Waste And Opportunities For Waste Reduction.

The Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources (DNR) announced the release of its [2020-2021 statewide waste characterization study](#). The study provides [valuable insight](#) into what is going into Wisconsin landfills, and is a powerful planning tool for waste reduction and minimization efforts.

The DNR contracted with SCS Engineers, an environmental consulting and contracting firm, to complete the study. Crews visited 14 landfills and one solid waste transfer station around the state and hand sorted 398 samples of solid waste from residential and commercial sectors. In addition, SCS staff visually inspected 659 samples of construction and demolition debris. Samples were sorted into 85 distinct waste components that were grouped into eight waste categories.

The sorting took place over two distinct periods, Sept.-Nov. 2020 and March-April 2021. Therefore, study results are likely affected by the pandemic. Two three-month windows of data collection should help minimize the impacts of any particular event within the pandemic. Because this study is a snapshot of Wisconsin landfills in 2020 and 2021, it should be regarded as representative of Wisconsin's landfilled municipal solid waste within that timeframe.

Organic waste – materials such as food and yard waste – was the largest category of waste found in landfills statewide.

Specifically, wasted food, which is formerly edible food that was spoiled or discarded without being eaten, was the largest component at 14.5%, and inedible food scraps, such as banana peels, was the third largest at 6%. Combined, these food wastes make up double the percentage found in a previous Wisconsin landfill study conducted in 2009.

“Focusing efforts to reduce organic wastes can make a significant difference in Wisconsin’s waste stream and the environment,” says Casey Lamensky, DNR Solid Waste Coordinator. “In addition to taking up valuable landfill space, landfilling these materials contributes heavily to the production of methane, a greenhouse gas 28 times more powerful than carbon dioxide if released into the atmosphere.”

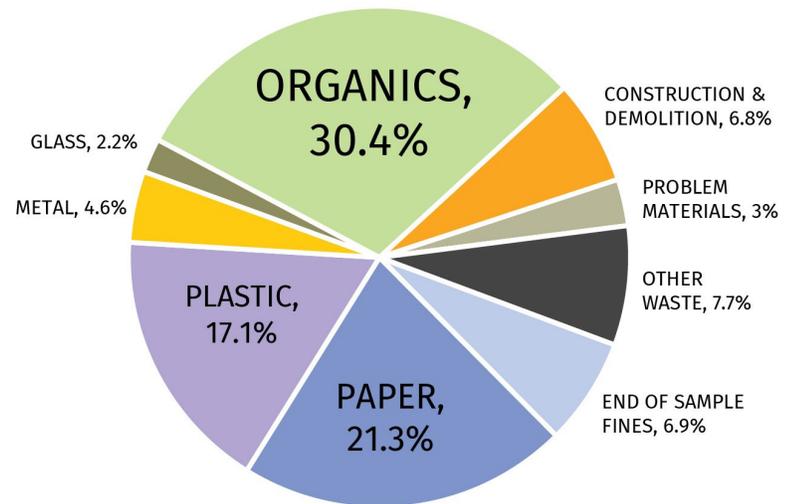
There are simple things households can do to reduce landfilled food waste that also save money. Plan ahead by bringing a shopping list to the grocery store to prevent buying in excess, store food properly to extend its life, understand food expiration labels and compost food scraps.

The waste characterization study results also indicate that the process of separating recyclables from the garbage bound for landfills could be improved. Diverting recyclables from the landfill would save money and supply raw materials to manufacturers, potentially allowing for more efficient production.

The 2020 study found increased amounts of recyclable materials relative to the 2009 study. These are recyclables that were mistakenly put into the trash instead of recycling bins. The types of recyclables that have increased in abundance in landfills since 2009 include No. 1 and No. 2 plastic containers, glass containers, aluminum and steel containers, cardboard and office paper.

Based on the results, the DNR estimates that in 2020, Wisconsinites threw away 490,300 tons of these recyclable materials with

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an estimated market value of more than \$76 million. The recyclables that ended up in landfills could join the 754,000 tons processed each year and sent for reuse or recycling by facilities that manage residential recycling.

Wisconsin’s statewide recycling law is designed to provide recycling access to all residential properties, businesses and institutions.

“We know from surveys that some people don’t recycle because they believe separated recyclables end up in the landfill,” Lamensky said. “We want to encourage everyone to take advantage of their local recycling program. The recycling industry in Wisconsin is very good at getting these materials to buyers, so generally, once recyclables are placed in the recycling bin, they are not landfilled.”

Recycling successes are also identifiable in the data. In 2009, roofing shingles were the second largest material in the municipal solid waste stream and the largest in the construction and demolition waste stream. Since 2009, recycling asphalt shingles, a process which consists of sorting out the roofing paper, grinding the shingles and remixing it in asphalt plants to be repurposed in roads, has become much more prevalent and the infrastructure has increased. Shingles no longer rank in the top 10 largest waste types for municipal waste and have decreased from 30% to 10% of the landfilled construction and demolition waste stream.

The top five materials (by weight) found in Wisconsin landfills include:

1. Wasted food that was formerly edible “Other flexible films” (e.g. candy wrappers and chip bags)
2. Food preparation scraps that are not traditionally edible (e.g. peels, bones and shells)
3. Textiles, including clothing, cloth furnishings and bedding
4. “Compostable paper,” which is typically paper products that cannot be recycled, such as facial tissues and used paper plates

This information, and other data from this study, will be crucial as the DNR explores where to focus new waste reduction methods and strategies focusing on reducing household and commercial waste and how to divert waste from landfills.

The DNR will continue to work closely with the Associated Recyclers of Wisconsin, recycling and composting facilities, landfill operators as well as local governments to promote ideas and policies to reduce unnecessary waste.

*(Press release and images provided by WDNR)*

**THE HIERARCHY OF WASTE MANAGEMENT**

This concept illustrates the preferred way to manage waste. The inverted pyramid places the most favorable options at the top and the least favorable options on the bottom. This approach to waste can be applied at many scales: from the individual or household, to a business, school or even a city or county.

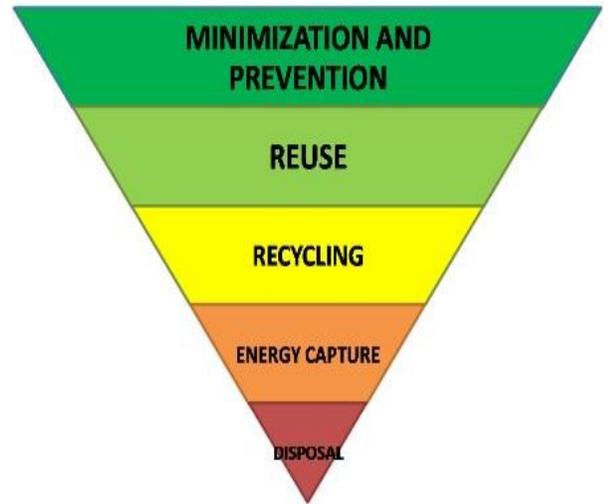
Waste minimization and prevention covers reduction. It is the largest tier because it is the preferred method since it prevents waste from being generated in the first place. This could include foregoing unnecessary purchases, purchasing long lasting durable products over cheaply made ones, purchasing concentrated products, products with minimal packaging, or packaging that is easily reused or recycled.

The next level down, reuse, is the simple act of finding a different use for an item. This includes anytime you sell, donate or purchase a used item. Other reuse practices include using reusable shopping bags, borrowing or renting items instead of buying them, or using a container for a planter or storage. It also covers refurbishing or repairing items or using them for art or design projects.

Recycling refers to taking the material an item is made from and using it to make another item. Recycling differs from reuse because it involves more processing to make the new item. While recycling is beneficial and has an important place in the waste hierarchy, it is less favorable than minimization or reuse because it requires resources to do it.

Energy Capture is using waste to generate energy. This option is less useful for individuals or households but can have a place for certain industries or communities when it makes economic sense to do it. It includes waste to energy plants that incinerate solid waste and use the heat to generate electricity, or biodigesters that generate electricity from the burning of the methane gasses produced from the anaerobic digestion of certain types of waste.

The last and smallest level in the hierarchy is disposal. It is the least favorable. Items that go in your trash end up in a landfill and it requires significant resources to create and manage landfills. This is reflected in the “tipping fees” charged to place waste in the landfill.



**SMOKE DETECTOR DISPOSAL**

Neither the Recycling Center or Clean Sweep Program accepts unwanted smoke detectors. Certain types of smoke alarms contain trace amounts of radiation. The Environmental Protection Agency recommends that households return them to the manufacturer for proper disposal. Please contact the smoke detector manufacturer for instructions on proper disposal. Contact information should be available in the instruction manual, on their website, or on the back of the unit. Owners of unwanted Kidde smoke detectors can call 866-847-3424. Owners of First Alert and BRK smoke detectors should call 800-323-9005.

Residents who do not want to ship smoke detectors to manufacturers may dispose of them in the regular trash as they are not covered under current landfill bans.



**RECYCLING AFFILIATIONS**

The Manitowoc County Public Works Department and Recycling Center is involved in a number of professional recycling and solid waste management organizations active in Wisconsin. This helps us to understand the challenges, opportunities, and trends in the region and learn from each others programs. These are the 3 main organizations:

[Wisconsin Counties Solid Waste Management Association \(WCSWMA\)](#): The purpose of the Association is to promote effective and environmentally sound solid waste management systems and resource recovery efforts. The Association promotes communication amongst its members and associates for the exchange of ideas, and provides a forum for the promotion of legislation at the State and Federal levels of government.

[Associated Recyclers of Wisconsin \(AROW\)](#): An association that provides statewide proactive leadership on waste reduction and recycling through education, advocacy, collaboration, programs and services. AROW strives to bring together Business, Government, Non-profits, and Trade Associations.

[Solid Waste Association of North America \(SWANA\) – Badger Chapter](#): Formed in 1988, the WI Chapter of SWANA serves solid waste professionals throughout Wisconsin. Our goal as a chapter is to enhance our profession and our members' careers.



## RECYCLING DEPOT

The Manitowoc Recycling Center maintains a residential drop off area at the Recycling Center Main Office located at 3000 Basswood Road. It is open Monday-Friday from 7am to 4pm, and Saturday from 8am to noon. This site is intended for use by all county residents. There is no trash or garbage drop off at this location. Contact a local hauler or the Ridgeview Landfill for disposal of trash. Different municipal drop off sites may be more accessible to you depending on the city, township or village you are from.

### General Drop Site Guidelines

- Place your recyclables in the bunker or receptacle labeled for that material.
- Remove any plastic bags or strings and take them home with you to place in your trash.
- Do not place nonacceptable items in the bunkers or receptacles.
- Do not place materials outside receptacles on the ground.
- Large loads of cardboard, paper or plastic can be placed on appropriate pile on the tipping floor.
- Use caution driving through the drop site and on the tipping floor.
- Due to Covid-19, please practice social distancing and other precautions at the recycling depot.



The recycling and compost areas are monitored for illegal dumping, littering, and other issues. Please follow all posted guidelines.

### Paper

Includes newspapers, junk mail, magazines, computer paper, books with metal or plastic binding removed etc.. Paper should be clean and dry. No paper contaminated with food or oil. No paper coated with foil, plastic or heavy glue. No plastic/foil wrapping paper.



### Plastic

Check for a neck. **We only accept #1 and #2 bottles and jars.** Remove the caps, rinse and flatten. No tub shaped containers or bottles that contained oil or pesticide (even if rinsed). No plastic wraps, films, bags, trays, pails, packaging peanuts, Styrofoam, or any other non bottle shaped item. Please do not tie milk jugs together or tie in plastic bags.



### Glass Bottles

Any color glass bottle or jar can be recycled. Put into designated bunker. Remove lids or caps and rinse. No window glass, mirrors, light bulbs, clay, ceramics, drinking glasses or ovenware.



### Cartons

Cartons include shelf stable and refrigerated containers for wine, milk, juice, cream, soy milk, soup, and egg substitutes. Drop off cartons with the plastic bottles. They should be emptied and flattened.



### Cardboard

Should be clean and flattened. No soiled cardboard or cardboard coated with wax, tin, or plastic.



### Cans

Tin, steel, and aluminum cans. Coated cans, foil, and pie tins are ok. Empty and rinse out food residue.



### ELECTRONIC NEWSLETTER REQUEST

Are you interested in receiving current updates recycling programs in Manitowoc County? Join our electronic mailing list to receive our quarterly newsletter. Either call us at 920-683-4333 or email [jonreisenbuechler@manitowoccountymi.gov](mailto:jonreisenbuechler@manitowoccountymi.gov) and request to be added to our email distribution list. The recycling center will not give away or sell your information. You will receive our quarterly newsletter detailing news and information about the recycling center and related events.

### SCRAP METAL DUMPSTER

The Recycling Depot now has a scrap metal dumpster available for your convenience. It is for clean scrap metal only, including steel, iron, copper, sheet/cast aluminum, tin, and mixed metals. Please remove excessive non-metal components.

- NO propane (or other) tanks
- NO electronics or appliances
- NO batteries or lamps
- NO garbage, plastic, wood, or rubber
- NO chemicals, gas, oil, or other hazardous wastes.



The Manitowoc County Recycling Center is operated by Ascend Services Inc. Formerly Holiday House of Manitowoc Inc.



The Manitowoc County Recycling Center is a business unit of the Manitowoc County Department of Public Works and is operated in partnership with the Manitowoc County Expo Center.

