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Fall 2016

The Quarterly Newsletter of the Manitowoc County Recycling Center



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Mission Statement

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



WASTE TIRE COLLECTION RESULTS

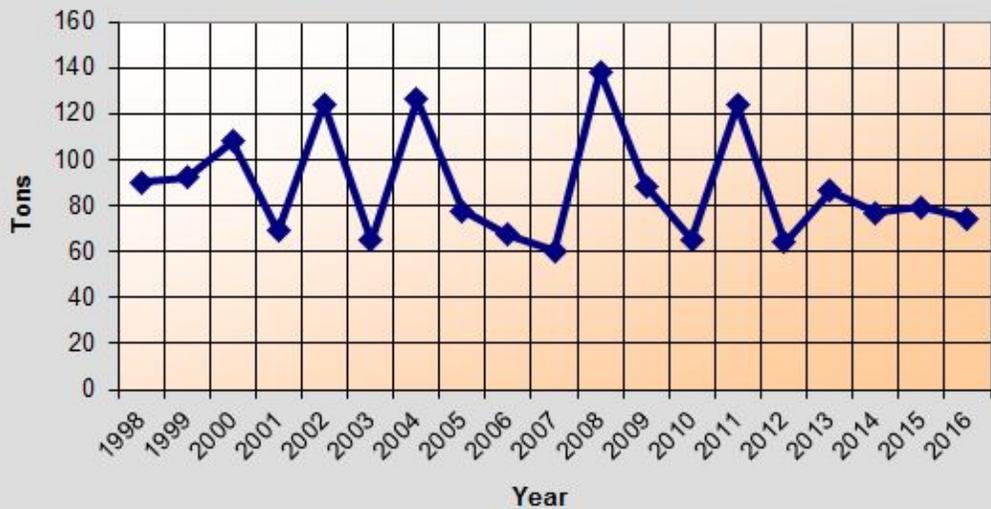
Manitowoc County residents and businesses can be proud of their commitment to recycling and the betterment of our environment! Thanks to the many participants, the Manitowoc County Recycling Center's 2016 Tire Collection brought in 74.34 tons of waste tires. The majority of this was car tires, though there were many other types, such as; bicycle, ATV, lawnmower, tractor, semi, and race car tires.

The annual Waste Tire Collection started in 1998 and has collected 1677.14 tons of tires since it began. Every year in mid September, residents, farms, and businesses bring in between 60 and 140 tons of unwanted tires to this collection. Once the collection is finished, all the tires are shipped out to a reputable tire recycler that specializes in recycling tires.

Waste tires can be reused in a number of beneficial ways. They can be shred into rubber chips and used as artificial turf or as a groundcover in playgrounds. Tire rubber can be incorporated into asphalt roads, athletic tracks and used in other rubber products. Depending on what other materials are in the tire they may also be used as a fuel source. When burned in specially designed incinerators the release of noxious smoke can be controlled. Nylon and steel that is commonly found in tires is also recycled.

Watch for the next tire collection to be held for two weeks in mid-September next year!

Tons of Tires Collected per Year



Manitowoc County Recycling Center & Compost Sites
3000 Basswood Road, Manitowoc WI
920-683-4333
www.manitowocrecycles.org



DRUG DISPOSAL —CRIME PREVENTION DAY. The next drug collection event will be held at the Crime Prevention Day at the Manitowoc County Expo Merchants Building on October 22 from 10am to 3pm. Residents may drop off their unwanted medications for FREE. Please see below for our updated program guidelines.

The Manitowoc County Drug Collection has been a popular and successful program. Since the beginning of the program in 2006, there have been 47 collection events and two permanent drop boxes installed. 11,521 pounds of unwanted medications have been collected (not including the packaging).

Prescription and over-the-counter medications are often stored in the home long after they have expired, creating stockpiles of easily accessible drugs that can contribute to drug abuse, overdose, and accidental poisonings. To reduce the potential for abuse, medications should be removed from the home and disposed of properly at a collection event or drug drop box. The past practices of flushing meds down the toilet or throwing them in the trash is not a safe solution, as they can allow medication to enter waterways and contaminate our drinking water supply. Waste water treatment plants, which handle water that is flushed down toilets and drains and treat landfill leachate, are not designed to filter out drugs. Medicine discarded in garbage bins may also become a target for desperate drug abusers who search for unused medication in household waste.

MERCURY THERMOMETER EXCHANGE

As part of the Crime Prevention Day Drug Collection you can bring your mercury fever thermometers and receive a complimentary digital thermometer. All mercury and mercury containing devices will be accepted; however, only household thermometers are eligible for the exchange program. The limit is one digital thermometer per household while supplies last. Be sure to transport mercury in a sealed, cushioned container.



If you miss this collection don't worry, the Manitowoc County Recycling Center will exchange your mercury fever thermometer anytime during office hours.

DRUG DISPOSAL— PROGRAM UPDATE. Our guidelines have changed to make this program more efficient and safe. Please read below and follow the new guidelines when bringing your unwanted medications to a drop box or drug collection event.

Directions:

Remove pills from original container and put them in a sealed "ziplock" style bag that is quart size or smaller before placing in the drug drop box. Empty pill containers may be placed in your home recycling or trash. Liquid, powder, and cream medications should remain in the original bottles. Remove pills from original container and put them in a sealed "ziplock" style bag that is quart size or smaller before placing in the drug drop box. Empty pill containers may be placed in your home recycling or trash. Liquid, powder, and cream medications should remain in the original bottles.

Guidelines:

- Accepted drugs include prescriptions, over the counter, pet medications, and controlled substances.
- Place pills in a "ziplock" style bag that is quart size or less. Liquids, cremes, and powders can stay in the original container.
- Pill bottles and boxes are NOT accepted. Cross out your personal information and dispose of them or recycle them at home.
- Needles, sharps, mercury devices, chemical waste, electronic glucose monitors, non-medical inhalers will NOT be accepted.
- Do NOT bring medications to drug disposal events before or after the listed times.
- Households only. Businesses should call 683-4333 for disposal information.
- Practice safe storage by keeping your medications in a secured location.
- Practice reduction by consulting with your physician about your medication needs.
- Never share your prescriptions with another person.

Permanent Dropbox Locations:

Manitowoc City Police Dept: 910 Jay Street, Manitowoc, 7:30am—4:30pm Monday—Friday

Two Rivers Police Dept: 1717 East Park Street, Two Rivers, 8am—4:30pm Monday—Friday

If you have questions, visit www.manitowocrecycles.org or call the Manitowoc County Recycling Center at 683-4333.



COMPOST SITE UPDATE. Beginning November 16, 2016, 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, 2016, The Woodland Drive Compost Site will be closed until April 2016. Beginning November 5, 2016, The Recycling Center Main Office will be closed on Saturdays and will reopen on Saturdays beginning April 2016.

Accepted Items: Grass, leaves, flowers, plants, pumpkins, fruits, vegetables, garden waste, yard waste, 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: Stumps, ashes, 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. If you have questions about a particular material, call 683-4333 and ask.

BASSWOOD COMPOST SITE
3000 Basswood Rd, Manitowoc
Mon-Fri 7am-6pm
Sat 8am-6pm

WOODLAND COMPOST SITE
4191 Woodland Dr, Two Rivers
Mon-Fri 10am-6pm
Sat 8am-6pm

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. Deliveries can also be set up within Manitowoc County. Call 920-683-4333 for more info.



RECYCLING CENTER OFFICE

3000 Basswood Rd, Manitowoc
Mon-Fri 7am-4pm
Sat 8am-Noon (closed seasonally)

SCREENED COMPOST PRICES

- 1 Bushel: \$2.50
- 1 cubic yard: \$13.00
- 6 cubic yards including delivery: \$108.50

UNSCREENED COMPOST PRICES

- 1 Bushel: \$0.50
- 1 cubic yard: \$1.50
- 6 cubic yards including delivery: \$39.50

WOOD MULCH PRICES

- 1 Bushel: \$0.75
- 1 cubic yard: \$8.00
- 6 cubic yards including delivery: \$78.50

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 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 www.manitowocrecycles.org to learn more about local recycling and disposal options. Or try www.recyclemorewisconsin.org for information about recycling issues and guidelines throughout Wisconsin. If you want to do more, then make an effort to buy green products that contain recycled content or purchase products that can be easily recycled in your community. You could even take a recycling pledge on the America Recycles Day website at <http://americarecyclesday.org> to show your support for recycling.

Manitowoc County has demonstrated a very proactive approach towards recycling. In 1991 approximately 54,000 Tons of solid waste was landfilled from Manitowoc County. That number has been reduced to 31,000 Tons in 2015 because of the recycling and waste reduction efforts. In 2015 there was 6.5 million pounds of paper and cardboard and 453,000 pounds of plastic bottles recycled at the local recycling center. Despite these impressive numbers, there is still room to improve. 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.

The Manitowoc County Recycling Center would like to thank Manitowoc County residents and businesses for participating in recycling and special collection programs like 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, participants have helped improve our community, environment and economics. Visit the Recycling Center at www.manitowocrecycles.org or call 920-683-4333 to learn more about these programs and help improve recycling Manitowoc County.



WISHFUL RECYCLING DOES NOT WORK!

Wishful recycling is what happens when someone places an item that cannot be recycled in with their recycling with the hope that it can be recycled. This can be bad for recycling programs because those items need to be sorted out and disposed of. In the recycling industry these products become contamination. Contamination can drive up the cost of recycling programs through extra labor, reduced efficiency, and higher disposal cost.



It seems that wishful recycling may happen for different reasons. People may do so because they simply don't know what their local recycling guidelines are and hope the item in question can be recycled. The solution is to become more familiar with the local recycling guidelines (see page 5).

Others may think that by putting items they want to see recycled in their bins, despite the guidelines, that it will create a need to recycle it. Recycling does not work that way! Items are recycled because someone is willing to purchase them on a continuous basis for use as a raw material to make something else.

Others people may recycle wishfully because they know of "other places" that recycle those items. Again, recycling does not work that way. Even if something can be recycled in one area it may not make economic sense to do so in another area depending on how far it needs to be shipped or how much extra processing the item requires in order to be recycled.

What does work? Look up your local recycling guidelines and stick to them. Ours are listed on page 5 of this publication. You can also check with your curbside service or municipal drop off site for their guidelines. If you want to go a step further then practice reduction and reuse.

REDUCE AND REUSE

The most effective way to reduce waste is to not create it in the first place. Making a new product requires a lot of materials and energy: raw materials must be extracted from the earth, and the product must be fabricated and then transported to wherever it will be sold. As a result, reduction and reuse are the most effective ways you can save natural resources, protect the environment, and save money.

Reducing and Reusing can help prevent pollution caused by reducing the need to harvest new raw materials and reduce greenhouse gases that contribute to global climate change. This can also save energy and resources and help sustain the environment for future generations.

Tips on how to Reduce and Reuse:

- ◆ Use products made with recycled materials
- ◆ Buy used items.
- ◆ Use products with less packaging.
- ◆ Buy reusable items over disposable ones.
- ◆ Use energy-efficient light bulbs and rechargeable batteries.
- ◆ Shop with reusable cloth bags.
- ◆ Reuse plastic bags, cups and containers.
- ◆ Maintain and repair items instead of throwing them away.
- ◆ Compost your food and yard waste.
- ◆ Donate unwanted items
- ◆ Borrow, rent or share infrequently used items

RECYCLING TIPS: PLASTICS

The Recycling Center only accepts #1 and #2 plastic bottles and jars. These plastic containers have a visible "neck" that is more narrow than the container. They include common items like soda and water bottles, milk jugs, laundry detergent bottles. However, the plastics arriving at the recycling center are often contaminated by items that are not recyclable through our program. This includes non-bottle #1 and #2 containers like yogurt cups and clamshells as well as #3 through #7 plastics containers. Plastic bags can also end up in the recycling stream and slow down the sorting process. Plastic bottles that contained oil or pesticides should not be recycled either. They need to be picked out since the residues can contaminate recyclable plastics, even if they have been thoroughly rinsed. Also be sure to remove your caps and empty the contents! Non-acceptable plastic items can be placed in your trash or perhaps reused in different ways.



Please call the recycling center at 683-4333 or visit our website at www.manitowocrecycles.org for questions about local recycling guidelines.

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.

<p><u>Paper</u> 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.</p> 	<p><u>Plastic</u> 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.</p> 
<p><u>Glass Bottles</u> 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.</p> 	<p><u>Cartons</u> Cartons include shelf stable and refrigerated containers for wine, milk, juice, cream, soy milk, soup, and egg substitutes. Drop off cartons with the with the plastic bottles. They should be emptied and flattened.</p> 
<p><u>Cardboard</u> Should be clean and flattened. No soiled cardboard or cardboard coated with wax, tin, or plastic.</p> 	<p><u>Cans</u> Tin, steel, and aluminum cans. Coated cans, foil, and pie tins are ok. Empty and rinse out food residue.</p> 

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@co.manitowoc.wi.us 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.

The Manitowoc County Recycling Center is managed and operated by Holiday House of Manitowoc County Inc. Serving people with disabilities since 1957.



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.

