

Recycling Rule Revision: Changes for Haulers

The Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources (DNR) has revised the administrative code that oversees Responsible Units' (RUs) effective recycling programs and other aspects of Wisconsin's recycling law. The rule revisions took effect July 1, 2025.

This document summarizes changes for collection and transportation service providers, referred to as haulers, to help them understand and comply with the changes. Please refer to [ch. NR 502.06, Wis. Adm. Code](#) for exact language. If you have questions, contact DNRRecycling@wisconsin.gov.

This applies to you if you pick up the kinds of recyclables listed below from single-family homes and/or 2-4-unit residences, whether by contract with a recycling responsible unit (e.g., a municipality) or through individual subscription services with the residences. *It doesn't apply to recyclables picked up from businesses or apartments with 5+ units.*

- Corrugated cardboard
- Magazine, newsprint, office paper or other similar paper
- Foam polystyrene packaging
- Glass containers
- Plastic containers
- Steel (tin) and bi-metal containers
- Aluminum containers

Providing Recycling Tonnage Data to Responsible Units

Before the code revision, haulers of the materials listed above were required to provide residential tonnage data to contracted RUs within four weeks of a written request.

Under the new rule, haulers are now required to do the following:

- **By Feb. 1** each year, haulers must provide information to each RU about the recyclable materials collected in the prior year. The information must include:
 - tonnages of the recyclable materials listed above that the hauler collected during the previous calendar year from all single-family and 2-to-4-unit residences within the RU service area, including from single-family and 2-to-4-unit residences that have individual subscription services.
 - the name(s) of the materials recovery facilities (MRFs) used to process the materials the hauler collected.
- The RU does NOT need to have a contract with the hauler for this requirement to apply.
- The hauler must also provide the above information to the DNR upon request.

The DNR understands the recycling tonnage information may be estimated by the hauler. For instance, if a hauler's route includes multiple RUs, the hauler may estimate tonnage based on the number of stops in each RU (e.g., route with 100 stops, 60 in RU A, 40 in RU B, divide and report tonnage 60%/40% to each RU).

For a list of Wisconsin municipalities and RUs that serve them (with RU contact information), go to [Wisconsin DNR Waste & Materials Management Public Reports](#).

Additional Changes for Haulers

- Haulers must notify RUs of a change in the MRF used within one week of the change.
- Containers used to collect recycling must be clearly labeled to distinguish their use for recycling purposes only.

The above are only code revisions that directly affect haulers. RUs and MRFs have a number of other new requirements and changes in the code revision. Learn more at [Responsible unit recycling programs](#) || [Wisconsin DNR](#) and [Requirements for materials recovery facilities \(MRFs\)](#) || [Wisconsin DNR](#).



Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources | December 2025

The information above is a summary of changes for haulers as a result of recycling rule revision and is not comprehensive. To view the complete rule changes, go to [Wisconsin Legislature: CR 23-065 Rule Text](#)