

# RECYCLING RULE REVISION UPDATE

February 9, 2024



# RECYCLING RULEMAKING

## Since we last met:

- Public hearing held 1/17/24
- Over 50 attendees
- Two main areas of comments

## Next Steps:

- Finalize documents
- Request rule approval at May 22 Natural Resources Board meeting
- Submit for Governor's approval
- Submit for legislative committees review in early 2025

# PUBLIC HEARING COMMENTS

- 6 entities submitted public comments
  - WM- support 90%, request deletion of OFR for MRFs
  - NWRA- support most changes, request deletion of OFR for MRFs
  - Carton Council- support, esp increased education & multi-family recycling; add cartons to recyclable materials that should be diverted from landfills

# PUBLIC HEARING COMMENTS

- 6 entities submitted public comments
  - City of Milwaukee- supports most of changes, concern w/individual subscription service allowed for attainment of collection requirements for RUs
  - Compost Crusaders- support increased funding for food scraps, share funding w/businesses & non-profits
  - AROW- support

# DISCUSSION

## Individual subscription service

- Supplements drop-offs in some RUs
- Serves as only recycling curbside collection method in others
  - Could require documentation of 100% subscription
  - Could require additional reporting or annual evaluation
  - Could require greater role from RU in implementation
    - RU provides 'approved' list of haulers to each residence, requires resident to identify which company is selected
    - Or, RU specifies in ordinance all residents must contract for recycling service, similar to multi-family or non-residential

Thoughts?

# OFR FOR MRFS

- Rationale for OFR for MRFS
  - Idea that all materials at a MRF have value = false
    - Similar to how the idea that recycling should pay for itself is false
    - Truth is there is an inherent cost to process, dispose of residual and certain materials (glass) do not have a positive value
  - WI has firsthand experience with MRF going out of business, abandoning 2 sites
    - Importance of protecting the state from future clean-up
  - Level the playing field- ALL other processors of solid waste are required to have OFR, including most recently, electronics

But MRFS vary so how can we make OFR make sense for them and protect state from potential future clean-up?

# DISCUSSION

## OFR for MRFs

- Decommissioning and decontamination won't be required for closure cost calculation
- Consider delayed roll out of OFR for full cost of closure
  - 50% year one and full amount by year two? (lessen financial impact)
- Set amount of OFR by facility size
  - Challenge as distance to processor (another MRF, glass market) or landfill vary
  - Reduce if certain factors affecting closure present (proximity to facility)
- Limit amount of materials MRF could have on-site in lieu of OFR
  - More material = more risk
  - Limit intentional storage of unprocessed/residual to days worth, negative value material to less than 2 semi loads

Thoughts?