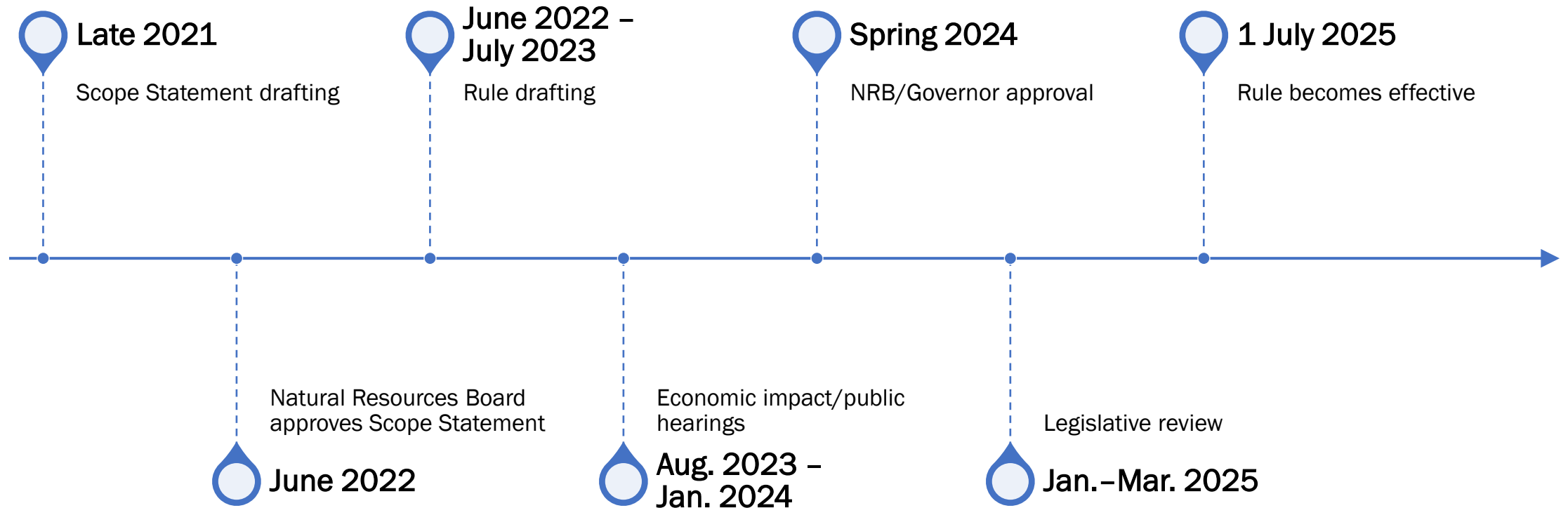


Recycling Rule Revision Update

Council on Recycling

March 6, 2026

Recycling Rule Revision Timeline



What does recycling code revision NOT cover?

How Responsible Units (RUs) are defined
(each local government, unless alternative RU established)

Which materials are banned from landfill
disposal and which materials RUs are
required to provide collection for

How the recycling grant is distributed and
due date of recycling grant application

Above items are defined in statute, Ch. 287, Wis. Stats.

Changes for MRFs

- Owner financial responsibility (OFR) for MRFs (starting in June 2027)
 - MRFs operating at 5,000 tons or more/year
- 12% (of total non-commercial incoming weight) minimum glass recycling rate
- 20% maximum residual rate
- Changes to the annual MRF self certification
- New self certification of operation – due 12/28 and when changes are made
- Provide RUs/haulers info on acceptable materials annually, review contracted RU education w/in 60 days of request, specify MRF education pubs are for X facility and as of X date
- Short-term (less than 48 hours) and long-term (48 hours or more) contingency plans
- Outdoor storage of unbaled materials that contain paper, cardboard and plastic must be in a bunker or similar

Changes for Haulers

- Requires containers used for collection of recyclables to be clearly labeled.
- Requires haulers to provide residential recycling tonnage data to RUs by Feb. 1 each year. Data must include the name of the MRF(s) used to process the materials.
- Requires haulers to notify RUs when a new MRF is used.

MRF & Hauler Implementation Resources

- [Recycling Rule Revision: Changes for MRFs \[PDF\]](#)
- [Recycling Rule Revision: Changes for MRFs Aug. 26 Webinar Recording](#)
- Owner Financial Responsibility: Guidance and Planning doc for MRFs (spring '26)
- [Recycling Rule Revision: Changes for Haulers \[PDF\]](#)
- [Map of WI RUs \(with RU contact information\)](#)
- [List of RUs by county or tribe \(with RU contact information\)](#)

Recycling Rule – Responsible Units (RUs)

- RU Education
 - Requires review/distribution annually
 - Adds oil filters/absorbents, batteries and food waste/compost
 - Free educational resources from DNR
- RU Collection
 - If only monthly curbside, access to a drop-off
 - If only individual subscription, modify ordinance & compliance assurance plan
 - Eliminates pounds/person collection standard
- Multi-family “Adequate” Recycling
 - Providing adequate recycling services to multi-family properties must include an equal or greater ratio of recycling containers to trash containers and one of the following:
 - minimum total volume of recycling provided is 20 gallons/week per dwelling unit;
 - ratio of trash container volume to recycling container volume is at most 2:1; or
 - an alternative method which does not result in recyclable container overflow between collection.

RU Resources

- [Recycling Ordinance Template](#) (RUs encouraged to use template)
- [Recycling Rule Revision: Changes for Responsible Units \[PDF\]](#)
- [Recycling Rule Revision: Changes for Responsible Units July 15 Webinar Recording](#)
- [Presentation - Recycling Rule Revision: Changes for Responsible Units](#) (July 15 webinar slides)
- [Recycling education and outreach | Wisconsin DNR](#)

Free DNR Printed Publications

HOME COMPOSTING

Reap A Heap Of Benefits



HOME COMPOSTING MATERIALS

COMPOST

Carbon-Rich "Browns"

- Brown leaves & yard waste
- Brush & twigs (1/2" in diameter or less)
- Cardboard (dry and clean)
- Egg cartons (shredded)
- Newspaper
- Nuts & nut shells (but not black walnuts)
- Paper towels
- Pine cones & pine needles
- Sawdust & shavings (from non-treated wood)
- Straw & hay
- Wood chips

Nitrogen-Rich "Greens"

- Green leaves & yard waste
- Coffee beans, grounds & used filters
- Dirt & potting soil
- Egg shells
- Flowers & yard plants
- Fruit, including cores & rinds
- Grass clippings
- Gourds & pumpkins
- Melons and melon rinds
- Tea leaves & tea bags
- Vegetables, greens & legumes

COMPOST TIP

Chopping or shredding these items helps speed up the composting process.

For best results, composters can mix in 2 to 3 volumes of "brown" material with each volume of "green" material.

NOT FOR COMPOST

Not for Home Composting

- Biodegradable forks, spoons & knives
- Branches or logs more than 6" in diameter
- Charcoal briquettes or briquette ash
- Cigar & cigarette ashes
- Coffee or beverage cups
- Diapers
- Dairy products (butter, milk, cheese, etc.)
- Invasive weeds and plants
- Meat (cooked or raw) & bones
- Oils, greases & fats (including snack chips)
- Pet food
- Pet or human waste
- Pizza boxes with grease or cheese on them
- Recyclables (glass, plastic, metal cans, etc.)
- Sawdust from treated wood
- Trash (wrappers, packaging, etc.)
- Used take-out containers & Styrofoam shells
- Wood treated with varnish or paint

For more, visit dnr.wi.gov & search "compost," or consult other DNR publications, **Home Composting: Reap A Heap of Benefits** & **Home Composting: The Basic Composter**.

REDUCING FOOD WASTE AT HOME

Food waste and scraps make up the largest part of trash in Wisconsin landfills. When food goes in the trash, so do resources, time and money.

Reducing food waste helps save resources used to produce, store and distribute the food. It also cuts greenhouse gas emissions from food decomposing in landfills.

The Department of Natural Resources' (DNR) 2020-2021 Statewide Waste Characterization Study found that food waste made up 20% of trash going to Wisconsin landfills. This amounts to approximately 854,000 tons annually, or 294 pounds per person in Wisconsin during the study period. The study estimated that more than three-quarters of this food could have been consumed by people.



Buckets of food waste and scraps for composting. Photo Credit: DNR

Household Battery Recycling

Batteries power many items we use in our daily lives, and can pile up when they are no longer useful. This guide provides an overview of requirements and explains how to safely store and dispose of common types of household batteries.

Battery recycling requirements for households

Wisconsin has no legal requirements, with the exception of lead-acid batteries, for disposal of household-generated batteries. These include alkaline, lithium, lithium ion, metal hydride, nickel-cadmium, silver oxide and zinc-air. Batteries come in many sizes and can be rechargeable or single use. The Department of Natural Resources recommends recycling many battery types by taking them to a drop-off site. Batteries should never go in household recycling bins. For more information, review the chart on the back of this publication, or go to dnr.wi.gov and search "batteries."

Household battery recycling locations

Lead-acid batteries, or "automotive type batteries," are banned from disposal. Consumers may bring lead-acid batteries to any Wisconsin retailer that sells these batteries for recycling. This service is free to customers who buy a new battery. Customers may be charged a fee if they bring in a used battery without buying a new one. For drop-off locations that accept other battery types, visit WisconsinRecyclingDirectory.com or Call2Recycle.org or contact your local recycling program. Some sites may charge a fee or accept only certain battery types.

Electronics with rechargeable batteries banned from Wisconsin landfills and incinerators

Cellphones
Laptops
Tablets
Computer peripherals
Other portable electronics with screens

Visit dnr.wi.gov, search "recycle" for a full list of banned electronics and to find collection sites or mail-back programs.

Know the risk: how to prepare and store batteries for recycling

Many batteries, especially lithium ion, pose a fire risk due to their chemistries and ability to hold a charge. Batteries can spark and start a fire if their terminals touch metal or each other. The following recommendations can lower the risk of fire.

- Put each battery in an individual, clear plastic bag, or tape each battery's terminals with clear packing tape.
- Store batteries in a non-metal container.
- Store swollen or damaged batteries in sand or kitty litter.
- Keep battery labels visible.
- Take stored batteries to a drop-off location frequently.

Single-use alkaline batteries have little recycling value and may be safely thrown in the trash.

¿Qué equipos electrónicos puedo reciclar a través de E-Cycle Wisconsin?

Los hogares de Wisconsin y las escuelas públicas K-12 pueden reciclar equipos electrónicos a través del programa E-cycle Wisconsin. Se aceptan los siguientes equipos electrónicos para E-Cycle Wisconsin. Muchos lugares de recolección también aceptan otros elementos. Para encontrar un lugar de recolección o programa de devolución por correo, visite dnr.wi.gov y busque "ecycle".



Computadoras: de escritorio, portátiles, netbooks

Televisores y monitores

Máquinas de fax e impresoras, incluidas las impresoras 3 en 1 con combinadas con fax, escáneres y fotocopiadoras

Teléfonos celulares, tabletas y libros electrónicos

Accesorios para teléfonos que funcionan con baterías

Accesorios para computadoras, incluidos teclados, mouse, discos duros, escáneres, parlantes, memorias USB y otros dispositivos

Reproductores de DVD, VCR, DVR y otros reproductores de video

Consolas de videojuegos, vid equipos portátiles y accesorios que funcionan con baterías

dnr.wi.gov, busque "ecycle"

E-CYCLE WISCONSIN


CONFUSED BY DATE LABELS ON FOODS? WHAT DOES IT ALL MEAN?

One reason for food waste is when consumers or retailers throw away wholesome food because they are confused about the dates on the labels. Except for infant formula, dates do not reflect the product's safety and are not required by federal law. Manufacturers provide dates to help consumers and retailers decide when food is of the best quality.




Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources
PUB-WA-072
2024

PSAs and social media



SCAN HERE

E-CYCLE WISCONSIN

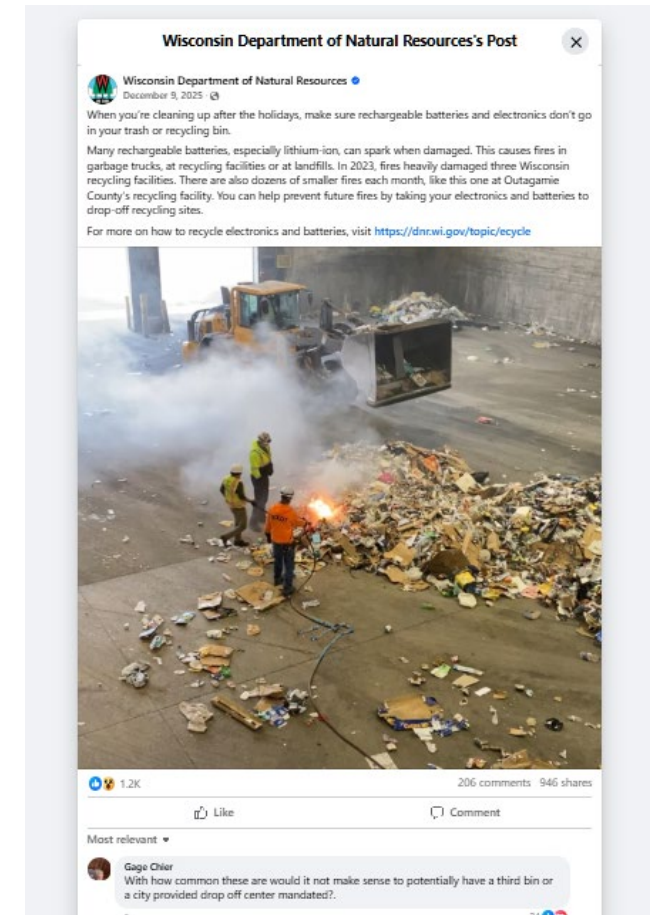


SCAN HERE

E-CYCLE WISCONSIN



Looking to reduce food waste at home?
Here are some tips...



Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources's Post

December 9, 2025

When you're cleaning up after the holidays, make sure rechargeable batteries and electronics don't go in your trash or recycling bin.

Many rechargeable batteries, especially lithium-ion, can spark when damaged. This causes fires in garbage trucks, at recycling facilities or at landfills. In 2023, fires heavily damaged three Wisconsin recycling facilities. There are also dozens of smaller fires each month, like this one at Outagamie County's recycling facility. You can help prevent future fires by taking your electronics and batteries to drop-off recycling sites.

For more on how to recycle electronics and batteries, visit <https://dnr.wi.gov/topic/ecycle>

1.2K likes, 206 comments, 946 shares

Like Comment

Most relevant

Gage Chier
With how common these are would it not make sense to potentially have a third bin or a city provided drop off center mandated?.

DNR Education Resources

Key webpages

- [Recycling motor oil, oil filters and other automotive products](#)
- [Proper handling of used batteries](#)
- [Electronics recycling information for local governments](#)
- [Reducing Food Waste at Home](#)
- [Composting in Wisconsin](#)
- RUs can simply link to DNR pages above to meet new education requirements for oil filters/absorbents, batteries and food waste/compost.
- Subscribe to Recycling Updates, Organics Management News and E-Cycle Wisconsin Updates for content you can borrow

SUSTAINABLE MANAGEMENT OF ORGANICS


PREVENTION, REDUCTION AND ALTERNATIVES TO DISPOSAL

The Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources' (DNR) 2020-2021 Statewide Waste Characterization Study found that organics such as wasted food, food scraps and yard waste make up about 30% of the waste stream going to landfills in Wisconsin. Organic waste is material that is biodegradable and comes from either plants or animals.


- [Wisconsin's 2020-2021 Waste Characterization Study Reports and Images](#)
- [What is Ending Up in Wisconsin Landfills? Infographic \[pdf\]](#)

Diverting organics from disposal saves landfill space and reduces methane emissions from landfills. Recycling organics can transform the materials into resources like compost, a nutrient-rich soil amendment, or renewable energy through anaerobic digestion. Everyone can do their part to divert organics from landfills and redirect them to more sustainable outlets.


To conserve valuable resources and landfill space, Wisconsin's recycling law prohibits landfill disposal of yard materials (also called "yard waste"), including leaves, grass clippings, brush and pieces of wood (branches, sticks, etc.) under 6 inches in diameter.




UNDERSTANDING SUSTAINABLE MANAGEMENT OF FOOD




REDUCING FOOD WASTE AT HOME




REDUCING FOOD WASTE - BUSINESS AND COMMUNITIES



COMPOSTING



WISCONSIN RECYCLING AND SOLID WASTE STUDIES AND REPORTS



RECYCLING EDUCATION & OUTREACH

Managing waste and materials

Related Links

- [Financial responsibility](#)
- [Public comment opportunities](#)
- [Report a complaint](#)
- [Waste facility and transporter approvals and licensing](#)

Additional Resources

- [Subscribe to Organics Management News](#)
- [Sustainable Management of Organics](#)
- [Sustainable Management of Food](#)
- [Reducing Food Waste at Home](#)
- [Reducing Commercial and Community Food Waste](#)
- [Composting in Wisconsin](#)
- [Licensed Businesses That May Accept Or Haul Your Waste](#)
- [EPA: Sustainable Management Of Food](#)

For more information, contact:

Sarah Murray
Recycling and Solid Waste Section Manager
Waste and Materials Management

Learn more

- [Resources for RUs](#)
 - Summary doc, webinar recording, ordinance template
- [Resources for MRFs](#)
 - Summary doc, webinar recording, MRF Stakeholder meeting materials
- [Resources for Haulers](#)
 - Summary doc, map of RUs, list of RU contacts by county or tribe
- [Summary of All Recycling Rule Changes](#)
- [Recycling Rule Revision Complete Text](#)
- [NR 544 \(Wisconsin's Recycling Rule/Administrative Code\)](#)

CONNECT WITH US

Questions?

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OFF THE RECORD"