

# Waste and Materials Management Study Group

November 6, 2025



# Agenda

Welcome, August notes

DNR updates

Landfill rule implementation updates

DNR organics management updates

Update on Wisconsin chapter of US Composting Council

WM organics efforts

Landfill leachate pre-treatment systems

Topics for next meeting

# DNR updates

- Federal budget - ?
- Landfill staff taking special geotechnical training next week
- Recycling Excellence Awards announced Nov. 14
- Upcoming reporting season

## Waste Program Staffing:

- Waste Mngt Engineer – 2 started Oct. 6 in Fitchburg
- E-Cycle Wisconsin coordinator (interviews this month)

## Upcoming meetings

- Council on Recycling Meeting 12/5

# Rulemaking updates

Landfill rule (WA-11-22) – effective 10/1/25

Recycling rule (WA-13-21) – effective 7/1/25

Municipal Landfill Owner Financial Responsibility rule (WA-07-24E, WA-08-24) – emergency rule in effect, Natural Resources Board adopted permanent rule last month (next on to Legislature)

Non-landfill and E-cycle rule language in the works—public comment opportunities in 2026

# Landfill rule

- Two summary documents
  - <https://dnr.wisconsin.gov/topic/Landfills/forms.html>
- Updating checklists, other guidance
- If you have site-specific questions, contact your engineer
- All new submittals going forward need to include code revisions
- Hierarchy of regulation:
  - **Statute → Wis. Adm. Code → Conditions of Approval**
    - Unless exempted or ‘otherwise approved by the department’

# Items that **WILL** require plan modifications

- Code conflicts with conditions of approval
- Review current conditions of approval
  - Spreadsheet format for template (optional to use – contact Tess if you would like a copy)
  - Discuss with assigned engineer any conflicting conditions and a timeline to correct via plan modification, if needed

We anticipate plan modifications to occur over the next few years.

# Key changes in effect

- 2026 construction season:
  - All new liner construction in 2026 will need to include 6-inch inside diameter leachate collection piping and 16 oz geocomposite
  - Cell construction that is an extension of an existing 6-inch outside diameter line should take into consideration jet ab
- License fee surcharge increase from 15 to 25 cents/ton as of 1/1/26 (plan review fees don't increase until January 2027)
- Standardized date and contents for annual operations report
- Small environmental monitoring adjustments
- Leachate spill and surface/subsurface fire notifications

# Annual [Operations] reporting requirements

- Annual reports for calendar year 2025 (submitted in 2026) Due by April 30
  - Include annual jetting/televising reports
  - Include random load inspections
  - Televising – Contact engineer for format to submit due to size
  - Includes site survey by or with direct oversight by licensed surveyor
    - CLARIFICATION: 500.055 is intended for annual report topographic surveys. Other surveys may not require the professional survey requirement (discuss with engineer prior to submittal).
  - Need to include any conditioned annual reporting requirements that are in addition to standard requirement

# Spill/fire notifications

- New web-based notification process and webpage (<https://dnr.wisconsin.gov/topic/Landfills/Notifications.html>)
- Spill – If leachate is outside limits of waste, report to spills hotline AND submit notification requirement
  - Not intended to include seeps on intermediate cover
- Subsurface fire or elevated temperatures
- Surface fire – Any smolder/fire large enough action needs to be taken to put out the smolder/fire
  - Data will be kept for potential use for battery management

# CONNECT WITH US

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## Questions?

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"WILD WISCONSIN:  
OFF THE RECORD"

# DNR organics management updates

- Wisconsin Food Waste Evaluation final report expected by the end of the year
- Finalizing contracts with city of Milwaukee and Dane County to provide non-regulatory technical assistance to foodservice sector in Brown, Dane and Milwaukee counties
- New staff member: Erik Flesch (Ruth O'Donnell retired in August)
- Potential additional SWIFR funding next year
- Non-landfill rule includes compost code updates to facilitate food waste composting
- Enhanced outreach efforts

# DNR outreach efforts

**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

- New webpages with food waste reduction and landfill diversion tips for different sectors
- Monthly Organics Management News and featured topics in DNR Outdoor Report, plus social media
- Annual holiday waste media briefing

Update on Wisconsin chapter of US Composting Council

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Topics for next meeting

# Next meeting



- Any questions?
- 2026 meeting schedule

Thank you!