

Waste and Materials Management Study Group

August 6, 2026



Agenda

Welcome, May notes

New members and co-chair

DNR updates and potential PFAS subgroup

Non-landfill solid waste rule updates

Organics management policy priorities

Dane County food waste reduction projects update

Overview of Second Harvest food rescue efforts

Co-chair and new members

Study Group Charter

Membership and Structure: The WMM Study Group will:

- Consist of 6 to 12 members representing a range of stakeholder viewpoints
- Consist of members appointed either as individuals or as representatives of an organization
- Be led by two elected chairpersons, with each serving a 2-year term

DNR W&MM Program updates

- **Rulemaking:**
 - Non-LF (502, 526, 520) – public hearing next
 - E-Cycle – NRB request next
 - Haz Waste – writing and scope
- **New landfill fees in Jan. 2027**
- **Clean Water Fund Program**
 - Intent to apply due this fall
- **Madison DNR office move in October**



Staffing

- Drae Rogers has new position as Emerging Contaminants Hydrogeologist – current PFAS focus
- Cathryn Cox started 7/13 to implement the battery recycling program
- Haylee Kraker started 6/3 as organics management specialist
- Recruiting is slow. Top priorities are Regional Supervisor and Landfill Section Manager

Upcoming Meetings

- Council on Recycling – Sept. 11
- Hold Oct. 8 for Solid Waste Interested Parties Meeting



PFAS legislation

- 10 staff hired throughout the agency
- Top priority right now is developing grant program focused on sampling of private wells, schools, childcare facilities and biosolids
 - Grants available to municipalities
 - Developing application guidelines, sampling protocols, and data collection and governance policies
- More information:
<https://dnr.wisconsin.gov/topic/PFAS/PFASLaws.html>

Implementation Input and Updates

- Submit questions and feedback
 - <https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/LDL9DXY>
- DNR.WI.GOV/Topic/PFAS
 - Updates on implementation
 - Sign up for GovDelivery updates



Submit questions and feedback

PFAS Law Subgroup?

- Purpose: Provide information and feedback to DNR regarding the implementation of grants and liability exemptions under 2025 WI Acts 200 and 201
- Draft plan
- Kate will send out an email to Study Group members

Recent guidance and publications

Household Battery Recycling Guide

This guide explains how to safely store and dispose of common household batteries. The Department of Natural Resources recommends recycling many battery types by taking them to a drop-off site. Batteries should never go in recycling bins.

Prepare & Store Batteries for Recycling

Batteries can spark and start a fire if damaged, or if the terminals touch metal or each other. Many batteries, especially lithium ion, pose a fire risk due to their chemistry and ability to hold a charge.

The following steps can lower risk of fire:

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

For a full list of electronics banned from the trash and to find collection sites or mail-back programs, visit our webpage: dnr.wisconsin.gov/topic/Ecycle

Battery Recycling Locations

For lead-acid vehicle batteries:

- Bring to any Wisconsin retailer that sells these batteries for recycling.
- This service is free to customers who buy a new battery. Retailers may charge a fee if customers bring in a used battery without buying a new one.

For all other types of batteries:

- batterynetwork.org
- [WisconsinRecyclingDirectory.com](https://wisconsinrecyclingdirectory.com)
- Contact your local recycling program (some sites may charge a fee or accept only certain battery types.)



Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources, Bureau of Waste and Materials Management
P.O. Box 7921 | Madison, WI 53707-7921 • DNRbatteries@wisconsin.gov
This publication is available in alternative format (large print, Braille, etc.) upon request. Please call (608) 261-2919 for more information.
For more information, visit dnr.wisconsin.gov/topic/Ecycle or call (608) 261-2919. TTY: (608) 261-2919. Access via relay: 711.
PUB-WA-1638 2026

A Guide to Recycling for Owners of Apartments and Other Multi-Family Dwellings

PUB-WA-1638 2026

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Because more than 30% of Wisconsinites live in apartments, owners of apartment buildings and other multi-family dwellings play an important role in promoting recycling around the state.

Property owners are required by law to provide residents with the opportunity to recycle. Providing your staff and residents with an easy-to-follow recycling program will not only preserve natural resources, but it may also help you save money on waste disposal costs and promote your business as environmentally responsible.

Requirements for owners of multi-family dwellings
Under Wisconsin's recycling law (ch. 287.11(2)(b), Wis. Stats., and ch. NR 544.06(2)(b), Wis. Adm. Code), local ordinances require that the owners of all multi-family buildings and facilities:
1. Provide separate containers for the collection and recycling of materials banned from landfills and incinerators.
2. Provide an equal or greater ratio of recycling containers to trash containers and one of the following: a. Recycling container volume of at least 20 gallons per week per dwelling unit. b. Ratio of trash container volume to recycling container volume is at most 2:1. c. An alternative method which does not result in recyclable container overflow between collection.
3. Notify residents in writing about the recycling program at the time of renting or purchasing and at least twice a year thereafter.
4. Arrange for the collection and transportation of recyclables to a recycling or processing facility.
5. Follow all local recycling ordinance requirements.

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Waste Reduction And Diversion In Wisconsin Schools: Quick Steps For School And District Staff

Make Your School A Waste-Smart Campus!

Wisconsin K-12 schools play a big role in reducing, recovering and recycling waste — while teaching students how to care for our natural resources. The Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources (DNR) offers guidance for teachers, administrators, facilities staff and students to make waste management simple and effective. By managing waste responsibly, schools can save money, recover valuable resources and build a more sustainable school community.

- ✓ **Lower operational costs:** Fewer trash pickups and less contamination mean measurable budget savings.
- ✓ **Support a healthy environment:** Recycling and composting reduce methane emissions, conserve natural resources and protect staff and students from improper waste handling.
- ✓ **Strengthen school systems:** Clear processes reduce confusion, improve custodial efficiency and streamline waste handling.
- ✓ **Enhance student learning and leadership:** Waste audits, recycling programs and composting provide hands-on learning and opportunities for student leadership.

Did You Know?

Recycling **ONE** aluminum can could save enough energy to power a laptop for **6 HOURS**.

Wisconsin's Recycling Law

In Wisconsin, school recycling is mandated by law (Ch. 287, Wis. Stats.). Each school should coordinate with its waste hauler for the collection of recyclable materials, particularly items banned from landfill disposal in Wisconsin. To learn more about materials banned from Wisconsin landfills, scan the QR code or visit dnr.wi.gov/linf/424r.



PUB-WA-1967 2026

Waste and Materials Management

Guidance for Preparing Waste Tire Processing Facility Submittals

(PUB-WA-1001 2026)



Introduction

Tire processing facilities must submit for and receive a Department of Natural Resources (DNR) approval and license to operate a waste processing facility in the state of Wisconsin. This guidance document has been prepared to assist in applying processing facility submittal requirements to waste tire facilities. This guidance does not replace administrative code requirements in ch. NR 502, Wis. Adm. Code. Contact the regional [waste management specialist](https://dnr.wisconsin.gov/topic/WM) for more information on completing a submittal.

What is a waste tire?

A waste tire is a tire that is no longer suitable for its original purpose because of wear, damage or defect, or any material that results from the processing of waste tires. This material includes, but is not limited to, shredded tires, products made from tires, loose wire or wire mixed with rubber and fiber from processing. Waste tire does not include a rim removed from the tire.

What needs to be submitted to the DNR for approval?

An applicant seeking a DNR license to operate a tire processing facility must submit the following documents to the DNR as part of its approval and licensing:

- an initial site inspection (ISI)
- a plan of operation
- a license application

Tire processing facilities that have a primary purpose of converting solid waste into usable materials, products or energy, are exempt from review fees for the plan of operation, plan modifications, and from the annual license fee. However, fees for initial site inspections and construction inspections still apply. These fees are outlined in [s. NR 502.04, Table 2](https://dnr.wisconsin.gov/topic/WM).

Initial Site Inspection

Before submitting a plan of operation to operate a solid waste processing facility, the applicant must have an ISI conducted. An ISI determines if the proposed physical location of a tire processing site is likely to meet the locational criteria and performance standards required for a solid waste processing facility before a location specific plan of operation is submitted. An ISI can be requested by submitting a Ch. NR 502 Non-Landfill Solid Waste Facility Initial Site Inspection Application (Form 4400-209). The DNR has 44 business days to review an ISI request and issue a response. There is a \$550 fee for completing an ISI.

The result of the ISI is a written response from the DNR called a "preliminary opinion." A preliminary opinion does not prevent or guarantee the plan of operation approval, but it lets an applicant know if the location is likely to be a good fit.

Guidance for Preparing Waste Tire Processing Facility Submittals

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E-CYCLE WISCONSIN 2026 REPORT

Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources Annual Report to the Legislature and Governor under s. 287.19(1b), Wis. Stats.
May 2026

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Waste and Materials Management

Guidance on Requirements for Haulers of Solid Waste or Recyclables

PUB-WA-1619 2026



Overview

This document summarizes legal requirements for haulers of solid waste¹ or recyclables². These requirements are mandatory for maintaining your Department of Natural Resources waste transportation license under s. NR 502.06, Wis. Adm. Code.

There are additional requirements for haulers who provide recycling services. The details can be found under s. NR 544.06, Wis. Adm. Code.

Recycling is mandatory in Wisconsin. As a hauler providing solid waste or recycling transportation service, you must be aware of these requirements and ensure that you and your staff comply with them.

Each year, the DNR receives complaints and reports of potential violations about solid waste and recycling services. Please help Wisconsin maintain a strong and respected recycling program by working with your staff to operate your business within the law. Here's how you can avoid becoming the subject of a complaint or potential violation to the DNR:

- Clearly label containers used to collect recycling to distinguish their use for recycling purposes only.
- Notify your customers about state recycling requirements.
- Don't tell customers they don't have to recycle. Not only is this wrong information, but haulers are required to notify customers of the need to comply with the recycling laws.
- Keep recyclables separated from trash. Once recyclables are separated for recycling, they must remain separated. Complaints about mixing recyclables with trash often arise because customers or neighbors do not realize that the hauler is operating a dual-chamber truck, or the trash and recycling trucks look identical. To avoid confusion, the DNR recommends using signage or paint to distinguish a recycling truck or dual-chamber truck from a trash truck

¹Solid waste includes garbage, refuse, or sludge from a waste treatment plant, water supply treatment plant or air pollution control facility, as well as other discarded or salvagable materials (including solid, liquid, semisolid or contained gaseous materials) resulting from industrial, commercial, mining or agricultural operations or community activities.

²Recyclables: Used acid batteries, major appliances, waste oil, yard materials, tires, aluminum containers, computer keyboard or other container based, magazines, newspapers, office paper, glass containers, all 16 oz plastic bottles and caps, and steel and metal containers.

Guidance on Requirements for Haulers of Solid Waste or Recyclables

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Battery legislation implementation

- New DNR staff member: Cathryn Cox
- Planning webinar with The Battery Network focused on potential collectors
- Working on webpage and fact sheet about new law
- Continuing battery outreach

E-Cycle WI electronics collection grants

- Up to \$150,000 in funding; \$5,000 per event or \$15,000 per permanent site
- Priorities:
 - Green Lake County
 - Calumet, Crawford, Florence, Forest, Iowa, Iron, Jackson, Marquette, Price, Taylor counties
 - Projects that offer free recycling to all county residents or reduce other barriers
- Projects from October 2026 through December 2027
- Apply by Aug. 31, 5 p.m. CDT
- More information on [collectors webpage](#)

Recycling Excellence Award nominations

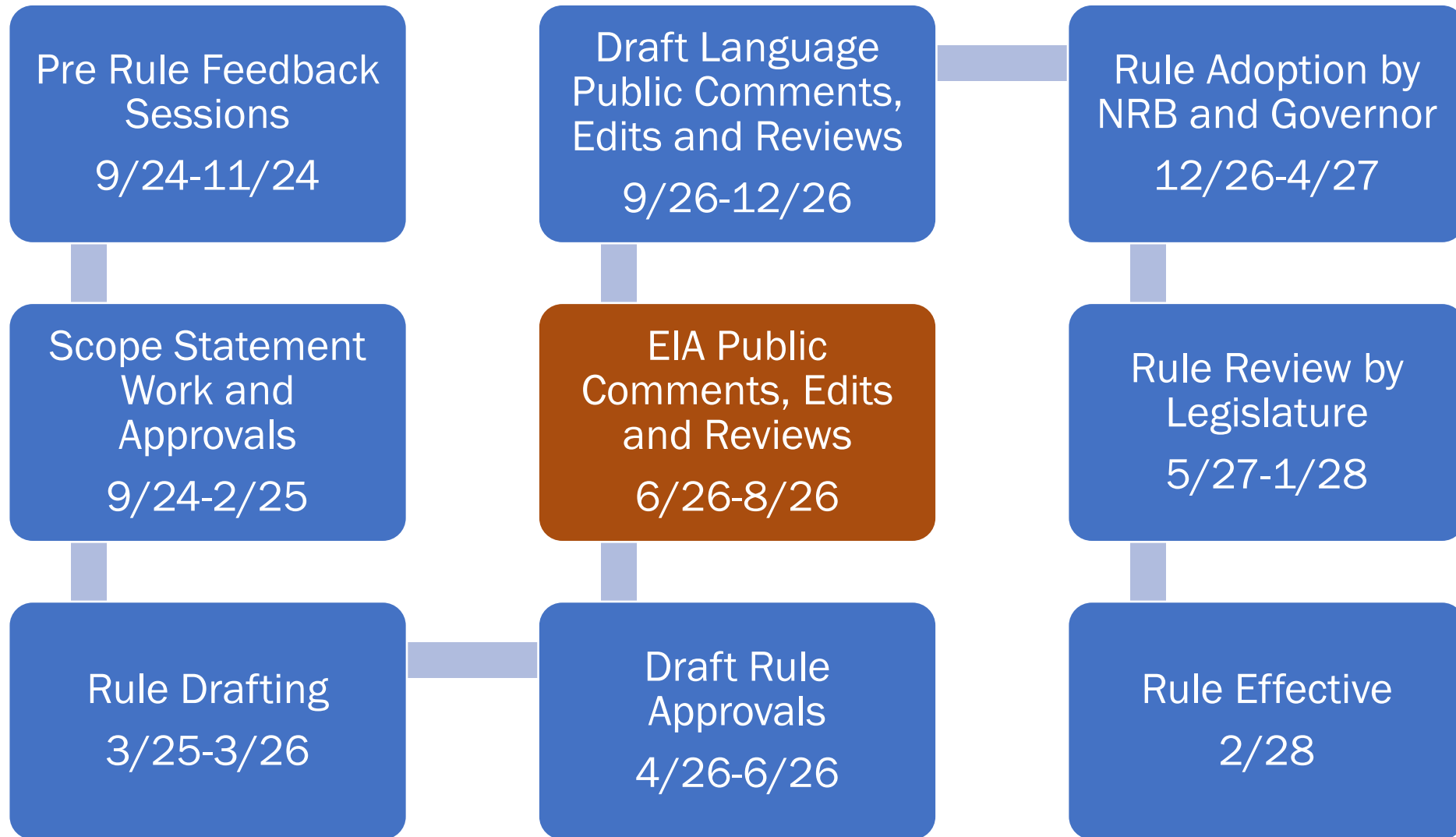
- Nomination deadline Sept. 14
- Nominate in one of four categories:
 - overall program
 - projects and initiatives
 - Innovation
 - special events
- Winners announced around America Recycles Day



NLF Rule Updates

Casey Krausensky

Waste and Materials Management Study Group Meeting



EIA public comments edits

- 11 external entities provided comments
 - (some focused more on general rule than EIA)
- Internal comments also received
- Changes underway but those focused on rule may be incorporated with the general rule comment period edits

Find out more...

- WA -14-24
[Proposed Permanent Administrative Rules | | Wisconsin DNR](#)
- Plain language analysis on pgs 4-11

Expected changes include

- Reduced restrictions on size of containers for infectious waste
- Increased language flexibility for non haz chemo waste
- Increased notes and consistency between on-farm composting code and NR 151 and NRCS 318
- Removal of on farm cow manure from the materials that need a carbon cap when composting
- Removal of the requirement that material stored uncontainerized can't absorb stormwater
- Improved clarity on what end of the day maintenance for processing facilities entails (site, not equipment)

Expected changes include

- Removal of language in composting code for a site to note unacceptable markets
- A new conditional exemption for grinding treated wood waste
- A time limit on how long an unused initial site inspection (ISI)
- Reasons for acceptable storage
- Updates to the annual reporting requirements for SW processors and composters
- Modifications to the times when OFR can be required at compost sites

Expected changes include

- Removal of the new definition of a generator in PCB code
- Requires containerized storage to be covered even if non-putrescible (if it can fit uncontainerized standards, cover not required)
- Requires stored waste to be protected from theft, vandalism and damage by weather

Upcoming dates

- 9/21/26 – 10/23/26
 - Public comment period on draft rule language
- 10/15/26 at 1p.m.
 - Public hearing on draft rule language

CONNECT WITH US

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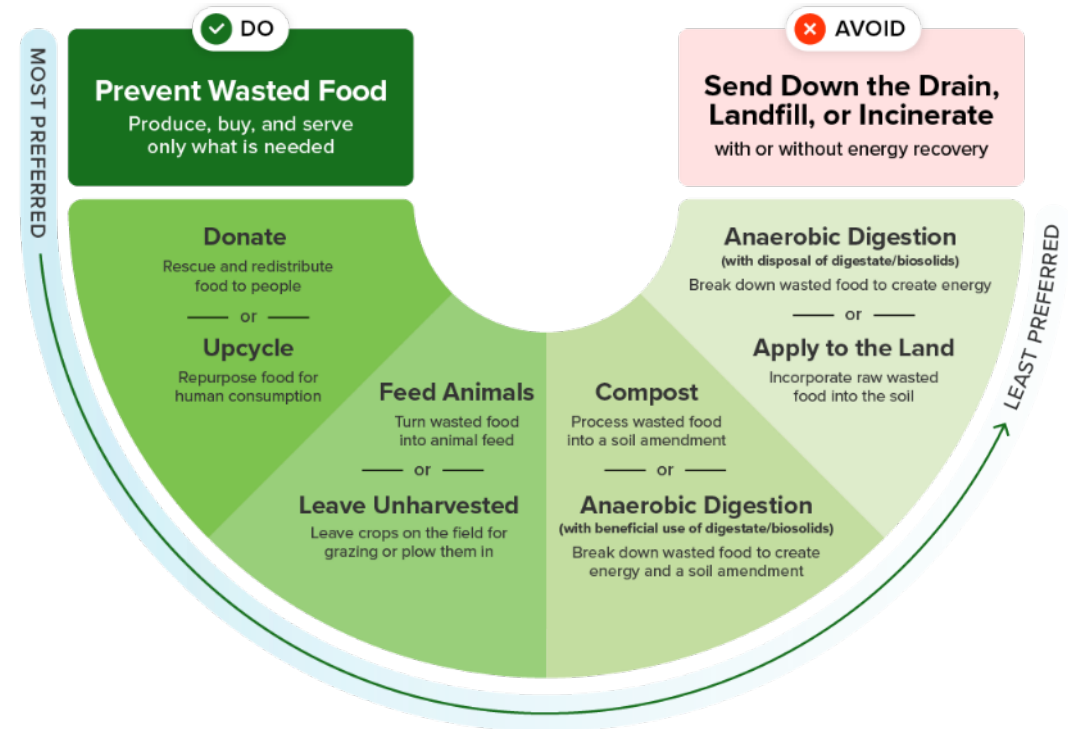
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Wisconsin DNR organics management updates

Sarah Murray, DNR

EPA Solid Waste Infrastructure for Recycling (SWIFR) States and Territories Grant

- Objective: to reduce by half per-capita food waste disposed of in Wisconsin landfills by 2030 (from 2020 levels)
 - Focus on education, infrastructure and measurement
 - Round 1: October 2023-September 2026
 - Round 2: October 2026-September 2029



Highlights of remaining Round 1 work



Contract with Dane County and subcontractors to provide one-on-one food service technical assistance



Establish data collection plan and procedures to measure future outcomes



Continued outreach/technical assistance



Use Wisconsin Food Waste Evaluation and stakeholder input as basis for statewide high-level plan

SWIFR Round 2 focus areas

- Full-time DNR staff member to lead statewide outreach and technical assistance, policy development, other project activities
- Continued focus on residential and food service sectors
 - Increase outreach
 - Development of tools/resources to facilitate food waste diversion along EPA Wasted Food Scale
 - Potential funding to establish food service composting/AD programs



Input on DNR organics priorities

- Which areas/topics would you like to see the DNR prioritize?
Suggestions or contacts we could use to accomplish these?
 - Increasing public awareness of food waste and alternatives to landfilling
 - Facilitating efforts to increase adoption of home composting or community composting efforts
 - Providing data and tools to help others with food waste prevention and reduction efforts
 - Providing more technical assistance/resources to help the food service sector reduce food waste
 - Facilitating conversations about future rule/legislative changes (e.g., requirements or funding that would mandate more food waste diversion or improve diversion infrastructure)

Study Group next steps on organics

- Other speakers/topics you would like to see featured at upcoming meetings?
- Interest in subcommittee to explore policy changes?
- Other ways this group would like to contribute to food waste prevention and reduction?

CONNECT WITH US

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