

Solid Waste Division Mid Year 2007 Highlights

Non Freon Appliances Recycled for Free

As of January 2007 there was no longer any recycling fee for non-Freon appliances. Newer appliances no longer have mercury switches which need to be removed, one of the main reasons for the price adjustment. Also, hauling charges have changed recently, making disposal of appliances less costly. Appliances that still contain Freon, such as refrigerators and freezers will still have recycling fees applied, though the cost has been reduced. For example, to recycle a refrigerator in 2006 cost \$18. During 2007 it only cost \$15.



Sharps Program

Starting in April of this year sharp containers and container disposal is now available **Free of charge** to Dunn County Residents. Thanks to funding by the Menomonie Community Health Foundation, and through the cooperation of the Lions Club of Dunn County, Red Cedar Medical Center, Dunn County Health Department and the Dunn County Solid Waste Division, sharps such as needles and lancets no longer involve a fee for disposal. Residents can pick up a new sharps container and drop off a full one at any Dunn County Area Collection Station or at the Transfer Station. Containers can also be picked up any Dunn County pharmacy.



Truck Scale at Transfer Station

The long awaited truck scale at the Transfer Station has finally been installed. The scale can operate in an unattended mode, which enables our operators to continue working on the floor while the haulers can weigh themselves in and out. The scale is 70 feet long which can accommodate a semi truck without having to weigh individual axels. Servicing is also safer and more convenient for there isn't any pit to go down into.



School Recycling

Last January Dunn County launched a new initiative to help schools with their recycling efforts and motivated students took charge. Posters and banners were made, recycling bins were painted and morning announcements were made to remind everyone to recycle. They made recycling convenient and inspired their peers and school to recycle more. In turn, these environmentally conscious students were a model for The ABC's of Recycling-A Guide for Schools. This guide is being distributed to all schools within the county and explains the essentials of good recycling as well as giving steps for a program that other students can develop themselves.



Hazardous Waste Collection Program Returns to Dunn County

Local residents had the opportunity to dispose of hazardous waste in Dunn County free of charge for the first time since 2004. Last year a hazardous waste collection was open to households, but residents had to travel to Eau Claire to participate. Farms and businesses last had a hazardous waste collection in Dunn County in 2005. But this year's collection is open to residents, farmers and businesses alike, providing a great opportunity to dispose of hazardous waste.



Polymeric Plastics Clean Up

The Solid Waste Division cleaned up the Polymeric Plastic Facility (former Grandview School) after Judge Stewart ordered Dunn County as receiver of the property.

Over \$70,000 of revenue was generated during the clean up by shipping 11 semi-loads of baled plastic and four roll-off bins of metal. The funds from the clean up paid for all of the cost associated with the clean up. In addition, \$27,000 was returned to the DNR recycling demonstration grant program because of unfulfilled grant requirements by the company and the rest of the revenue (\$5,477.58) was sent to the Town of Rock Creek.



Recycling Award for Education

Dunn County along with St. Croix County received the Associated Recyclers of Wisconsin "Outstanding Achievement in Education" Award. The Outstanding Achievement in Education Award is presented to an individual or group that has excelled in environmental education, specifically related to solid waste and recycling. Dunn County was honored for our efforts in improving recycling at apartment building.



Solid Waste Division 2007 Future Projects

- Continue to find the best markets (stable and best paying) for our recyclables
- Replace the Transfer Station Loader
- Pressure wash inside walls of the Transfer Station, then paint inside and outside of the storage room and bathroom
- Replace a compactor at the Downsville, Ridgeland and Rock Creek Area Collection Stations
- Finish the rewrite of the Solid Waste & Recycling Ordinance
- Continue to work with the Schools on their recycling programs
- Draft and release the request for bids for the new public drop-off area at the Transfer Station and construct during 2007