

**Recycling: Not just good for the earth, it's the law**

Why recycle? It's good for the environment, it preserves natural resources, and it reduces both waste and air pollution. It also strengthens our economy by providing hundreds of community-based jobs. If these reasons aren't enough, **recycling is also required by law.** Since 1990, recycling has been mandatory in the state of Wisconsin and applies to everyone. This includes: schools, public places, businesses, special events, homes and apartments. Because recyclable material cannot be landfilled, trash containing recyclables can be denied disposal by the County and can incur fees ranging from \$100 to \$2,000. Even on your own property, burning or burying recyclables is illegal. So while it seems like a choice, we in Wisconsin need to remember that recycling is not only the right thing to do, **it's the law.**



Sergeant Scott McRoberts of the Dunn County Sheriff's Office demonstrating recycling at the judicial center.

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Menomonie, WI 54751  
Phone (715) 232-4017

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**Recycler**



The Dunn County Solid Waste & Recycling Newsletter Vol. 11 No. 2 • September, 2011

**Hazardous Waste Collection Scheduled For September**

The Dunn County Solid Waste Division will hold its Hazardous Waste Collection at two different locations this fall. Colfax Fairgrounds will host the first event on Wednesday September 14<sup>th</sup>. The Dunn County Transfer Station and Recycling Center will host the second event on Thursday September 15<sup>th</sup>. The collection will be open to businesses and households; farm hazardous waste is ineligible for this particular collection.

Hazardous Waste Collections are imperative to keeping the environment clean and keeping residents safer and healthier by limiting their exposure to hazardous chemicals. Improper storage or disposal of hazardous items can cause fires, groundwater contamination, and injuries to people and animals. Appropriate items for the collection include: automotive, garden, workshop or household products labeled as toxic, caustic, poisonous, flammable etc. For an expanded list of hazardous materials, go to the Dunn County Solid Waste Division's webpage at [www.co.dunn.wi.us](http://www.co.dunn.wi.us).

**PRE-REGISTRATION FOR BUSINESSES:** All businesses must pre-register by September 9, 2011. Please contact the Dunn County Solid Waste Division at 715-232-4017 and be prepared to list what materials you plan to dispose of, quantities and whether suitable, leak proof containers are available for transportation. Special arrangements can be made for transportation if suitable containers are not available.



Warren Johnson, HHW/Recycling Coordinator of Northwest Regional Planning, assists with some corroded hazardous waste at last year's collection event.

**Dunn County Solid Waste & Recycling Collection Stations**

The following area Collection Stations and the Dunn County Transfer Station and Recycling Center accept:				Yard waste is accepted at:
Recyclables	Anti-Freeze	Automotive Batteries	Construction Materials*	Boyceville Area Collection Station Colfax Area Collection Station Elk Mound Area Collection Station Dunn County Yard Waste Drop-Off Site
Household Garbage	Used Oil Filters	Rechargeable Batteries	Demolition Materials*	
Scrap Metal	Appliances*	Used Oil	Cellular Phones	
Furniture*	Tires*	Sharps (needles)	Ink Jet Cartridges	
Electronics	Bulbs*			
* a fee may be charged to recycle or dispose of the material				

**Facilities and Hours of Operation**

<p><b>Dunn County Transfer Station and Recycling Center</b> E3900 Hwy 29, Menomonie Hours: Mondays 6:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. Wednesdays 4 p.m. to 7 p.m. Saturdays 7 a.m. to Noon</p>	<p><b>Elk Mound Area Collection Station</b> 401 570th Avenue, which is at the end of 570th Avenue Hours: Wednesdays 9 a.m. to 7 p.m. (April 1- Oct. 31) Wednesdays 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. (Nov. 1- March 31) Saturdays 8 a.m. to 4 p.m.</p>
<p><b>Boyceville Area Collection Station</b> E2698 County Road N Hours: Wednesdays Noon to 7 p.m. (April 1- Oct. 31) Wednesdays Noon to 5 p.m. (Nov. 1- March 31) Saturdays 8 a.m. to 4 p.m.</p>	<p><b>Ridgeland Area Collection Station</b> N12184 Hwy 25 Hours: Wednesdays 1 p.m. to 7 p.m. (April 1- Oct. 31) Wednesdays 1 p.m. to 5 p.m. (Nov. 1- March 31) Saturdays 8 a.m. to Noon</p>
<p><b>Colfax Area Collection Station</b> N9417 810th Street Hours: Wednesdays 10 a.m. to 7 p.m. (April 1- Oct. 31) Wednesdays 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. (Nov. 1- March 31) Saturdays 8 a.m. to 4 p.m.</p>	<p><b>Rock Creek Area Collection Station</b> N1825 980th Street Hours: Wednesdays 2 p.m. to 6 p.m. (April 1- Oct. 31) Wednesdays Noon to 4 p.m. (Nov. 1- March 31) Saturdays 8 a.m. to Noon</p>
<p><b>Connorsville Area Collection Station</b> Behind old Connorsville Co-op Creamery Hours: Wednesdays 8 a.m. to Noon Saturdays 8 a.m. to Noon</p>	<p><b>Sand Creek Area Drop-Off Site (recyclables only)</b> Hours: Saturdays 8 a.m. to 4 p.m.</p>
<p><b>Downsville Area Collection Station</b> N2723 440th Street (1/2 mile north of State Hwy 72) Hours: Wednesdays 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. Saturdays 9 a.m. to 3 p.m.</p>	<p><b>Dunn County Yard Waste Drop-Off Site</b> Accepts brush, leaves and grass clippings only N5515 377th Street in the Town of Menomonie Hours: April 1 thru November 15 (weather permitting) Mondays 6:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. Wednesdays 4 p.m. to 7 p.m. Saturdays 7 a.m. to Noon</p>

**Municipalities with their own Solid Waste and/or Recycling programs:**

<p><b>Town of Eau Galle</b> Service through Pepin County (715)-672-5709 or by purchasing a solid waste permit from Dunn County (715)-232-4017.</p>	<p><b>Village of Knapp</b> Weekly curbside collection of recyclables and household waste. The Village sponsors an Annual Clean-Up Day. Contact Village Hall at (715)-665-2495.</p>
<p><b>Town of Hay River</b> Accepts recyclables and household waste. Contact Stanley Andrews at (715)-632-2104.</p>	<p><b>City of Menomonie</b> Bagged household garbage, yard waste and scrap metal is accepted at the City of Menomonie Drop-Off Site: 1601 Gilbert Creek Road. (715)-232-2302. Hours: Tuesday 7 a.m. to 3:30 p.m. Thursday 7 a.m. to 3:30 p.m. Saturday 7 a.m. to 11:30 a.m.</p>
<p><b>Town of Sand Creek</b> Recyclables only at the Sand Creek Area Drop-Off Site. Hours of operation are Saturdays from 8 a.m. to 4 p.m. For more information about disposing of household garbage, contact a local hauler or Dunn County Solid Waste Division.</p>	<p>The above information is subject to change. Current as of September 2011. Must be a member of the Dunn County Program and have a County Permit to use the Solid Waste Program.</p>
<p><b>Town of Stanton</b> Accepts recyclables and household waste. The Town sponsors an Annual Clean-Up Day. Contact Valerie Windsor at (715)-665-2568.</p>	



A permit is required to dispose of household waste at any Dunn County Collection Station.



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**Web Site**  
For general recycling information in Dunn County go to [recycle.wisconsin.gov](http://recycle.wisconsin.gov), and select Dunn County as the community. At this site there is also an immediate link to the Dunn County Solid Waste Division web site. This link can provide more specific details on the County's programs and guidelines. Direct web address for Dunn County is [www.co.dunn.wi.us](http://www.co.dunn.wi.us).

**Where and When:**

<p><b>Wednesday September 14, 2011</b> <b>Colfax Fairgrounds</b> 831 East Railroad Ave., Colfax 4 p.m. to 6 p.m. Households &amp; Businesses</p>	<p><b>Thursday September 15, 2011</b> <b>Dunn County Transfer Station</b> E3900 Hwy 29, Menomonie 3 p.m. to 4 p.m. Businesses 4 p.m. to 7 p.m. Households</p>
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**COST:** Costs for businesses considered to be "very small quantity generators" (VSQG), will be 25% to 65% less than on-site pick up by a licensed hazardous waste hauler. To be considered a VSQG business, no more than 220 pounds of hazardous waste can be generated in one month and no more than 2,205 pounds of hazardous waste can be stored at one time.

There is no charge for household waste except for latex paints. Costs are: pint can \$1.00, quart can \$2.00, gallon can \$4.00, and five gallon pail \$20.00. The charge is based upon the size of the can, not how full the container is, so consolidate and save money. If the latex paint is dried out, it can be disposed of in the trash.



Kyle Knutson, Energy Division Manager for Cedar Country Cooperative holding an empty propane tank for recycling.

**Unwanted Propane Tanks**

With summer ending, you might wonder what to do with empty propane tanks. Smaller tanks or cylinders used for camp stoves or lanterns may be recycled with the scrap metal at any area Collection Station or at the Dunn County Transfer Station and Recycling Center. If you have an empty 20 pound propane tank that you aren't planning to refill and want to dispose of, there are a few choices. The first (and preferred) option is to return any empty and undamaged tank to one of Cedar Country Cooperative's Auto Repair locations. Two different Cedar Country Cooperative Auto Repair locations will accept the tanks. One is located at 807 Main Street, Menomonie, the other at 401 Railroad Avenue in Colfax. A second option, for damaged and undamaged tanks alike, is to bring the tank to the Dunn County Transfer Station and Recycling Center. If neither one of these are viable options, tanks may be taken to one of our area Collection Stations. Tanks that are taken to the Transfer Station or an area Collection Station should have the valves removed and an additional hole in them. Always hand tanks directly to a site attendant for proper disposal. There is no fee for propane tank disposal.

# Common Recycling Questions

## Where do I bring tires? Is there a fee to recycle them?

Tires may be recycled individually or by the truck load. If you are recycling individual tires and they are smaller than 25" they may be recycled at any area Collection Station or the Dunn County Transfer Station and Recycling Center. Tires with rims have higher recycling fees than those without rims. A truck load of tires or tires 25" or larger should be taken directly to the Dunn County Transfer Station and Recycling Center to be weighed on the scale. Having the tires weighed is the most cost effective way to assess the recycling fees. To see a complete list of recycling fees for tires go to [www.co.dunn.wi.us](http://www.co.dunn.wi.us).



## Is it true incandescent bulbs will no longer be available?

Beginning in January 2012, traditional incandescent light bulbs will start being phased out. Instead, consumers will have to turn to compact fluorescent or LED lights. This change is due to an energy bill signed by Former President George W. Bush back in 2007. With CFLs using



approximately 75% less energy and lasting up to 10 times longer than incandescent lamps, the law aims to help save electricity, reduce electric bills and reduce climate change. The phase out of incandescent bulbs will take two years and will be as follows: January 2012 for 100-watt bulbs; January 2013 for 75-watt bulbs; and January 2014 for 40 to 60-watt bulbs. Certain specialty bulbs such as colored lights or appliance bulbs are exempt from the phase out. It should be noted that CFLs contain trace amounts of mercury. Therefore, special care is needed when cleaning up broken bulbs. For more information about CFLs, including a list of bulbs exempt from the phase out and proper clean up procedures, go to the U.S. Department of Energy website at [www.energysavers.gov](http://www.energysavers.gov).

## Is there anywhere in Dunn County to recycle plastic dairy containers from yogurt, cottage cheese or butter?

While it is not currently cost effective for Dunn County Solid Waste to collect such items, the Menomonie Market Food Co-op provides an option to recycle #5 plastics. As participants in Preserve's Gimme 5 recycling program, the co-op accepts rigid, clean #5 plastic containers (as well as caps or lids stamped with #5). The program recycles #5 plastics into new products such as toothbrushes, cutting boards, tableware and more. Appropriate #5 containers may be dropped in the Gimme 5 recycling bin located in the vestibule of the co-op's store. To learn about Preserve or their Gimme 5 program go to [www.preserveproducts.com/recycling/gimme5.html](http://www.preserveproducts.com/recycling/gimme5.html).



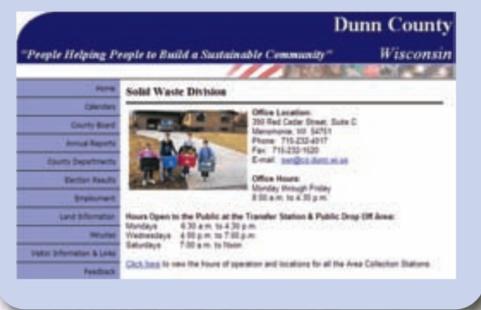
## How do I dispose of smoke detectors?

Smoke detectors have a life span of approximately ten years. Since many contain trace amounts of radiation, it is recommended they be returned to the manufacturers for proper disposal. Manufacturers' addresses are usually listed in the product warranty, the user's manual or on the box itself. Return policies differ among manufacturers, so calling the company prior to mailing the smoke detector is suggested. Before disposing of smoke detectors, remove any batteries. Alkaline batteries may be thrown in the trash. Lithium batteries must be saved and properly disposed of at a hazardous waste collection. Smoke detectors themselves are not accepted at hazardous waste collections.



## When is my collection site open? How do I get there?

These questions and many more can be answered at our newly updated website. Go to the Dunn County website at [www.co.dunn.wi.us](http://www.co.dunn.wi.us) and select "County Departments". Towards the bottom of the page, click on the photo of the Dunn County Transfer Station and Recycling Center or the Environmental Services link. Either of these will take you to the Solid Waste Division. Once on the Solid Waste Division page, you can link to information such as recycling fees, hours of operations, directions to collection sites, who to contact for curbside collection service, how to obtain a solid waste permit, how to recycle less common items, etc. The site is a wealth of information, whether about recycling in Dunn County or general recycling tips. You can learn to compost, how to reduce unwanted mail, what to do with unused medications and even read back issues of our helpful Recycler newsletters! Of course, questions can always be answered by calling the Dunn County Solid Waste Division office at (715) 232-4017, but our website never closes and can assist you any time of the day.



# Preparing Recyclables

## General Guidelines to help prepare your recyclables:

- Labels do not have to be removed
- Remove caps and lids
- Empty contents
- Rinse clean
- Flatten or crush bottle, jugs or cans

## Aluminum

- Pop cans and many cat food cans
- Clean foil and pie tins may go in the scrap metal bin at the area Collection Stations



## Glass Bottles and Jars

- Food jars, beer, soda, wine and liquor bottles (remove metal rings)
- NO window glass, ceramics, china, Pyrex, or light bulbs
- Avoid breaking glass



## Steel (Tin) & Empty Aerosol Cans

- Besides cans, steel caps and lids from plastic bottles, jars and frozen juice containers may be recycled
- Metal lids and rings from glass bottles



## Plastic Bottles

- #1 or #2 bottles with small neck openings (milk, soda, laundry detergent)
- NO motor oil, transmission fluid, herbicide or pesticide bottles
- NO wide mouth plastic containers (cottage cheese, ice cream, margarine)
- NO styrofoam, plastic bags, plastic wrap, egg cartons or yogurt containers



## Mixed Paper

- Newspaper must be dry and clean. If it comes with the newspaper, it can be recycled with the newspaper
- White/pastel office paper, envelopes, window envelopes, Post-it Notes, scratch paper, computer paper
- Telephone directories
- Paperback books
- Comic books
- Crossword puzzle books



## Cardboard

- Clean, corrugated cardboard flattened and cut down to no larger than three foot square
- Cereal, cake and other baking boxes flattened with liners removed
- Paper grocery bags
- Manila envelopes and file folders
- NO pizza boxes, pop or beer cartons, detergent boxes, wax milk or juice cartons, produce boxes, tooth paste boxes, soap boxes, green house boxes, or hard cover books



## Magazines

- Magazines or catalogs with shiny appearance
- Shiny paper from your mail



\*Inclusion of a company in this newsletter is not meant as an endorsement. The County has neither audited nor inspected these firms.

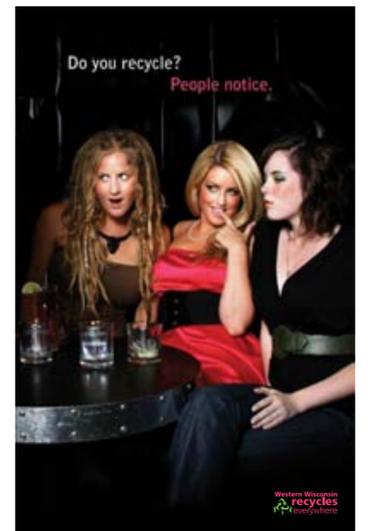
## Used Books Can Help Build a Better World

Due to the popularity of electronic books, many people are cleaning out their bookshelves. Nevertheless, traditional books are still in demand. Better World Books, a for-profit company accepting book donations, has a mission to put an end to illiteracy worldwide and help green the planet. Started by two Indiana college students, Better World Books has raised over \$8.6 million for their non-profit literacy partners, donated more than 3.3 million books to non-profit organizations around the world and diverted over 26 thousand tons of books from landfills. Donated books are sold online to raise funds for non-

profit literacy organizations. In turn, these organizations build schools, start libraries and provide scholarships worldwide. Any books not sold are either donated directly to one of their non-profit partners or recycled. Moreover, Better World Books uses a carbon offset program that covers emissions generated when books are shipped and for the company's general operations and activities. Better World Books even covers shipping costs to get the books to the companies! To learn more about Better World Books, go to [www.betterworldbooks.com](http://www.betterworldbooks.com).

## Let's Dish About Recycling

The food service industry can quickly generate lots of waste. That's why it's imperative restaurants and bars have a recycling program implemented. Dunn County (along with neighboring counties) is working on a food service industry recycling effort. Every restaurant and bar in Dunn County has been visited by Solid Waste staff and all either have or will have recycling in-place in the coming months. It is important these food service industries are indeed recycling all applicable materials since their volume of waste is so significant. This project is similar to previous informational recycling visits which included schools, apartments, convenience stores and the promotion of outdoor special event recycling. The concept is to focus on expanding recycling one sector at a time to ensure recyclables are not thrown out as trash, but recycled as a resource.



## Cloth Diapers Have Come a Long Way, Baby!

With Velcro tabs and fashionable effective covers, cloth diapers are a far cry from their original form. Not only is cloth diapering becoming more of a trend, it helps parents save a considerable amount of money and eliminates the excess waste disposable diapers generate. Whereas parents can easily spend thousands of dollars on disposable diapers for their baby and then toddler, cloth diapers are more cost effective because they are a one time purchase and can be used for multiple children. Also taking into consideration the average disposable diaper takes around 500 years to break-down in a landfill; with cloth diapers that waste is not an issue. Menomonie is fortunate to have a cloth diaper store located right downtown. Tooskies, owned by two local sisters, is spreading the word about the benefits of cloth diapers. Their store is located right behind Raw Deal, at 603 South Broadway. They sell the traditional cloths, the fitted inserts and soft waterproof diaper covers in multiple colors. For more information on cloth diapering options, contact Tooskies at 715-231-REAR. \*



Cloth diapers are economical and sustainable, not to mention extremely adorable on little babies' bottoms.

## Recyclables Needed

We know recycling is important for conservation and the earth's resources. We also know that if we don't recycle, items can take hundreds of years, if not more, to break down in landfills. But what people may not realize is that many businesses rely on us to recycle; our recyclable materials are actually needed to sustain certain companies. Currently there is a push to create products using recycled content. PET or #1 plastic bottles are in high demand as they can be recycled into items such as: clothing, carpeting, automotive parts and even new plastic bottles. But the plastics industry is finding it difficult to meet the record demand for these materials. The industry's infrastructure is not growing fast enough to collect all that is needed and unfortunately, too few plastic bottles are getting recycled by the public. Also, more and more bales of recyclable plastics are shipped overseas where they yield higher prices, leaving fewer resources here in the United States. In other words, even though the demand for #1 plastic bottles is at an all time high, the plastics industry in the United States finds itself behind a growth barrier. Without our assistance, the plastics industry is at a stalemate. So keep items out of landfills and keep companies in business. Keep recycling because you can make a difference by helping our economy.

## Earn Cash Or Credit By Recycling

An easy and fast way to sell or recycle electronics online is through Gazelle.com. Gazelle.com believes in reuse first and recycling as a last resort. The idea is to keep working products in use as long as possible, extending their life, preventing e-Waste, and reimbursing the public for their used goods. They refer to this as reCommerce. At the Gazelle website, search for the item you'd like to sell, answer a few questions and they will make you an offer. Transactions worth at least \$1 qualify for free shipping. When Gazelle receives your item, it will be inspected and if the item's condition matches your evaluation, a check will be mailed. The process takes about a week after your item arrives. Gazelle accepts gadgets in 20 different categories, including: cell phones, laptops, calculators, MP3 players, and much more.

Amazon.com also has a similar program where electronics, books, video games (media and hardware), movies and more can be traded in for an Amazon gift card. To participate in their "Trade-In Program" you must have an Amazon account.

To learn more about these selling opportunities, go to [www.gazelle.com](http://www.gazelle.com) or [www.amazon.com](http://www.amazon.com).

## Connorsville Area Collection Station

Dunn County residents in the Connorsville area greatly appreciate being able to take their trash and recycling to the area Collection Station located at E1285 1256<sup>th</sup> Ave, behind the old Connorsville Co-op Creamery on County Road K in Connorsville. It is open for business on Wednesdays and Saturdays from 8:00 am to Noon. Attendants Dennis Minter and Eugene Carlson are always ready to help residents unload their trash, assist with sorting recyclables and answer any questions. Your Dunn County Solid Waste/Recycling Division thanks the public for helping to keep the site organized and clean.

Eugene Carlson, Attendant (on left) and Dennis Minter, Lead Attendant (on right).



"It is so nice to have a convenient, close-by site to bring my recyclables to, and the attendants are so nice!" says Town of New Haven resident Tracie Wold.

