



Recycling Tidbits

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Many Recycling Options Exist

I'm thankful to live in a State that has a mandatory recycling law. This mandate reduces landfill space, decreases our carbon foot print, and creates local jobs in the process. Happily for me, Dunn County goes beyond what's required by the State's recycling law. Our county offers residents accessible options to recycle many items not even mandated by the state.

In Dunn County we have opportunities to recycle elec-

tronics, hazardous wastes, medications, appliances, oil, light bulbs, clothes, tires, or scrap metal (just to name a few).

Not all Wisconsin communities have such accessible recycling choices. Recycling programs for items such as these are more commonly found in larger communities like Madison, Waukesha, Green Bay, Appleton, and Watertown.

Not only does Dunn County provide many diverse recy-

cling options for its residents but we also make sure restaurants, bars, convenience stores, the County Fair, and other larger events are recycling.

This edition of Recycling Tidbits is dedicated to those individuals and companies that go the extra mile.

The next time you visit one of these establishments or run into one of the recyclers, shake their hand or thank them for the great service they are providing.



The Dunn County Fair

Recycling has been offered at The Dunn County Fair since 2009. Volunteers, Solid Waste Staff, and Recycling Interns have all done their part.

Pictures:

Left: A fairgoer gets caught recycling in 2012.

Top right: 2009 high school students volunteer by setting up bins before the fairs officially starts.

Bottom right: Intern Amanda Dent (me!) standing next to all the collected recyclables from the 2010 Dunn County Fair.



Stump the Grump

How many PETE (water & soda bottles) does it take to make:

- An XL t-shirt?
- An XL sweater?
- A square foot of carpet?
- A sleeping bag?
- A ski-jacket?

Answers can be found on page 4.



They Got Caught Recycling!

In June of 2012, Dunn County Solid Waste created a “Get Caught Recycling” campaign to reward residents who do an exceptional job of recycling. This means the recyclables are sorted, clean, and flattened. The campaign was kicked off with door hangers placed on all the doors in Menomonie. These hangers simply identify how to sort recyclables and what common materials are not accepted.

Since August I have been catching one resident a month and rewarding them with a \$25 gift certificate. A special thanks to all our sponsors: The Menomonie Market Food Coop, Simply From Scratch, Acoustic Café, The Raw Deal, Vagabond Bakery, Keyes Chevrolet, and the Grain Bin.

The winners are:

August



Tim Williamson (pictured) and family were awarded for their thorough recycling efforts, including clean, sorted and flattened items in multiple bins.

September



Thirty-seven years ago Sandy Weiser started “recycling before there was such a thing as recycling,” by saving tin cans in the garage. Today Sandy and Hawkeye, her loving Black Lab, recycle together. Hawkeye (pictured above) sniffs and rummages through the recyclables as Sandy sorts in her recycle bin.

October



Logan Bergh, spotted at the Elk Mound Collection Station, was turning the containers over, checking recycling symbols, to make sure only #1 and #2 plastic bottles and jugs were being placed in appropriate bins.

November



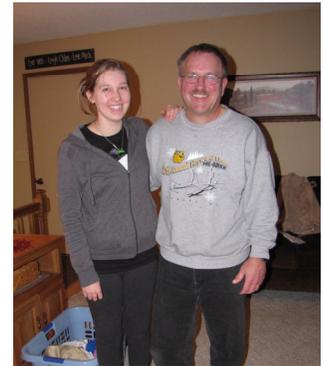
Leda Forseen was caught recycling on America Recycles Day, November 15th and received a gift card for her outstanding sorting of clean recyclables. Leda’s reputation has earned her the title, “The King of Recycling” by Keith Arndt the site attendant at the Menomonie City Drop-off.

December



Beth Novotney’s clearly marked recycling bins immediately caught my eye at the Boyceville Collection Station. By designating what goes in each bin, Beth found an effective way for her children to help with the family’s recycling.

January



Matt and Lindsay Bartz of Menomonie were caught using multiple containers to aid in sorting their recyclables.

February



Elaine Amble had her recycling, crushed, sorted and ready to go when she reached the Ridgeland Collection Station.

March



Jeff Ohvall was caught picking up recyclables and other litter as he walked to and from work. Jeff deposits the recyclables and litter into the appropriate containers when he reaches his destination. Jeff is shown in his office at UW-Stout.

Above & Beyond with #5's



The Menomonie Market Food Co-op is a participant 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.

The *Gimme 5* program is Preserve's way of closing the recycling loop. The company collects and upcycles #5 plastic into new products. Once these products are no longer wanted, Preserve will gladly take them back to be recycled into new products once again. All products are made with 100% recycled content and all products are BPA free.



A selection of colorful items made from recycled #5 plastic containers.

***Preserve's recycled plastic verses virgin plastic saves:**

- At least **54% less water** than virgin polypropylene (#5 plastic)
- At least **64% less greenhouse gases** (in CO₂ equivalents) than virgin polypropylene
- At least **75% less oil** than virgin polypropylene
- At least **48% less coal** than virgin polypropylene
- At least **77% less natural gas** than virgin polypropylene
- At least **46% less electricity** than virgin polypropylene

***information taken from Preserve's website**

Wendy's



Wendy's has increased recycling at their Menomonie location with their recent addition of a recycle bin in the common eating area. Besides proudly collecting plastic bottles from customers they recycle cardboard and containers from the kitchen.

Sylvia, left, got caught recycling cardboard and containers while I visited.

Judy the general manager, pictured on right, stands next to the bright blue recycle bin found by the entrance.



Rock Falls Countryside Co-op

In 2008, Dunn County Solid Waste worked with management to implement recycling at every Convenience Store within 5 Counties

Today these gas stations still recycle, but one stands above the rest: Countryside Co-op in Rock Falls. This business has highly visible bottle shaped recycling bins next to each gas pump as well as one inside the store.



Tilli's

Tilli's of Downsville, not far off the Red Cedar Trail, has been recycling since the day they opened in 2001. Tilli collects the recycling in separate containers and takes the recyclables to the Downsville Collection Station when bins become full.

Not only are the recyclables clean enough to eat from, but the service can't be beat as the mother-daughter duo bring a smile to your face as soon as you walk in.



Tilli, the owner shown on right, recycles the daily news.



Apartment Recycling



'The Oaks' apartment building have made recycling easy and convenient for its residents. Their recycling enclosure (left) includes large and small labeled bins which have detailed signs showing accepted materials.

The apartment building (bottom right) also decided to use small covered recycling bins next to the dumpster.

Both apartment recycling programs display smaller versions of the Dunn County Solid Waste recycling signs seen at all Area Collection Stations and the Recycling Center.

Above is a close-up of the signs used.

Dunn County Solid Waste & Recycling is currently designing new and updated recycling signs. Call our office in late Spring to inquire how you can have these new signs for your building.



Stump the Grump Answers

XL t-shirt - 14 bottles

XL sweater - 63 bottles

Square foot of carpet - 14 bottles

Sleeping bag - 83 bottles

Ski jacket - 20 bottles

