

Solid Waste & Recycling Division – 2017 Annual Report

Dunn County Environmental Services Department

Dunn County Solid Waste & Recycling Management Board

The Solid Waste & Recycling Management Board was created in 1992 by the Dunn County Board of Supervisors, and consists of a diverse group of individuals with a wide array of expertise and a history of successful public service in Dunn County. The board performs a valuable, active management role for the Solid Waste and Recycling Division's activities and programs, and continues to provide effective waste management and recycling oversight for participating municipalities, local industries and businesses, solid waste/recycling haulers and service vendors, and the public throughout Dunn County.

SWR Board Members

Front, L to R: Terrance Stamm, Ryland Erdman.
Back, L to R: Gary Bjork (Chair), Dale Harschlip (Vice-Chair), Sally Rasmussen, Russell Hitz, Chuck Maves, Rebecca Kilde, Zenon Smolarek



2017 Solid Waste & Recycling Division Staff

L to R: Morgan Gerk, Director, Amanda Haffele, Recycling Specialist, Michael Larson, Resource Recovery Specialist, Lauren Soergel, Recycling Intern, Diane Duerst, Support Specialist.

2017 Solid Waste & Recycling Division Highlights

Increasing Awareness

As part of our efforts to increase awareness of recycling requirements in Dunn County, the Solid Waste & Recycling Division spearheaded a comprehensive outreach initiative in support of the Wisconsin Solid Waste Reduction, Recovery and Recycling Law, and the Dunn County Waste Control Ordinance, both of which require mandatory recycling requirements for all residents and businesses in Dunn County and throughout the State of Wisconsin. Customers visiting the county collection stations were periodically asked throughout the year if they were aware of these mandatory recycling requirements, and it was determined that a large percentage of those surveyed were unaware that these laws were in place. In response, the Solid Waste & Recycling Division expanded our outreach campaign through various formats, including flyers, newsletters, and newspaper columns, and increased enforcement was implemented later in the year to establish better recycling participation in our communities.

Recycling Partnerships

In the spring of 2017, the Solid Waste & Recycling Division began implementing a variety of new recycling programs aimed at maximizing the recovery of many non-traditional recyclable materials that were previously being landfilled at a cost. We established partnerships with many local businesses, farms, and industries, both large and small, to assist them with implementing dedicated recycling programs for their production wastes, and improving their sustainability and environmental stewardship goals. Large volumes of recyclable industrial materials such as clear plastic films, plastic drums and jugs, woven plastic super sacks, vinyl siding, and corrugated plastic sheeting are just some of the items that were processed in bulk at our facilities. We also worked with local schools and universities to help establish and promote increased participation in solid waste and recycling opportunities and sustainable practices in Dunn County.



Lauren Soergel, Recycling Intern

Lauren Soergel began her recycling internship with the Solid Waste & Recycling Division in May of 2017. A student of UW Stevens Point majoring in Conservation, Lauren displayed an exceptional work ethic and dedication to recycling and environmental stewardship. She was instrumental in developing “Oops” tags for curbside recycling pickup in Dunn County, which assist residents with proper sorting and recycling behaviors.

Agricultural Plastics Recycling

The Solid Waste & Recycling Division established a comprehensive new recycling opportunity for farmers in Dunn County, through an exciting partnership with Revolution Plastics LLC; an agricultural plastics recycling company based in Little Rock, Arkansas. Before this opportunity was implemented, farmers in Dunn County struggled with recycling or disposal options for the large volumes of agricultural plastic films that are used to wrap feed and silage, and historically, these materials were commonly burned or buried onsite.

By third quarter 2017, and with dedicated multi-county assistance from the Solid Waste & Recycling Division, Revolution Plastics was diverting over 3,000,000 pounds monthly of agricultural plastic film from landfills, and recycling it to produce new can liners, irrigation tubing, agricultural cover films, plastic lumber and other construction and agricultural films. Over 4,400 collection dumpsters were distributed to farms in Wisconsin in this first year, and continuing rapid growth in program participation is expected in 2018. Collection dumpsters for agricultural plastic recycling were distributed to several Dunn County collection stations in 2017 to assist local farmers in recycling their plastic film wastes.





Michael Larson- Resource Recovery Specialist

In response to the growing list of recyclable commodities that are processed by the Solid Waste & Recycling Division, the need for a dedicated Resource Recovery Specialist in Dunn County was becoming evidently clear. After creating this dynamic, newly classified .70 FTE position to replace a previously held .70 Recycling/Support Specialist hybrid FTE position, we were excited to place Michael Larson at the helm of this challenging new role. Michael proved to be highly reliable and adaptable to the demands of the position, and his strong work ethic and attention to detail is invaluable to the Division. His responsibilities include the collection, transportation, and processing of non-traditional recyclables that are not hauled to the Transfer Station under our commercial hauling agreements. He also acts as a field supervisor for all Transfer Station and collection site personnel.

Deer Carcass Disposal

Dunn County Solid Waste & Recycling ships all of the municipal trash collected at the Transfer Station to the Seven Mile Creek landfill in Seymour, WI, which is owned and operated by Advanced Disposal. In 2017, the Seven Mile Creek Landfill began enforcing special waste requirements for the disposal of bulk animal carcasses and related byproducts, due to concerns over possible disease transmission. As a result, Dunn County began a dedicated carcass collection program to ensure that these materials were collected, transported, and disposed of in compliance with the landfill rules. A 30-yard collection dumpster was stationed at the Transfer Station between October through December to correspond with the various deer hunting seasons in Wisconsin, and a fee of \$3.00 per carcass or bag was assessed to cover the costs of hauling and disposal. This collection program will continue annually during the months listed above.

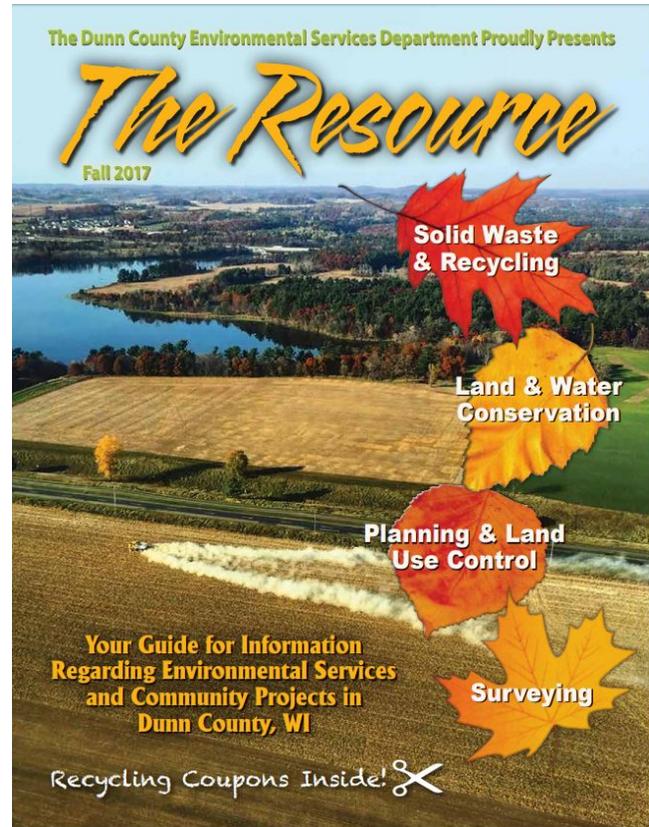
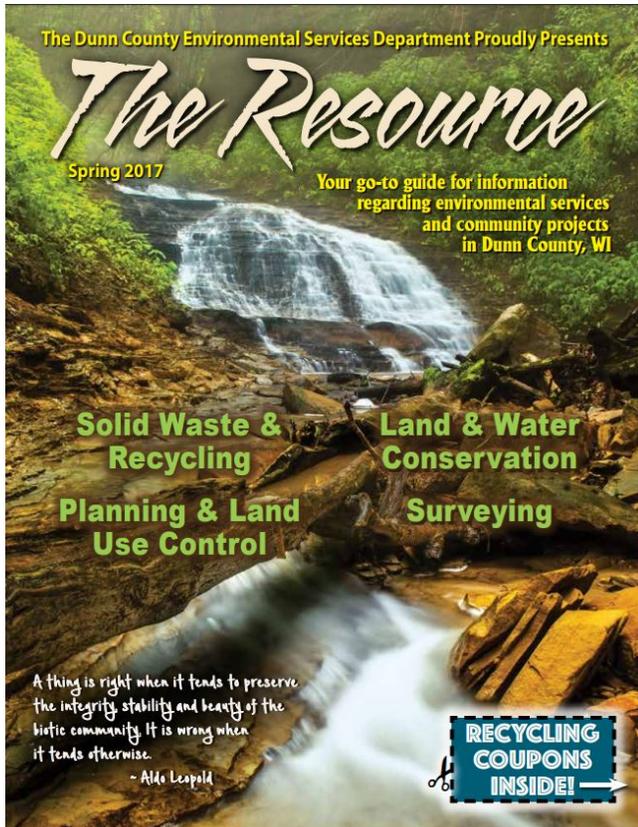
20-Acre Land Purchase



In July 2017, the Solid Waste & Recycling Division finalized the purchase of a 20-acre parcel of land adjacent to the existing Transfer Station. The location of the land, contiguous with existing county property, was appraised and purchased for \$175,000 with the expectation that it would provide an excellent location for future expansion of operations, including the proposal for construction of a new, modernized Transfer Station. The land will continue to be used for agricultural purposes and is leased annually to a local farmer until such time that a development opportunity presents itself.

The Resource

In an effort to improve the collective outreach of the Dunn County Environmental Services Department, the Solid Waste & Recycling Division began printing a twice-annual, full-color informational magazine called "The Resource." The 32-page magazine gave equal print to each of the four divisions of the Environmental Services Department- Solid Waste & Recycling, Land & Water Conservation, Planning and Land Use Control, and Surveying. Staff from each division authored detailed articles for the magazine reflective of their current and future projects and goals. The Solid Waste & Recycling Division had previously employed a twice-annual newsletter to distribute information specific to its recycling programs and facilities, and with the implementation of The Resource, additional content was added to further assist the public with their recycling and solid waste activities. Monthly coupons were also added to promote savings when recycling certain fee items at the county's Transfer Station and collection sites. The magazine was a huge success, and was widely appreciated for its detail and collective approach to environmental stewardship in Dunn County.



2017 Hazardous Waste Clean Sweep Events

In 2017, the Solid Waste & Recycling Division hosted two Hazardous Waste Clean Sweep Events, both of which were extremely popular, producing record numbers of participants and record volumes of hazardous materials. The spring event was held on April 26 at the Boyceville Highway Shop in Boyceville, WI, and on April 27 at the Dunn County Transfer Station. The fall event was held on September 13 at the Colfax Fairgrounds in Colfax, WI, and on September 14 at the Dunn County Transfer Station. A total of 313 households, 22 VSQG businesses, and 15 farmsteads brought a combined total of 36,284 pounds of hazardous wastes to these events for responsible disposal and/or recycling- an increase of 68% from the 2016 totals. An additional 9,484 pounds of latex paints and non-regulated resins were also collected. These events are funded in part by a grant from the Department of Agriculture, Trade and Consumer Protection.





Dunn County Recycling Blueprint



In August 2017, the Solid Waste & Recycling Management Board approved a motion to finance the “Dunn County Recycling Blueprint” to emphasize support and compliance with the Wisconsin Solid Waste Reduction, Recovery and Recycling Law and the Dunn County Waste Control Ordinance. As a component of the county’s ongoing sustainability initiatives, the Recycling Blueprint functions as a uniform and scalable approach to mandatory recycling at all Dunn County government buildings and facilities by placing matching recycling containers with simple labeling at various work and meeting stations.

Common recyclables such as paper and cardboard, steel and aluminum cans, glass, and various grades of readily recyclable plastics were effectively collected upon implementation of the Recycling Blueprint, improving participation and increasing awareness of the state’s mandatory recycling laws.

Transfer Station Tipping Floor Repairs

Replacement of a portion of the Dunn County Transfer Station tipping floor was necessary in 2017 due to substantial erosion of the original floor and the potential for soil contamination and unsafe loader operating conditions. Several areas of the tipping floor were assessed for damage prior to the repairs to determine the extent of the erosion. Soil tests were conducted to ensure that contaminants did not reach the native soils

below the damaged areas, and lab results indicated that leachates from the floor had not percolated beyond the original vapor barrier. After a short bid process, the job was awarded to Pember Companies, Inc, and the work began in earnest to repair the floor quickly and avoid sustained disruptions of services to our haulers. The work included removing a large section of the original tipping floor, setting rebar reinforcement lattices, and pouring a very “hot” mix of concrete to ensure a fast setup, which resulted in only four days of closure to the facility from start to end of the project.



Future Goals

2017 marked a year of tremendous growth for the Solid Waste & Recycling Division, cementing our status as a strong leader in the waste management industry in Wisconsin. By offering some of the most diverse and comprehensive recycling opportunities throughout the state, specializing in common *and* non-traditional recyclables alike, and procuring recycling vendors for these materials both domestically and internationally, we are able to successfully process and recycle thousands of pounds of materials that were previously landfilled at a cost. We continue to work with local industries and businesses to perpetuate sustainability in manufacturing processes and the recycling of waste materials whenever and wherever possible. The Dunn County Transfer Station was constructed in 1991 and has been operational for 26 years. Current throughput of solid waste and recyclables is exceeding the facility’s structural and operational capacities, and hauler traffic in and out of the facility is becoming less efficient and increasingly dangerous, as public and commercial vehicles utilize the same space on a very crowded tipping floor. Movement towards the construction of a new transfer facility is necessary to regain process capacity reflective of current (and future) throughputs, and to improve user functionality, safety, and overall public service efficiency. The 20-acre contiguous land purchase was acquired for this very purpose, and offers the perfect location to achieve this goal. As we move forward into the coming year, discussions will be proposed to explore the efficacy of a new Transfer Station, which would solidify Dunn County’s future as a regional solid waste and recycling leader.



2017 Summary of Commodities, Revenues, and Expenditures

The summary chart below represents the revenues, expenditures, and total tonnage or other volumes of solid waste and recyclables that the Solid Waste & Recycling Division processed in 2017.

DUNN COUNTY SOLID WASTE & RECYCLING DIVISION 2017 ANNUAL COMMODITY REPORT			
COMMODITY	TOTAL TONS SHIPPED	REVENUE	HAULING EXPENDITURES
Transfer Station - Revenue includes all SW Fee Items & Tipping Fees	21,609	\$1,274,086	\$1,000,480
Compactor Solid Waste	2,351	\$0	\$155,107
Demolition Solid Waste - Includes all SW Fee Items	492	\$93,207	\$55,011
Ridgeland Solid Waste	62	\$0	\$2,666
Total Solid Waste	24,514	\$1,367,293	\$1,213,264
COMMODITY	TOTAL TONS SOLD	REVENUE	EXPENDITURES
Fiber	1,486.16	\$183,977.67	\$0.00
Ferrous Metals	490.24	\$66,322.74	\$0.00
Non-Ferrous Metals	123.52	\$57,803.87	\$0.00
Plastics	241.71	\$62,202.10	\$0.00
Glass	496.36	\$12,897.94	\$0.00
Total Recyclables Sold	2,837.99	\$383,204.32	\$0.00
COMMODITY	TOTAL TONS or OTHER	REVENUE	EXPENDITURES
Electronics	107.47	\$47,080.00	\$29,314.00
Bulbs/PCB Ballasts	20,706 Bulbs and 48 lbs of Neon Lamps	\$4,240.95	\$5,835.00
Tires	170.39	\$42,385.00	\$29,966.00
Hazardous Waste (Grant revenue of \$15,630 & levy of \$8,000)	11.37	\$23,630.00	\$40,703.00
Lead Acid Batteries	7.37	\$5,252.68	\$0.00
Latex Paint	3.92	\$1,993.00	\$2,902.00
Used Oil	13,090 Gallons	N/A	\$2,618.00
Used Oil Filters	37 Barrels	N/A	\$1,622.00
Used Antifreeze	635 Gallons	N/A	\$318.00
Leachate/Septage	13,873 Gallons	N/A	\$1,324.00
Total Other Items	3.9215	\$124,581.63	\$114,602.00