

MRF TURF



Winter 2018

The Quarterly Newsletter of the Manitowoc County Recycling Center

IN THIS ISSUE

CHRISTMAS LIGHT RECYCLING	1
HOLIDAY TREE DROP OFF	1
DRUG DISPOSAL PROGRAM RESULTS	2
MERCURY REDUCTION: THERMOSTATS	2
MERCURY THERMOMETER EXCHANGE	3
LITHIUM BATTERY HAZARDS	3
HAZARDOUS WASTE REDUCTION	3
CARTON RECYCLING	4
REUSE AT RUMMAGE-A-RAMA	4
TIRE COLLECTION RESULTS	4
RECYCLING DEPOT GUIDELINES	5
ELECTRONIC NEWSLETTER REQUEST	5

Mission Statement

To provide materials recycling and recovery services to the citizens of Manitowoc County and to keep the public informed about recycling issues.



CHRISTMAS LIGHTS

The Manitowoc County Recycling Center is accepting unwanted Christmas lights for FREE. Strings of lights are highly recyclable, even with the bulbs in them. Bring them to the Recycling Center Main Office at 3000 Basswood Road Monday-Friday between 7am and 4pm.



Replacing old lights with new energy efficient LED lights can help you save on your electric bill.

All string lights will be accepted as well as extension cords. Garland, wreaths, trees and other lighted decorations will not be accepted. Normal light bulbs, including spot lights, compact fluorescents, fluorescent tubes, and incandescent bulbs can be recycled but normal fees apply.

Visit the Recycling Center at www.co.manitowoc.wi.us/recyclingcenter or call 920-683-4333 to learn more about Christmas Light Recycling and similar programs offered in Manitowoc County.

RECYCLE YOUR HOLIDAY TREE

Manitowoc County residents and businesses may drop off their natural holiday trees at the Basswood Compost Site. Remove all ornaments, tinsel, lights, stands and storage bags from trees before dropping off. If your tree is more than 6 feet long, please cut it in half. The Basswood compost site is located at 3000 Basswood Rd., near the intersection of CTY P and R. Please call 683-4333 or visit www.co.manitowoc.wi.us/recyclingcenter for information.

According to the National Christmas Tree Association around 29 million natural trees are sold over the holidays. Many of these trees are recycled once their holiday usefulness is over. Used natural trees can be chipped and turned into wood mulch. Mulch is used for groundcover and erosion control in landscaping projects and trails. Another popular use is for constructing wildlife habitat. If properly placed in a backyard these holiday conifers provide shelter and protection for songbirds during the winter. Placed in loose piles at the edge of a woodland, these trees help many wildlife including birds, small mammals and even the animals that depend on them for food. Many sportsmen will construct these brush piles to attract small game or to create hunting blinds. Carefully placed piles on the ice in lakes can be used to create fish habitat once the ice melts and the trees sink to the bottom. Be sure to check for restrictions before building fish or wildlife structures.



Holiday trees may be taken for free from the Manitowoc County Basswood Compost Site during normal business hours. Whole trees will be set aside in a separate pile for those interested in using them.

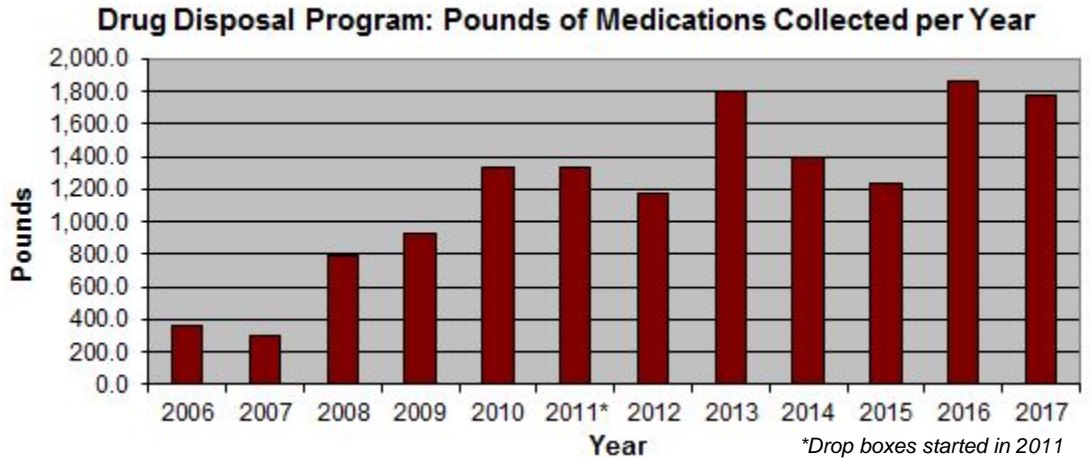
Manitowoc County Recycling Center & Compost Sites
3000 Basswood Road, Manitowoc WI
920-683-4333

www.co.manitowoc.wi.us/recyclingcenter



DRUG DISPOSAL PROGRAM RESULTS

2017 was another good year for the drug collection program. Throughout the year a total of 3 collection events were held and drop boxes were available at the police departments in the City of Two Rivers and Manitowoc as well as the recent addition of one at the Manitowoc County Sheriff's Office. After all the medications were collected, and packaging was removed, a total of 1,781 pounds were turned in. This included over the counter medications, dietary supplements, prescription medications and pet medications. The Drug Collection Program started in 2006 and has since collected 14,290 pounds of medications.



Unused medications present public health and safety concerns within the community. Medications may lay around the house for weeks or even years. This is often when medications are stolen from relatives and acquaintances. Stolen medications wind up on the illegal drug market where they are abused and have resulted in unintended poisonings as well as overdoses in our community. Pharmaceutical chemicals can also show up in the water supply. This is largely due to the common practice of flushing them down the toilet or throwing them in the trash.

Permanent Dropbox Locations:

- Manitowoc County Sheriff's Office: 1025 South 9th St, Manitowoc, 8am—4:30pm M-F
- Manitowoc City Police Dept: 910 Jay Street, Manitowoc, 7:30am—4:30pm M-F
- Two Rivers Police Dept: 1717 East Park Street, Two Rivers, 8am—4:30pm M-F

Directions:

Remove pills from original container and put them in a sealed "ziplock" style bag that is quart size or smaller before placing in the drug drop box. Empty pill containers may be placed in your home recycling or trash. Liquid, powder, and cream medications should remain in the original bottles with caps tightened. Accepted medications include over the counter, prescriptions, supplements, and pet medications. Never dump thermometers, sharps, or chemicals in a drop box.



Complete information on the Drug Disposal Program is available at www.co.manitowoc.wi.us/recyclingcenter or you can call the Recycling Center at 920-683-4333.

MERCURY REDUCTION: THERMOSTATS

Many old non digital thermostats contain mercury. Tossing these old thermostats, or any other mercury containing device, into the garbage will contribute to mercury contamination. The Manitowoc County Recycling Center accepts mercury containing thermostats year round as part of an ongoing mercury reduction program. Drop off your thermostat at the Recycling Center Main Office located at 3000 Basswood Road Monday through Friday between 7am and 4pm. Please leave the thermostat intact. When transporting them, cushion the item and place it in a sealed container.



Improvements in heating system controls have rendered mercury thermostats inadequate. Newer programmable thermostats can save money on heating and cooling costs. When upgrading your heating system be sure to properly dispose of the old mercury thermostat.

These mercury switch thermostats have been in use since the 1950s and are commonly found in older homes. Each thermostat can contain up to 3 grams of mercury in a sealed glass bulb called an ampoule. If this bulb is broken, the mercury will spill out. Mercury and other heavy metals can be a threat to human and environmental health when improperly managed. Common sources of mercury, like thermostats, thermometers, light bulbs and electronics have no place in our landfills and should be properly recycled.

MERCURY THERMOMETER EXCHANGE

If you have an old mercury fever thermometer, you can exchange it at the Manitowoc County Recycling Center. Just bring in your old mercury thermometer and you will receive one digital fever thermometer. There is a limit of one per household while supplies are available. This exchange program only applies to "fever" thermometers. Thermostats and outdoor temperature thermometers are not covered (though you can dispose of these items for free). When transporting mercury items be sure to cushion them and place them in a sealed, leak proof container.



Most mercury fever thermometers contain roughly .7 grams of this hazardous metal. Very small amounts of Mercury can do significant damage to your health and the environment. Spilled mercury readily scatters into very small droplets making them difficult to clean up. When mercury is exposed to the air, particularly warm air, it slowly releases mercury vapors that can be absorbed through the lungs and cause damage to the nervous system.

LITHIUM BATTERY HAZARDS

Lithium batteries are commonly found in many devices today including phones, tablets, laptops, drones, and many high tech toys. They typically carry a high capacity charge needed to meet the energy demands of the devices they power. These batteries can be hazardous if they are damaged or handled improperly. The lithium in these batteries is a reactive metal that can ignite if exposed to air and/or moisture under the right conditions. Lithium batteries are safe to use but when they become damaged, recalled, or are mishandled, they can become a fire hazard. Signs of a damaged lithium battery include swelling, heat, or leaking. Never place a lithium battery in your recycling or garbage since they can become damaged by the processing equipment and potentially start a fire. The Manitowoc County Recycling center can accept unwanted lithium batteries, that are not damaged, at the Main Office.



HAZARDOUS WASTE REDUCTION

The 2018 Hazardous Waste Clean Sweep for Households, Farms and Businesses will be held on **May 18 and 19**. Details for this popular program will be available in the next issue of this newsletter and online.

While the Clean Sweep program is a great way to dispose of your hazardous waste, the key is to prevent it in the first place. The best way to do this is to use non-hazardous products. If an alternative is not available, then follow these hazardous waste reduction tips:

Household HazWaste: Reduction as your first choice

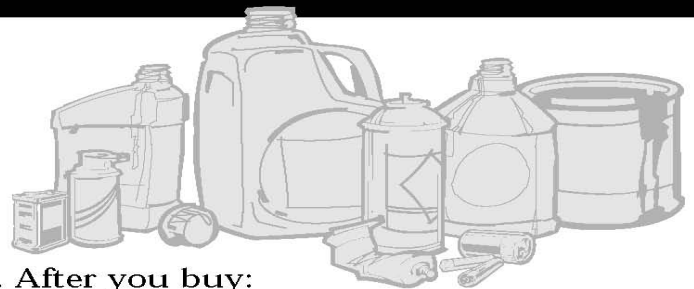
Reduce the amount of potentially hazardous products in your home and eliminate what you throw away by following these easy steps:

1. Before you buy:

- Read the labels and be aware of what they mean.
- Look for these words on labels; they tell you what products may need special handling or disposal:

Caution	Flammable
Warning	Combustible
Danger	Explosive
Poison	Volatile
Toxic	Corrosive

- Select a product best suited for the job.
- Buy only what you can use entirely.



2. After you buy:

- Read precautions and follow directions for safe use.
- Use recommended amounts; more is not necessarily better.
- Store properly and keep in original container.
- Use the child-resistant closures and keep them on tightly.
- Share what you can't use with friends or neighbors.
- Recycle/dispose of empty container properly.

For more information on the Clean Sweep event or hazardous waste reduction, visit the Hazardous Waste section at www.co.manitowoc.wi.us/recyclingcenter or call 683-4333.

All residents are encouraged to dispose of latex paint in their regular trash. Just take the lid off and let it dry or add paint hardener or cat litter. Latex paint is not considered hazardous waste. Once hardened, latex paint can be safely disposed of in the trash.



CARTON RECYCLING

The Manitowoc County Recycling Center accepts food and beverage cartons for recycling. These familiar cartons are used to contain a variety of products commonly found on your grocery lists. Some examples are containers for wine, milk, soy milk, juice, cream, soup, broth, and egg substitutes. Cartons are made from paper fibers, plastic, and aluminum so they are highly recyclable. When bringing your cartons to the Manitowoc County Recycling Center they can be placed with the plastic bottles. Cartons should be emptied and flattened but there is no need to rinse them. If you have curbside pickup in the City of Manitowoc or City of Two Rivers you should place your cartons with the plastic containers. Otherwise, check with your local hauler or drop off center for availability and guidelines.



REUSE AT RUMMAGE A RAMA

Reduce, Reuse and Recycle... and Rummage A Rama! Reuse occurs whenever we use an item again, for its intended or unintended purpose, rather than just throwing it away. Organizations like Goodwill and the Salvation Army help to redistribute items from those who no longer need them to those who can use those items again. Rummage and estate sales also accomplish reuse. This helps to lessen the amount of municipal solid waste going into landfills, conserves the materials and energy used to manufacture and transport new items and redistributes items to those who need them.

The Manitowoc County Expo will hold Rummage Sales on February 10 and March 10 in the Merchants building from 8:30am - 2:30pm. There is a \$.50 admission fee. Over 130 tables will have a variety of clothing, antiques and collectibles.



If you have items to sell visit the Expo website at www.co.manitowoc.wi.us/expo and navigate to Rummage Sales.

WASTE TIRE COLLECTION RESULTS

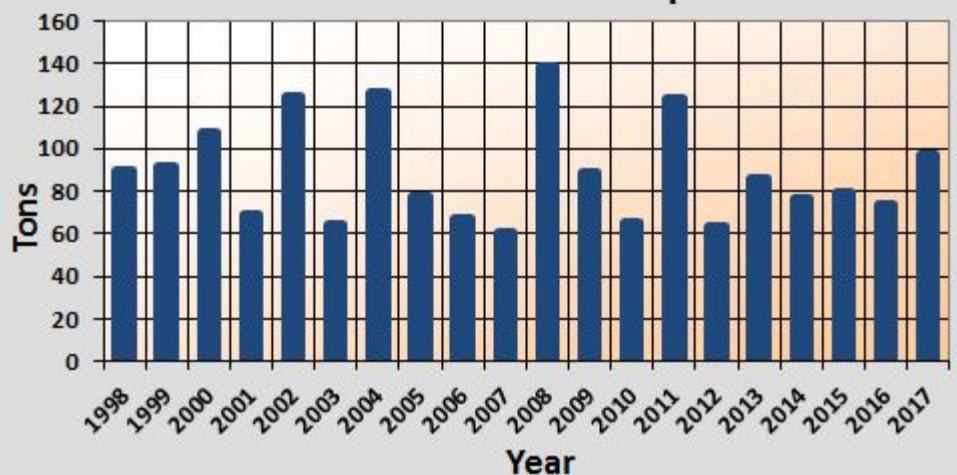
Manitowoc County residents and businesses can be proud of their commitment to recycling and the betterment of our environment! Thanks to the many participants, the Manitowoc County Recycling Center's 2017 Tire Collection brought in 97 tons of waste tires. The majority of this was car tires, though there were many other types, such as; bicycle, ATV, lawnmower, tractor, semi, and race car tires.

The annual Waste Tire Collection started in 1998 and has collected 1774 tons of tires since it began. Every year in mid September, residents, farms, and businesses bring in between 60 and 140 tons of unwanted tires to this collection. Once the collection is finished, all the tires are shipped out to a reputable tire recycler that specializes in recycling tires.

Waste tires can be reused in a number of beneficial ways. They can be shredded into rubber chips and used as artificial turf or as a groundcover in playgrounds. Tire rubber can be incorporated into asphalt roads, athletic tracks and used in other rubber products. Depending on what other materials are in the tire they may also be used as a fuel source. When burned in specially designed incinerators the release of noxious smoke can be controlled. Nylon and steel that is commonly found in tires is also recycled.

Watch for the next tire collection to be held for two weeks in mid-September next year!

Tons of Tires Collected per Year



RECYCLING DEPOT

The Manitowoc Recycling Center maintains a residential drop off area at the Recycling Center Main office located at 3000 Basswood Road. It is open Monday-Friday from 7am to 4pm, and Saturday from 8am to Noon. This site is intended for use by all county residents. There is no trash or garbage drop off at this location. Contact a local hauler or the Ridgeview Landfill for disposal of trash. Different municipal drop off sites may be more accessible to you depending on the city, township or village you are from.

General Drop Site Guidelines

- Place your recyclables in the bunker or receptacle labeled for that material.
- Remove any plastic bags or strings and take them home with you to place in your trash.
- Do not place nonacceptable items in the bunkers or receptacles.
- Do not place materials outside receptacles on the ground.
- Large loads of cardboard, paper or plastic can be placed on appropriate pile on the tipping floor.
- Use caution driving through the drop site and on the tipping floor.

<p><u>Paper</u> Includes newspapers, junk mail, magazines, computer paper, books with metal or plastic binding removed etc.. Paper should be clean and dry. No paper contaminated with food or oil. No paper coated with foil, plastic or heavy glue. No plastic/foil wrapping paper.</p>		<p><u>Plastic</u> Check for a neck. We only accept #1 and #2 bottles and jars. Remove the caps, rinse and flatten. No tub shaped containers or bottles that contained oil or pesticide (even if rinsed). No plastic wraps, films, bags, trays, pails, packaging peanuts, Styrofoam, or any other non bottle shaped item. Please do not tie milk jugs together or tie in plastic bags.</p>	
<p><u>Glass Bottles</u> Any color glass bottle or jar can be recycled. Put into designated bunker. Remove lids or caps and rinse. No window glass, mirrors, light bulbs, clay, ceramics, drinking glasses or ovenware.</p>		<p><u>Cartons</u> Cartons include shelf stable and refrigerated containers for wine, milk, juice, cream, soy milk, soup, and egg substitutes. Drop off cartons in with the plastic bottles. They should be emptied and flattened.</p>	
<p><u>Cardboard</u> Should be clean and flattened. No soiled cardboard or cardboard coated with wax, tin, or plastic.</p>		<p><u>Cans</u> Tin, steel, and aluminum cans. Coated cans, foil, and pie tins are ok. Empty and rinse out food residue.</p>	

ELECTRONIC NEWSLETTER REQUEST

Are you interested in receiving current updates recycling programs in Manitowoc County? Join our electronic mailing list to receive our quarterly newsletter. Either call us at 920-683-4333 or email jonreisenbuechler@co.manitowoc.wi.us and request to be added to our email distribution list. The recycling center will not give away or sell your information. You will receive our quarterly newsletter detailing news and information about the recycling center and related events.

The Manitowoc County Recycling Center is operated by Holiday House of Manitowoc County Inc. Offering choices that lead to opportunities.



The Manitowoc County Recycling Center is a business unit of the Manitowoc County Department of Public Works and is operated in partnership with the Manitowoc County Expo Center.

