



## Public Works Department: Recycling Center

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### Suggested Headline: **Clean Sweep Results**

The Manitowoc County Department of Public Works and Manitowoc County Recycling Center would like to thank all the participants and volunteers of the Hazardous Waste Clean Sweep program. With your help throughout the years the program has reached the 1 million pound milestone. Since the Manitowoc County Hazardous Waste Clean Sweep started in 1985, households and farms have turned in 1,012,978 pounds of unwanted chemicals! All of the collected items are properly recycled, neutralized or disposed of at special disposal sites or hazardous waste incinerators that render the materials harmless.

This year the collection had 464 households, 12 farms, and 9 businesses participate and collected a total of 35,862 pounds of hazardous waste. Households turned in 28,264 pounds of hazardous chemicals. Farms turned in 4,875 pounds. Most of the items turned in were old oil based paints and solvents, though a significant amount of pesticides were also dropped off.

The business portion of Clean Sweep served 9 local businesses who qualified as “Very Small Quantity Generators” under the program. These businesses brought in 2,723 pounds of hazardous waste. Businesses are offered a substantial discount when they bring their materials to the Clean Sweep event.



Many cleansers, home improvement products, automotive products and pesticides can be dangerous when stored or disposed of improperly. They can contaminate the soil, water, and air when spilled or illegally dumped. Improperly stored items could be involved in accidental poisonings of children and pets. The Clean Sweep Program provides an opportunity for households and farms to safely dispose of these materials for free and for eligible businesses to save on their disposal costs.

Clean Sweep is an annual collection typically held in mid-May. It is made possible partly through grant funding from the Wisconsin Department of Agriculture, Trade and Consumer Protection, a donation from the Ridgeview Landfill and volunteer labor.

The Manitowoc County Recycling Center has a number of programs throughout the year that you can use to help our environment and clean up at home including Composting and Drug Disposal programs, an ongoing Electronics Collection, a Tire Collection as well as the Hazardous Waste Clean Sweep Program. To learn more about these and other programs visit [www.manitowocounty.com/recyclingcenter](http://www.manitowocounty.com/recyclingcenter).