



## Public Works Department: Recycling Center

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#### AMERICA RECYCLES DAY

Recycling is one of the easiest things that we can all do to improve our communities, conserve natural resources and create green jobs.

America Recycles Day is a nationally recognized day designed to build awareness of recycling and its benefits and to encourage people to recycle correctly and buy recycled products. By recycling, you can help reduce emissions of greenhouse gas and water pollution, save energy, supply valuable manufacturing materials, create jobs, and reduce the need for new landfills. People can easily participate by making an effort to learn about the recycling programs in their community. Visit the Manitowoc County Recycling Center website at [Manitowoccounty.com/recyclingcenter](http://Manitowoccounty.com/recyclingcenter) to learn more about local recycling and disposal options. Or try [www.recyclomorewisconsin.org](http://www.recyclomorewisconsin.org) for information about recycling issues and guidelines throughout Wisconsin. If you want to do more, then make an effort to minimize contamination in your recycling bin, buy green products that contain recycled content, and purchase products that can be easily recycled in your community. You could even take a recycling pledge on the America Recycles Day website at <http://americarecyclesday.org> to show your support for recycling. Reduction and reuse are also great tools that compliment recycling.



Manitowoc County has demonstrated a very proactive approach towards recycling. In the early 90's approximately 58,000 Tons of solid waste per year were landfilled from Manitowoc County. That number has been reduced to about 30,000 per year because of the recycling and waste reduction efforts. In 2018 there were 5.41 million pounds of paper and cardboard, and 563,000 pounds of plastic bottles recycled at the local recycling center. Despite these impressive numbers, there is still room to improve. Contamination in recycling is a big issue, and it often happens when people assume they know what to recycle, when in fact they are overlooking some important details. For example, the recycling center cleaned out 186,000 pounds of contamination from the local recycling stream that was mostly non-acceptable plastics like oil bottles, deli trays, produce clamshells, and other plastic trash. We would like to encourage everyone to review the recycling guidelines set by their curbside pickup service or local drop off site. Make sure you know the common items that should be recycled. Plastic pollution is also an issue, you can help reduce it by not littering (obviously), but also by making sure your trash and recycling cans are covered or secured when you place them at the curb, especially when the weather is not ideal.

The Manitowoc County Recycling Center would like to thank Manitowoc County residents and businesses for participating in recycling and special collection programs like the Hazardous Waste Clean Sweep, Drug Disposal Program, Waste Tire Collection, Electronics Collection and

the Composting Sites. By taking the time to learn about and use these programs and others, participants have helped improve our community, environment, and economics. Visit the Recycling Center at [Manitowocounty.com/recyclingcenter](https://www.manitowocounty.com/recyclingcenter) or call 920-683-4333 to learn more about these programs and help improve recycling in Manitowoc County.