

# MRF TURE



## Winter 2021

The Quarterly Newsletter of the Manitowoc County Recycling Center

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### COVID-19 CLOSURE

Unfortunately, the Recycling Center was recently shut down for a week following a Covid-19 outbreak among the staff. Since it affected so many people, there were no equipment operators available to operate and maintain the facility. During this time all of the recycling services and associated programs were paused. This included the main office, tipping floor, commercial and residential drop off, and compost site. This included any recyclables coming from local curbside haulers and businesses. This was a difficult decision to make but it was necessary. We have since reopened and are slowly returning to our normal level of operation as staff returns.

We appreciate the outpouring of concern and understanding received from many residents, businesses, and the local haulers. Thank you! Unfortunately, a few unscrupulous individuals did abuse our site by dumping material in the surrounding fields and compost piles. While we sympathize with their frustration over the closure, this behavior is saddening. We understand they do not represent the majority of people in our communities.

Since the area curbside collections continued during our closure (thank your curbside haulers for that), one of the main concerns we saw was what happened to all the recyclables being collected. Many people asked if they were being landfilled. That did not happen. When the closure started, we were able to communicate with the local haulers and advise them on options for their recyclables. Many already had some contingency plans. Most material was diverted to recycling facilities or transfer stations in the surrounding counties, including Sheboygan, Brown, Calumet, and possibly Outagamie Counties. While this was not desirable, due to the cost of the extra distance, time, and tipping fees, it was the short term solution that guaranteed your recyclables were indeed recycled.

The Manitowoc County Recycling Center has contingency plans for enduring many scenarios, including staff shortages, equipment breakdowns/overhauls, and other short term problems. One of those contingency plans is a short term closure like we did this time. Had the closure lasted longer than it did, there is a long term plan for packing and hauling out area recyclables, essentially becoming a make-shift transfer station. Luckily, it was not needed in this situation.

### Mission Statement

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



### COVID-19



### COVID-19 PRECAUTIONS

All of our services have resumed but we are still concerned about the spread of Covid-19. Help us protect our staff and communities by doing the following:

- 1) Don't come if you're sick,
- 2) One customer in the office at a time, wait outside for your turn,
- 3) Use the hand sanitizer provided at the entrance, and
- 4) Wear a face covering.

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

[Manitowocounty.com/recyclingcenter](http://Manitowocounty.com/recyclingcenter)



DRUG DISPOSAL PROGRAM RESULTS

The Drug Collection program went well in 2020 despite cancelling the collection events because of the pandemic. A total of 1,638.1 pounds of medications were turned in. This included over the counter medications, dietary supplements, prescription medications and pet medications. It did not include pill bottles or packaging. The Drug Collection Program started in 2006 and has since collected 19,023.4 pounds of medications.

The spring and fall drug collection events, that were scheduled to be held at the Manitowoc Senior Center and Two Rivers Health Fair, were both cancelled due to concerns about Covid-19. This did not seem to effect the amount of medications collected. Most people who use collection events diverted their medications to the more convenient drop boxes.

For 2020 a drug drop box was purchased for the Kiel Police Department and they installed it in June. This drop box replaced the annual collection event that normally happens in fall. This is a much more useful option for the area residents and has been well used since it opened. The Village of Mishicot also installed a drop box through a separate funding source.

Unused medications present public health and safety concerns within the community. Pharmaceutical chemicals can show up in the water supply, partly due to the practice of flushing them down the toilet or throwing them in the trash. 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 and addictions in our community.

All the collected medications were sent to the Wisconsin Department of Justice's Drug Take Back Program. They reported collecting a total of 89,982 pounds of medications in Wisconsin this year. From the moment medications are turned in they are handled, stored, and transported by law officers until they are destroyed at a Hazardous Waste incinerator that is regulated by the United States Environmental Protection Agency. This type of regulated incineration uses high temperatures and pollution controls to safely incinerate these substances.

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
- Mishicot Village Hall: 511 East Main Street, Mishicot, WI, open during [Village Hall](#) hours
- Kiel Police Dept: 619 Paine St, Kiel, open 7:30a-3p M-F

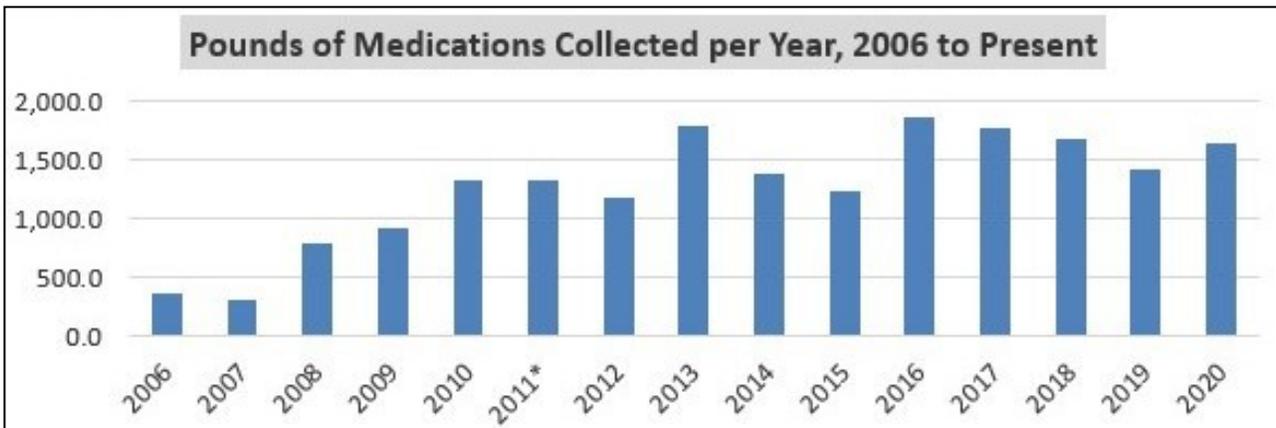
Directions:

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 [Manitowocounty.com/recyclingcenter](http://Manitowocounty.com/recyclingcenter) or you can call the Recycling Center at 920-683-4333.



Metro Drug Unit transporting collected medications to disposal site.



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 [Manitowoccounty.com/recyclingcenter](http://Manitowoccounty.com/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 920-683-4333 or visit [Manitowoccounty.com/recyclingcenter](http://Manitowoccounty.com/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 local restrictions and warnings about invasive organisms before building fish or wildlife structures.



Holiday trees may be taken for free from the Manitowoc County Basswood Compost Site during normal business hours. However, do not climb on the pile to remove trees.

TREE FOR A TREE

The Manitowoc County Recycling Center is assisting the City of Manitowoc Parks and Forestry Division to distribute vouchers for their Tree for a Tree Program. Throughout January 2021, City of Manitowoc residents will be able to receive a voucher for a free deciduous tree when they bring their natural Christmas tree to the Basswood Compost Site. Trees must be free of ornaments, stands, lights, bags, etc. Participants must come to the Recycling Center Main Office, open Monday through Friday between 7am and 4pm, before dropping off their tree. There are a limited number of vouchers available on a first come, first served basis with a limit of one per household to City of Manitowoc residents. Vouchers are redeemable at the Silver Creek Nursery from April 15 to May 15 for deciduous seedlings known as "whips", which are about 3-4 feet tall, 2-4 years old, and ready for planting.

This program is part of an urban forestry grant through the WDNR to help regain some of the urban tree canopy which will be lost due to the Emerald Ash Borer.



**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.

Clean Sweep is an annual collection event for hazardous waste items commonly found in households and farms, such as pesticides, solvents, cleaners, and oil based paints. Since it started in 1985, households and farms have turned in 1,087,109 pounds of unwanted chemicals.

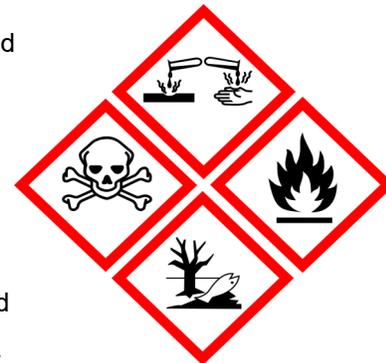
This year the collection had 590 households, 12 farms, and 17 businesses participate and collected a total of 44,550 pounds of hazardous waste. Households turned in 36,260 pounds of hazardous chemicals. Farms turned in 4,927 pounds. Most of the items turned in were old oil based paints, though a significant amount of pesticides were also dropped off. The business portion of Clean Sweep served 17 local businesses who qualified as "Very Small Quantity Generators" under the program. These businesses brought in 3,363 pounds of hazardous waste. Businesses are offered a substantial discount when they bring their materials to the Clean Sweep event.

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.

Clean Sweep is normally held in Mid-May, but for 2020 it was postponed due to the Covid-19 pandemic. This allowed everyone time to adjust to new safety precautions. This also resulted in about a 25% increase in attendance and chemicals! We plan on returning to our normal May date for 2021.

Clean Sweep 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 [Manitowoccounty.com/recyclingcenter](http://Manitowoccounty.com/recyclingcenter).



2020 Hazardous Waste	
Category	Pounds
Pesticides/Poisons	9,787
Lead/Oil Based Paint	15,663
Caustics/Corrosives	1,501
Reactives	0
Solvents/Thinners	2,764
Waste Oil	3,581
PCBs	0
Aerosol Cans	2,800
Mercury	9
Dioxins	6
Other	149
Agricultural	4,927
VSGQ Business	3,363
<b>TOTAL POUNDS</b>	<b>44,550</b>

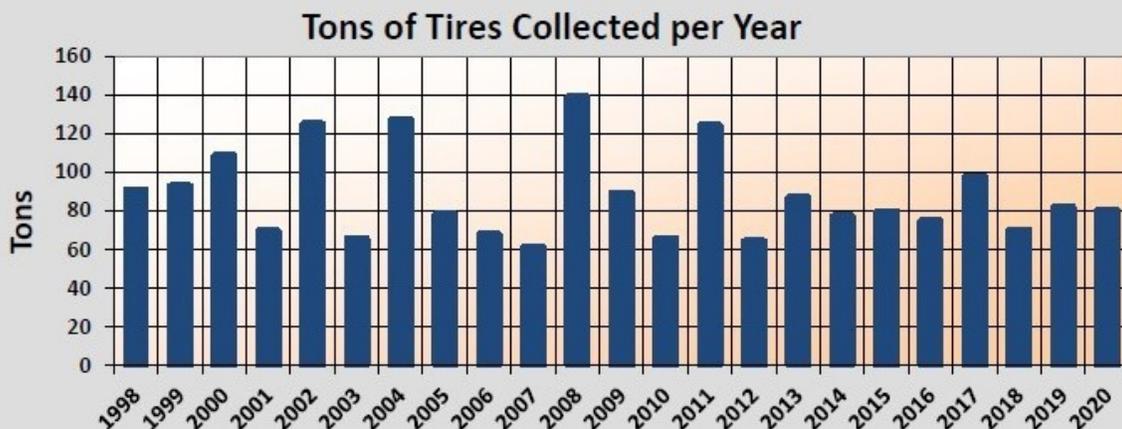
**WASTE TIRE COLLECTION RESULTS**

Manitowoc County residents and businesses brought in a total of 79.9 tons of waste tires in 2020. The majority of this was car and truck tires, though there were many other types, such as; bicycle, ATV, lawnmower, tractor, semi, and race car tires. The Waste Tire Collection started in 1998 and has collected 2005.4 tons of tires since it began. This collection typically has between 60 and 140 tons of unwanted tires annually. 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.

The tire collection will resume in April 2021 and run through October. Watch for the 2021 guidelines and rates online or in the next newsletter.

We are often asked why the collection stops in winter. The collection is seasonal because tires are stored outside and can accumulate water and snow. When we ship the tires for processing, most of the water can be shaken out of the tires. However, if it is cold and there is ice in the tires, then the loads are significantly heavier and cost more. So, the tire collection is seasonal because this helps us keep our rates low.



## 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.
- **Due to Covid-19 please practice social distancing and other precautions at the recycling depot.**



The recycling and compost areas are monitored for illegal dumping, littering, and other issues. Please follow all posted guidelines.

<p><b>Paper</b> 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><b>Plastic</b> Check for a neck. <b>We only accept #1 and #2 bottles and jars.</b> 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><b>Glass Bottles</b> 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><b>Cartons</b> Cartons include shelf stable and refrigerated containers for wine, milk, juice, cream, soy milk, soup, and egg substitutes. Drop off cartons with the plastic bottles. They should be emptied and flattened.</p> 
<p><b>Cardboard</b> Should be clean and flattened. No soiled cardboard or cardboard coated with wax, tin, or plastic.</p> 	<p><b>Cans</b> 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](mailto: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.

**SCRAP METAL DUMPSTER**  
The Recycling Depot now has a scrap metal dumpster available for your convenience. It is for clean scrap metal only, including steel, iron, copper, sheet/cast aluminum, tin, and mixed metals. Please remove excessive non-metal components.

- NO propane (or other) tanks
- NO electronics or appliances
- NO batteries or lamps
- NO garbage, plastic, wood, or rubber
- NO chemicals, gas, oil, or other hazardous wastes.



The Manitowoc County Recycling Center is operated by Ascend Services Inc. Formerly Holiday House of Manitowoc Inc.



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.

