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Winter 2022

The Quarterly Newsletter of the Manitowoc County Recycling Center & Compost Sites



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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, and if they are damaged they can react and ignite.

Do not place these batteries in your curbside recycling or any recycling center drop off bin... or any items containing these batteries! Besides the fact that they are not recycled through the same avenues as the material that belongs in your recycling bin, they can and do start fires.

They shouldn't go in your garbage either. For similar reasons, they can start fires in garbage collection trucks, transfer stations, and landfills.

This drone was found in our mixed paper pile, it has been mangled from the equipment used to handle your recyclables. Luckily, a vigilant recycling worker spotted it. This drone contains a rather powerful lithium polymer battery that can easily heat up and start a fire if damaged. When it was found it was starting to swell. Lithium batteries have been responsible for fires in many industries, especially recycling centers and landfills.

So what should you do? There are places that can collect and recycle unwanted lithium batteries for little to no charge. In fact, we can accept most rechargeable lithium batteries for free at our main office as part of our electronics recycling service, visit manitowocountywi.gov/.../electronics-collection/ for details.



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

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



NEEDLES ENDANGER WASTE WORKERS

Used needles and lancets can stick waste disposal workers when they are thrown away in the trash or recycling, brought to medication collections, or flushed down the toilet. Any worker accidentally stuck with a needle must get medical testing and worry about the possibility of harmful or deadly diseases such as Hepatitis and HIV. However, needle-stick injuries are a preventable health risk. Package and dispose of sharps safely to avoid exposing yourself and others to harm. Learn what to do with your sharps in the Manitowoc area at: manitowocountywi.gov/.../what-do-i-do-with-sharps/.



WASTE TIRE COLLECTION RESULTS

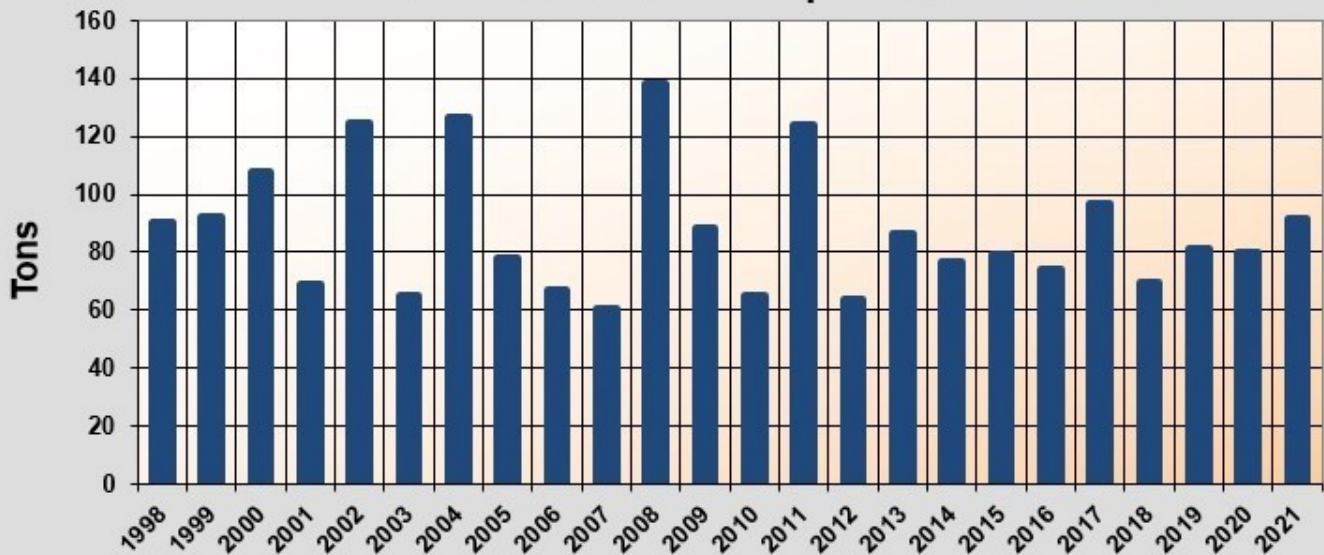
Manitowoc County residents and businesses brought in a total of 91.8 tons of waste tires in 2021. The majority of this was car and truck tires, though there were many other types, such as; bicycle, lawnmower, tractor, semi, and loader tires. The Waste Tire Collection started in 1998 and has collected 2097.2 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 shred 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 is currently closed for winter and will resume in April 2022 and run through October. Watch for the 2022 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.

Tons of Tires Collected per Year



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 manitowocountywi.gov/departments/recycling-center/electronics-collection/ 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 manitowocountywi.gov/.../yard-materials-drop-off/ 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 2022, 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.

LAMP RECYCLING is one of the services provided by the Manitowoc County Recycling Center's ongoing electronics collection program. Some lamps, including fluorescent tubes, compact fluorescent bulbs and high intensity discharge bulbs, contain small amounts of mercury that can be harmful to human health and the environment when they are disposed of in the trash. Even incandescent bulbs contain lead, which is also a toxic metal. All the materials in these bulbs can be recycled. During 2021 the Recycling Center collected approximately 14,000 bulbs from area residents and businesses. Once received, the bulbs are carefully packaged for shipping to a specialized recycling facility where hazardous materials are safely removed. All the materials in these bulbs can be recycled without generating any waste. Even the hazardous materials, like mercury, can be recovered.

Bring your burnt out lamps and ballasts to main office at the Manitowoc County Recycling Center. When transporting large amounts of fluorescent tubes secure them in boxes or by taping them together in manageable bundles using an easy release masking or painter's tape (no duct tape).



Item	Fee
4 ft. Fluorescent Lamps*	\$0.45 each
8 ft. Fluorescent Lamps*	\$0.55 each
Compact Fluorescent Lamps*	\$0.45 each
High Intensity Discharge (HID) Lamps (Including Sodium, Metal Halides, & Mercury Vapor)*	\$1.40 each
Incandescent, Flood and Spot Light Lamps*	\$0.35 each
LED Lamps*	\$2.80 each
Ballasts (non-PCB)	\$0.55 per lb
Ballasts (PCB)	\$1.00 per lb

*There will be an additional charge for any broken lamps.
 **Do not use duct tape to bundle fluorescent lamps together, use an easy-release tape like painter's tape or masking tape.

ELECTRONICS RECYCLING. The Manitowoc County Recycling Center has an ongoing electronics collection program. A variety of electronics are accepted including televisions, computer equipment, kitchen gadgets, and electric tools. Items that cannot be accepted include Freon containing appliances like air conditioners, dehumidifiers, or refrigerators as well as bulky appliances like stoves, washers, or dryers.

It is important to recycle electronics for a number of reasons. They can contain hazardous materials that can enter the environment if disposed of improperly. Dumping or burning them can allow heavy metals and toxic compounds to infiltrate into the soil, air, and water. Heavy metals such as lead and mercury have the ability to leach out of electronic devices under certain conditions. These materials can cause a number of health problems in humans and wildlife. Electronics recycling helps recover reusable raw materials, conserves landfill space, and creates jobs.



Since 2010, Wisconsin's Electronic Recycling Law banned certain consumer electronic devices from landfills and incinerators and established a collection and recycling system in Wisconsin for households and K-12 public schools. Since then, the Recycling Center has recycled approximately 2.59 million pounds of unwanted electronics.

The Manitowoc County Recycling Center is registered with the Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources as a certified electronics collector. This means that ALL the electronics recycled through our program are sent to reputable recycling companies who guarantee the confidential destruction of any personal data remaining on your electronics, recycle or reuse all of the materials they receive, and are registered with the Environmental Protection Association and Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources.

All televisions and monitors are measured diagonally across the glass portion of the screen. Televisions and monitors must not be broken or stripped. Due to the increased health and safety issues associated with handling, storing, and transporting stripped electronics or broken televisions, these items may be refused or assessed an extra fee depending on the situation.

Item	Fee
Flat panel TV or monitor—Small (less than 27")	\$10 each
Flat panel TV— Large (27" or more)	\$20 each
Microwave	\$10 each
CRT TV or monitor—Small (less than 24")	\$15 each
CRT TV—Medium (24" or more up to 36")	\$25 each
CRT TV—Large (more than 36")	\$35 each
Computer Processor	\$10 each
Other Electronics (includes: laptops, stereos, vcr/dvd, printers, scanners, cameras, and many other electric appliances)	\$0.25 per lb
Cell Phones	Free
Single Use Batteries (alkaline, lithium, button batteries sorted by type)	\$1.25 per lb
Rechargeable Batteries (< 300 Watt Hours)	Free

DRUG DISPOSAL PROGRAM RESULTS

The 2021 Drug Collection program was a success! Thanks to all those utilizing this program, a record amount of medications were collected, with a total of 2,077.3 pounds of medications being 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 21,100.7 pounds of medications.

Our first hospital sponsored collection event also happened in spring of 2021 at the Holy Family Memorial Hospital. The event was very well attended and collected a significant amount of unwanted medications.

Both the Mishicot and Kiel law enforcement offices had drop boxes installed 1-2 years ago and they have been well utilized in those communities. They easily collect a similar amount of medication as past collections in those communities did. This is much more convenient for people in those areas.

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 also 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 117,932 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.

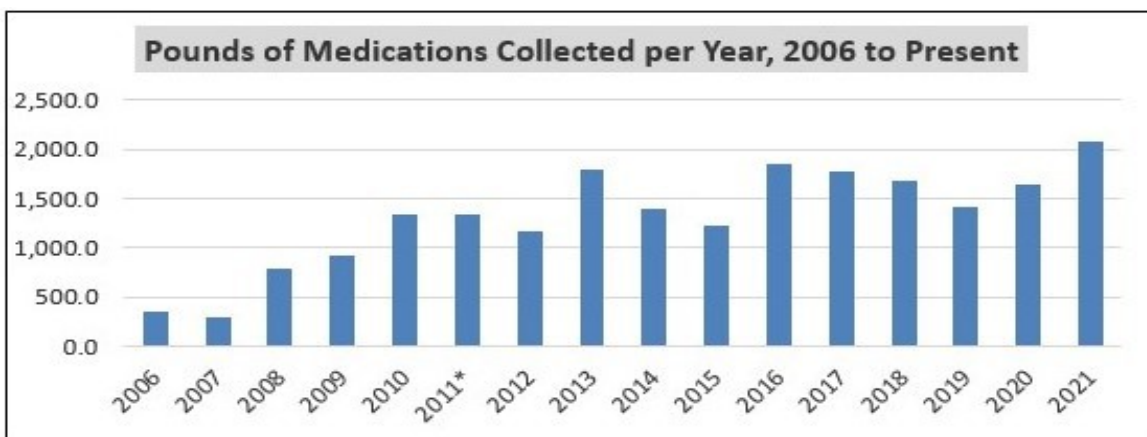
Complete information on the Drug Disposal Program is available at manitowoccountyiwi.gov/departments/recycling-center/drug-disposal/ or you can call the Recycling Center at 920-683-4333.



Metro Drug Unit transporting collected medications to disposal site.



First temporary Drug Collection event at a hospital.



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.

Paper

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.



Plastic

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.



Glass Bottles

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.



Cartons

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.



Cardboard

Should be clean and flattened. No soiled cardboard or cardboard coated with wax, tin, or plastic.



Cans

Tin, steel, and aluminum cans. Coated cans, foil, and pie tins are ok. Empty and rinse out food residue.



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@manitowoccountymi.gov 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.

