

Recycling Updates

Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources

October 2026

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DNR Updates: MRF Meeting Slides, Battery Webpage, Battery Webinar, Sharps Publication, RU Guidance, DNR Central Office

MRF Stakeholder Meeting Slides And Recording Posted

The DNR held its annual stakeholder meeting for materials recovery facilities (MRFs) on Oct. 2. A recording and the slide decks of the presentations are posted on the [Requirements For Materials Recovery Facilities](#) webpage.



New Webpage On Wisconsin's Battery Law Available

The DNR has published a new [webpage on Wisconsin's battery recycling law](#). It discusses the implementation timeline, which types of batteries are covered as well as the roles of producers, collectors and recyclers. If you have questions about the battery recycling law, contact DNRBatteries@wisconsin.gov.

Recording And Slides Available From Battery Collection Program Information Session

The Wisconsin DNR and The Battery Network provided an overview of Wisconsin's battery recycling law and how a battery stewardship plan will likely work during a Sept. 14 webinar. The recording and slides from the webinar are now available.

- [Webinar recording](#)
- [DNR presentation slides](#)
- [The Battery Network presentation slides](#)

For more about battery types and current recycling options, visit the DNR's [battery recycling webpage](#).

Sharps Disposal Publications Revised

The DNR recently revised its publications on the proper disposal of sharps. Spanish and Hmong versions are also available on the [DNR's website](#).

- [Protect Yourself, Protect Your Community: Safe Options For Household Sharps Disposal](#) (WA-1636)
- [Protect Yourself, Protect Your Community: Safe Options For Household Sharps Disposal 1/3-page flier](#) (WA-1635)

Responsible Unit (RU) Guidance Posted

[Basic Requirements for RU Recycling Programs](#) (WA-1593) summarizes the requirements to ensure responsible units maintain effective recycling programs according to ch. NR 544, Wis. Adm. Code. It was updated to reflect the recycling rule that went into effect on July 1, 2025.

DNR Central Office Moves To New Building

The DNR's Central Office is currently transitioning to a new state office building in Madison. The new physical address is:

4822 Madison Yards Way, Madison WI 53705

The mailing address remains the same P.O. box as before:

P.O. Box 7921, Madison, WI 53707

Public Hearing On Solid Waste Rule Held Oct. 15, Public Comment Accepted Until Oct. 23

The DNR's Waste and Materials Management Program held a public hearing Oct. 15 on proposed rule WA 14-24, which proposes changes to the following Wisconsin Administrative Code chapters:

- NR 157 on management of PCBs and products containing PCBs
- NR 500 on general solid waste management requirements
- NR 502 on solid waste storage, transportation, transfer, incineration, air curtain destructors, processing, wood burning, composting and municipal solid waste combustors
- NR 518 on landspreading of solid waste
- NR 520 on solid waste management fees and financial responsibility requirements
- NR 526 on medical waste management

The DNR is accepting written public comments until Oct. 23. You may submit public comments in writing to Casey.Krausensky@wisconsin.gov.

Additional information about the proposed rule can be found on the DNR's [proposed permanent administrative rules webpage](#).

The Battery Network Launches Wisconsin-Focused Webpage

[The Battery Network](#) has launched a webpage focused on Wisconsin-based collection sites and the state's battery recycling law. Users can access a map of current drop-off locations and potential collectors can register to become part of The Battery Network.

EPA Funding Opportunity For Small Business Innovation Closes Nov. 8

The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency's [Small Business Innovation Research \(SBIR\) Contracts](#) fund small businesses developing and commercializing technologies in broad focus areas including sustainable materials management/circular economy. The Phase 1 solicitation for applications is now open and closes Nov. 8, 2026.



The following two topics are eligible for contracts under the Phase 1 solicitation:

- Innovative Technologies to Prevent and Recycle Food Waste
- Critical Mineral Recovery from Lithium-Ion Batteries and Safe Recycling/Reuse of Batteries

Learn more about the SBIR program and [how to apply for funding](#).

Drug Take Back Day Is Oct. 24



Have old prescription and over-the-counter medications laying around the house? Take them to one of the 126 collection sites participating in Drug Take Back Day, Oct. 24.

Drug Take Back Day helps dispose of medications safely and keeps them out of the environment. Wastewater treatment plants are not designed to capture pharmaceuticals, so when medications are flushed down drains, they ultimately end up in the environment. Pet medications and vape pens with the battery removed are also accepted.

Access a map of collection events and a full list of accepted items on the [Wisconsin Department of Health Services' website](#).

Missing Drug Take Back Day? Find a [permanent drug drop box](#) open year-round.

Registration Open For WIRMC

The [Wisconsin Integrated Resource Management Conference](#) is now open for registration. The conference is being held Feb. 24-26 in Lake Geneva, Wisconsin.

Upcoming Webinars, Online Conferences And Events

**All times are in Central Time.*

Partnering To Address Lead (Pb)

Oct. 21, 2 p.m.

U.S. Environmental Protection Agency

[Register online.](#)

From Cost Barriers To Circular Assets: Policy & Operational Models For EV Battery Recycling

Oct. 27, 12:30 p.m.

Northeast Recycling Council

[Register online.](#)

The State Of End Of Life Tires Recovery And Circular End-Use Markets

Oct. 27, noon

U.S. Tire Manufacturers Association

[Register online.](#)

Several webinars can also be found on the [Public Resources-Product Stewardship Institute](#), the [EPA's Sustainable Materials Management Program](#) and the [Northeast Recycling Council](#) websites.



Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources

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