

Recycling Updates

Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources

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RU Report Deadline Approaching, Plan For More Time To Attain A MyWisconsinID



Annual reporting season for responsible units (RUs) is well underway. The RU annual report is due in only two weeks on April 30, but as of April 15, over 700 RUs have not submitted their report.

New this year: all RUs will need a MyWisconsin ID to complete the reports. This log-in is replacing the WAMS ID.

All RUs should have received an email notifying them of the new requirement with instructions. RUs without a MyWisconsin ID should plan for extra time to complete the MyWisconsin ID process prior to starting the annual report.

View the [step-by-step guide](#) to creating a MyWisconsin ID.

If more assistance is needed, the DNR Recycling Team will be holding a guided session. DNR staff will walk through the process of creating a MyWisconsin ID and answer questions as time allows.

- April 21, from 1 - 2 p.m. CST
 - [Register now.](#)

If you're not able to attend the guided session and need assistance with MyWisconsin ID or Switchboard, please reach out to Malena Grimm, DNR recycling specialist, at 608-893-5200 or email DNRRecycling@wisconsin.gov.

Don't wait until the last minute! RU representatives are highly encouraged to register for a MyWisconsin ID and complete the annual report as soon as possible.

For more information on the annual reports, visit the DNR's [Annual Reports for Responsible Units and Materials Recovery Facilities webpage](#).

DNR Hosting Stakeholder Input Webinar On Food Waste Priorities April 21

The Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources (DNR) is considering the next steps it and others could take to act on recommendations in the Wisconsin Food Waste Evaluation released earlier this year.



As part of that effort, the DNR is hosting a webinar April 21 from noon to 1 p.m. CDT to gather stakeholder feedback and input. The webinar will include a short presentation by DNR staff and several discussion questions to gather input from stakeholders on what those steps should be and how to prioritize limited resources and time. The goal is to have an interactive discussion, so come prepared with questions and suggestions.

[Register for the webinar.](#)

[Read the Wisconsin Food Waste Evaluation or watch a February 2026 webinar about the study.](#)

Battery Recycling Law Will Improve Collection, Reduce Fire Risk

Gov. Tony Evers signed two bipartisan bills into law April 2 that create a statewide battery recycling program. [2025 Wisconsin Act 170](#) and [2025 Wisconsin Act 171](#) will require producers of portable and medium-format batteries to join a battery stewardship organization and submit a plan for a statewide battery collection and recycling program to the DNR by Jan. 1, 2027. Once approved and fully implemented, the program will provide free collection of batteries for recycling at locations around the state. A ban on disposal of covered batteries will take effect Jan. 1, 2028.

Batteries covered by the new law include portable or medium-format batteries intended or designed to be easily removed from products using common household tools. These include both rechargeable batteries, such as lithium ion, nickel cadmium and nickel metal hydride, used in consumer electronics, small appliances and power tools, and e-mobility devices like bikes and scooters. It also includes single-use batteries, such as alkaline AAA, AA, C and D batteries and button or coin cell batteries. Not included are lead-acid vehicle batteries, which have their own recycling program, or electronics eligible for recycling through the E-Cycle Wisconsin program. For more about battery types and current recycling options, visit the DNR's [battery recycling webpage](#).

Many batteries — especially powerful lithium-ion batteries in small electronics — can hold a considerable charge even when they no longer provide sufficient energy to power a device. When consumers put used batteries or electronics in trash or recycling bins, the heavy

equipment involved with collecting, sorting and recycling or disposing of the waste can easily damage the batteries, leading quickly to serious fires that can put workers at risk and destroy equipment or entire facilities.

The DNR worked with many industry stakeholders on the development of this legislation to provide free and convenient battery recycling options and reduce the number of batteries in curbside garbage and recycling programs.

Over the next several months, the DNR will continue to share information with stakeholders and implement the new law. If you have questions, contact Sarah Murray, DNR recycling and solid waste section manager, at Sarah.Murray@wisconsin.gov

RU Annual Report And Recycling Ordinances Webinar Recording Available

Jennifer Semrau, DNR waste reduction and diversion coordinator, recently presented on RU annual reporting and recycling ordinances to the Wisconsin Towns Association. The webinar included a walkthrough of the RU annual report and common mistakes found on revised RU recycling ordinances. Many RUs have found the recording to be helpful in answering their annual report and recycling ordinance questions.

The [webinar recording](#) and [slides](#) are now available.

Free Publications Available For Order



The DNR stocks and provides free publications to local governments and organizations. Publications on recycling, composting, open burning and other topics can be ordered by accessing the DNR's [Recycling Education and Outreach webpage](#).

The following publications just became available for order through the Waste and Materials Management Program's online ordering form:

- [Yard Care Do Your Share](#) (Spanish version) (WA-2021)
- [What To Recycle In Wisconsin](#) (WA-1609) **Newly revised!**
- [Large Appliance Recycling Guide](#) (WA-1814)
- [Plastic Bag And Film Recycling 1/3-page flyer](#) (WA-1695) **Newly revised!**
- [How To Handle Universal Waste Poster](#) (WA-1798) **Newly revised!**

Wisconsin Clean Sweep Grant Period Open; Closes May 22

The Wisconsin Department of Trade and Consumer Protection's Clean Sweep grant application period is now open until May 22, 2026. Grant funding will be announced on or before Aug. 1, 2026.

The grant covers the collection and disposal of agricultural waste and farm chemicals, household hazardous waste and unwanted prescription drugs by counties, cities, towns, villages, tribal nations and other eligible entities. Only counties are eligible for agricultural pesticide grants.



[Learn more and access the application links.](#)

Upcoming Webinars, Online Conferences And Events

**All times are in Central Time.*

Legal Standards For Green Marketing Claims

April 24, 11 a.m.

Environmental Law Institute

[Register online.](#)

Building Better Systems: Infrastructure That Drives Recycling Behavior

May 7, 12:30 p.m.

Northeast Recycling Council

[Register online.](#)

Leading The Future: How AI Will Transform Waste & Recycling

May 12, noon

Waste360

[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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