

Recycling Updates

Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources

September 2025

In This Issue

- [Materials Recovery Facility Stakeholder Meeting Materials And Rule Summary Now Online](#)
- [2026 Recycling Grant Applications Due Oct. 1](#)
- [New Resources To Tackle School Food Waste And Inspire Children To Take Action](#)
- [U.S. EPA Updates Guide To Illegal Dumping Prevention, Issues Notice Of Funding Opportunity For Tribes](#)
- [Register For Annual Solid Waste Interested Parties Meeting Sept. 23](#)
- [Upcoming Webinars, Online Conferences And Events](#)

Materials Recovery Facility Stakeholder Meeting Materials And Rule Summary Now Online

Revisions to the administrative code related to effective recycling programs went into effect on July 1. Entities affected include recycling responsible units (RUs), as well as haulers and materials recovery facilities (MRFs) that serve RU programs.



For MRFs, the Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources (DNR) hosted the annual MRF Stakeholder meeting on Aug. 26. The meeting covered regulatory changes for MRFs as a result of the rule revision, aerosol cans as universal waste, DNR updates and more.

- [Recycling Rule Revision: Changes for MRFs Aug. 26 presentation recording](#)
- [MRF Stakeholder Meeting presentation slides](#)
- [Summary of Recycling Rule Changes For MRFs](#)

For RUs, the DNR hosted a webinar providing an overview of the code revisions on July 15 and produced other recycling rule change resources. You can view the webinar recording, slides, summary document and more on the [Responsible Unit Recycling Programs webpage](#) (scroll down to "CHANGES TO RU REQUIREMENTS"). RUs are required to update their recycling ordinance, and the new recycling ordinance template is posted online at the link above.

View the [revised administrative code](#).

Contact Jennifer Semrau at Jennifer.Semrau@wisconsin.gov with any questions.

2026 Recycling Grant Applications Due Oct. 1

The 2025 recycling grant for responsible unit recycling and yard waste programs is open for applications. RUs are strongly encouraged to apply before the Oct. 1 deadline.

Staff are committed to helping RUs through the process, but RUs are ultimately responsible for submitting a complete application on time. Applications submitted after Oct. 1 are subject to reduced funding.



Learn more and access the online application through the DNR's [Basic Recycling Grant to Responsible Units webpage](#).

New Resources To Tackle School Food Waste And Inspire Children To Take Action



Too Good To Go has released a series of handbooks as part of a new free education resource: Too Good To Go Next Gen. The two handbooks on food waste basics and food waste reduction techniques are designed for use in the classroom and at home.

There are several playful and educational activities for groups ages 6-11 and 9-11. The handbooks offer a starting point for parents and educators to discuss food loss and waste and how it can be avoided.

[Explore the new handbooks.](#)

U.S. EPA Updates Guide To Illegal Dumping Prevention, Issues Notice Of Funding Opportunity For Tribes

Illegal Dumping Prevention Guidebook



Illegal dumping, the disposal of waste in an unauthorized location, is a serious problem in many U.S. communities. Also referred to as “open dumping” or “fly dumping,” this action can threaten public health, safety, property values and quality of life. The most common materials dumped in this way include construction debris, furniture, household appliances, auto parts, medical waste, yard waste and household hazardous waste.

In June 2025, the EPA updated the 1998 Illegal Dumping Prevention Guidebook, which outlines actions communities can take to prevent illegal dumping. The guide includes case studies from around the country that illustrate real actions taken by communities to prevent and respond to illegal dumping.

Visit the [EPA's website](#) to download the guide and learn more about preventing illegal dumping and how to properly dispose of or recycle unwanted materials.

Solid Waste Infrastructure For Recycling Grants For Tribes And Intertribal Consortia

The EPA recently announced publication of a notice of funding opportunity (NOFO) for the Solid Waste Infrastructure for Recycling (SWIFR) grants for Tribes and Intertribal Consortia. This opportunity, authorized by the Save Our Seas 2.0 Act and funded by the Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act, seeks to fund projects focused on improving solid waste management and recycling infrastructure.

The grants for Tribes and intertribal consortia will provide approximately \$20 million in awards ranging from \$100,000 to \$1.5 million per award. The entities eligible to apply under this announcement are Indian Tribes as defined in 33 U.S.C. 4201 and section 4 of the Indian Self-Determination and Education Assistance Act. Intertribal consortia are also eligible to apply.

The deadline to apply for the SWIFR Grants for Tribes and Intertribal Consortia is Dec. 12, 2025. For full details, please visit the EPA's [Solid Waste Infrastructure for Recycling Grants for Tribes and Intertribal Consortia webpage](#).

The EPA will host an informational webinar about this NOFO on Oct. 7, 2025. [Learn more and register today](#). The webinar will be recorded and posted on the EPA's website afterward.

Register For Annual Solid Waste Interested Parties Meeting Sept. 23

The DNR's annual Solid Waste Interested Parties (SWIP) meeting is being held virtually on Sept. 23, 2025, from 9:30 a.m. to noon. The meeting is open to the general public.



The meeting agenda will include:

- An Update on Landfill and Recycling Industry Fires – Jeff Phillips, SCS Engineers
- Landfill Rule Revision Implementation – Tess Brester
- Recycling Rule Revision Implementation – Jennifer Semrau
- Recycling and Diversion Updates and Data Report Out – Jennifer Semrau
- Food Waste Management Evaluation Results – Jennefer Klennert, HDR, Inc.
- Draft Language for Transfer Facility Rule Revisions – Casey Krausensky

[Register for the meeting](#).

A full agenda and the sign-in information can be found on the [SWIP webpage](#).

Please direct questions to [Casey Krausensky](#), DNR solid waste coordinator.

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Upcoming Webinars, Online Conferences And Events

**All times are in Central Time.*

Artificial Intelligence In Disaster Preparedness, Response And Recovery

Sept. 17, 2 p.m.

Hosted by the U.S. EPA

[Register online.](#)

How Carle Health Cut Its Food Waste 40% In Less Than One Year

Sept. 18, noon

Hosted by Leanpath

[Register online.](#)

Building Better Infrastructure: How Tire-Derived Aggregate Transforms Waste Into Civil Engineering Solutions

Sept. 23, 1 p.m.

Hosted by U.S. Tire Manufacturers Association & Tire Recycling Foundation

[Register online.](#)

Sustainability ROI: Why Waste Diversion Is Worth The Effort

Oct. 1, 1:30 p.m.

Hosted by ESG Dive and Reworld

[Register online.](#)

Feed Your Kids, Not The Can! How To Serve School Lunches With More Taste And Less Waste

Oct. 1, 2 p.m.

Hosted by Zero Waste Schools and Illinois Farm to School Network

[Register online.](#)

Common Recycling Myths Busted - Plastics

Oct. 9, 10 a.m.

Hosted by Catalyst Communities and MI EGLE

[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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