

Recycling Updates

Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources

March 2026

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RU And MRF Reporting; MyWisconsinID Required



Annual reporting season for responsible units (RUs) and materials recovery facilities (MRFs) is underway. All MRFs should have received an email inviting them to complete the MRF annual report, due March 30. RUs will receive a notification soon that they may begin the RU annual report, which is due April 30.

New this year — all RUs and MRFs will need a MyWisconsin ID to complete the reports. This log-in is replacing the WAMS ID. All RUs and MRFs should have received an email notifying them of the new requirement with instructions.

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

It is important to report any contact changes to the Department of Natural Resources (DNR) so we can ensure we are providing correspondence to the right individuals. If you have any new or revised contacts, please let us know.

- [Notify the DNR of any contact information change](#)

For more information on the annual reports, visit the DNR's [annual reports for responsible units and materials recovery facilities webpage](#).

DNR To Present On RU Annual Report And Recycling Ordinances

Join Jennifer Semrau, DNR waste reduction and diversion coordinator, for a lunch and learn on RU annual reporting and recycling ordinances. Revisions to the administrative code that oversees effective recycling programs (which went into effect July 1, 2025) require all RUs to adopt a new recycling ordinance and resulted in changes to the annual report. These new

rules will be discussed, with time for Q&A. There is no charge for the webinar, and it will be recorded.

Recycling Responsible Unit (RU) Annual Reports And New Recycling Ordinances

March 24, noon

Wisconsin Towns Association

[Join using this link](#). Passcode: 975911

AROW Award Winners Announced At WIRMC

The annual Associated Recyclers of Wisconsin (AROW) award winners were announced during the Wisconsin Integrated Resource Management Conference on Feb. 26.

AROW distributed three awards this year: Two in the Outstanding Achievement in Education category and the distinguished Christy Dixon Recycler of the Year award.

The Outstanding Achievement in Education - Organization award went to the Tri-County Partnership for their Master Recycler program. Fashioned after Master Gardener or Master Composter programs, the Tri-County created a curriculum for individuals seeking to become non-professional recycling experts. Students participate in 101, 201 and 301 courses covering recycling basics, beyond the bin and recycling in context topics with 401 requiring volunteer hours from participants to "graduate."

The Outstanding Achievement in Education - Individual award went to Kelly Reyer, from Winnebago County. Kelly wrote a book titled *The ABCs of Recycling*, which assigns a recyclable material or topic with each letter of the alphabet. Designed for third-grade students, the book has been disseminated throughout Brown, Outagamie and Winnebago counties, providing a fun, educational resource for teachers and their students.

The prestigious Christy Dixon Recycler of the Year is awarded to an individual whose career demonstrates the highest professional standards in the recycling field. This year, the award went to the DNR's own Sarah Murray in recognition of her 20-year career in waste diversion. As the long-time E-cycle Wisconsin coordinator, Sarah helped shape and shepherd to success electronics recycling in the state, resulting in over 420 million pounds of electronics recycled.

Congratulations go out to all of the winners!

Sarah Murray poses with her award. / Photo Credit: Wisconsin DNR



DNR Publishes Webpages On Reducing School Waste

The DNR recently published two webpages on school waste:

[Waste Reduction and Diversion in Wisconsin Schools](#) discusses the waste streams schools manage and how schools can go beyond the basics to save money, recover resources and



develop more sustainable school communities.

[Creating a Successful Waste Reduction and Diversion Program](#) provides a template for how schools or districts can assess how waste is currently managed, find ways to reduce, reuse and recycle more and ensure they are following state waste management requirements.

Photo Credit: iStock/SeventyFour

Foam Polystyrene Recycling Grant Closes April 17

The 2026 application period is open until April 17, 2026, for the Foodservice Packaging Institute's [Foam Recycling Coalition Grant](#). Grants of up to \$50,000 are available for applicants interested in establishing or enhancing a foam polystyrene recycling program in their community.



To be eligible, applicants must:

- operate a materials recovery facility,
- manage a residential curbside recycling program, or
- manage a drop-off or convenience site recycling program.

Upcoming Webinars, Online Conferences And Events

**All times are in Central Time.*

A Practical Guide To Data-Driven Recycling Operations

March 19, noon

Everest Labs

[Register online.](#)

Curbing Contamination: Lessons From An EPA-Funded Regional Cart Tagging Initiative

March 19, 1 p.m.

Zabble

[Register online.](#)

EPR State Of Play

March 24, 1:30 p.m.

Recycle Me and Reclay StewardEdge

[Register online.](#)

U.S. Policy Updates For The Waste Industry

March 31, 9 a.m.

Be Waste Wise

[Register online.](#)

How To Bring Composting To Your Community: A U.S. Composting Council Tour Of The "Target Organics" Hub

March 31, 3 p.m.

U.S. Composting Council

[Register online.](#)

Consumer Food Waste Webinar: MCURC Repurpose With A Purpose

April 13, 11:30 a.m.

Rutgers — Consumer Food Waste Community of Practice

[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.