

Recycling Updates

Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources

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DNR Releases Waste Reduction And Diversion Guide For Schools

The Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources (DNR) has published [Waste Reduction and Diversion in Wisconsin Schools: Quick Steps for School and District Staff](#).

The guide walks through the steps staff can take to evaluate and reduce the waste generated within schools, which ultimately saves money, recovers valuable resources and builds a sustainable school community.

Hard copies of the guide are also free to order through the DNR's [Recycling, Composting & Waste Reduction Publications Order Form](#).



Schools can access additional resources and information on the following webpages:

- [Creating a Successful Waste Reduction and Diversion Program](#)
- [Waste Reduction and Diversion in Wisconsin Schools](#)

Reminder: Recycling Responsible Units Required To Adopt New Ordinance



All recycling responsible units (RUs) are required to adopt a new recycling ordinance to incorporate changes in the recycling rule revision that went into effect July 1, 2025.

The Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources (DNR)'s recycling ordinance template can be found on the [DNR website](#) (in a downloadable, fillable Microsoft Word version). The DNR highly recommends that RUs use the ordinance template as it contains required code language.

DNR staff are also available to review draft ordinances before passage to ensure the revised ordinance will meet the new requirements. Please send your draft ordinance to DNRRecycling@wisconsin.gov and specify that it is a DRAFT ordinance for which review is requested.

E-Cycle Wisconsin Releases New Electronics Recycling PSA

E-Cycle Wisconsin has released a new 15 second public service announcement warning of the dangers of placing electronics in garbage and recycling carts and encouraging members of the public to drop their electronics at a collection site.

View [Skip The Bins!](#) on YouTube.



Winnebago County Launches Recycle Right Resources Trunk For Elementary Students

Winnebago County has brought [The ABCs of Recycling Right](#) to life with its Recycle Right Resource Trunk for elementary students. Kelly Reyer, Winnebago County's Education & Outreach Specialist, provides the background:

Who is the intended audience?

What began as *The ABC's of Recycling Right* book grew into something even bigger. The Recycle Right Resource Trunks were created to bring the book's lessons to life, giving students throughout Winnebago County the opportunity to explore recycling and resource management through hands-on activities, games, experiments and real-world examples. By making learning interactive and accessible, the trunks help inspire the next generation of environmental stewards while supporting teachers with ready-to-use educational resources. The elementary Recycle Right Resource Trunk is available to borrow all summer! It's perfect for summer camps, nature centers, library programs, daycare groups, youth organizations and other summer enrichment activities looking for fun, hands-on recycling education.



There's even more to look forward to – middle and high school trunks will be available for the fall semester.

We're excited to help spread recycling education throughout Winnebago County.

What lessons does it teach?

The elementary school trunk is packed with ready-to-use materials, including a binder with a welcome letter, presentation link, activity instructions, upcycling ideas, school challenges, and a sample letter to send home. You'll also find a copy of *The ABC's of Recycling Right*, four engaging activities from the book (with all supplies included!), and the interactive Wheel of Recycling.

How can it be checked out? Is there a cost?

There's no cost to borrow a trunk. Interested parties just need to [complete a form](#) to get started.

Can people contact you with questions?

Absolutely.

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EPA Publishes Report On Best Practices For Battery Collection



The U.S. EPA has released its [Battery Collection Best Practices Report](#) to Congress. In addition to giving an overview of the different types of batteries and the current state of battery recycling in the U.S., the report also provides best practices for:

- State, territory and local governments
- Tribal governments
- Battery collection sites

This report complements the EPA's [Battery Collection Best Practices Toolkit](#).

Access To Paper Cup Recycling Reaches 20% Of U.S. Population

In May, the FoodService Packaging Institute announced that nearly 9 million households, or 20% of the U.S. population, are in communities with access to paper cup recycling. This is up from an estimated 5% of the U.S. population in 2017.



Access the full [press release](#) to learn how this achievement was accomplished.

Upcoming Webinars, Online Conferences And Events

**All times are in Central Time.*

Beyond The Buzzwords: Understanding Bio-Based, Biodegradable & Compostable Materials

June 22, 12:30 p.m.
Northeast Recycling Council
[Register online.](#)

Get the Dirt: Live Composting Expert Panel

July 22, noon
Institute of Local Self-Reliance
[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

You are subscribed to the Recycling Updates from the Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources. These updates are now available only through periodic email newsletters. For information on past updates or to share new information, please contact Jennifer Semrau at Jennifer.Semrau@wisconsin.gov.