

Recycling Updates

Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources

September 2026

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DNR Updates: Recycling Excellence Awards, RU Guidance, Recycling Grant, MRF Stakeholder Meeting, SWIP Meeting

Reminder: Nomination Period For Recycling Excellence Awards Closes Sept. 14

Take a few minutes to submit a nomination for a Recycling Excellence Award by Sept. 14. Forms and instructions are available on the [Recycling Excellence Awards webpage](#). Communities, organizations, schools and businesses dedicated to waste reduction and diversion are encouraged to apply.



Responsible Unit (RU) Guidance Posted For Public Comment

[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. The deadline to supply comments is Sept. 18.

Reminder: Application For Basic Recycling Grant To Responsible Units Due Oct. 1

Responsible Units (RUs) must submit their grant application for the [Basic Recycling Grant to Responsible Units](#) by Oct. 1 to be eligible for full funding. Applications submitted after Oct. 1 are subject to reduced funding according to the following schedule:

Date Submitted	Percent Funding
By Oct. 1	100%
By Oct. 10	95%

Date Submitted Percent Funding

By Oct. 20 90%

By Oct. 30 75%

Oct. 31 or later 0%

Materials Recovery Facility (MRF) Stakeholder Meeting To Be Held Oct. 2

The Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources (DNR) is hosting its annual MRF Stakeholder Meeting on Oct. 2. Details will be emailed directly to MRFs and are posted by the DNR's [Requirements for Materials Recovery Facilities \(MRFs\) webpage](#).

Register Now: Solid Waste Interested Parties Meeting Oct. 8

The DNR will hold its annual Solid Waste Interested Parties (SWIP) meeting Oct. 8 at 1 p.m. via Teams webinar.

The meeting will focus on Waste and Materials Management Program finances, the statewide annual recycling data report, and a summary of the proposed non-landfill solid waste rule changes, which will be open for public comment at the time of the meeting.

- [Register for the meeting](#)

A full agenda will be posted on the [SWIP webpage](#) in advance of the meeting. For questions, contact Casey.Krausensky@wisconsin.gov.

AROW Lunch & Learn On Recycling Apps Sept. 30



Recycling apps are a relatively new method of communicating recycling information to residents. The Associated Recyclers of Wisconsin is hosting a lunchtime talk focused on two apps- Recycle Coach and BetterBin. Guest speakers will give an overview of the apps, how they are being used in their communities and

lessons learned from implementation.

Register for [There's an App for That: Using Recycling Apps to Improve Recycling](#).

Dane County Collecting Batteries For Free Throughout September

Dane County Waste & Renewables is currently collecting household batteries and battery-containing devices for free throughout September. This effort seeks to make it easier for residents to safely dispose of batteries while reducing fire risk for sanitation workers and waste facilities.



Read the [press release](#) announcing the effort.

Discover other collection sites that accept batteries and/or battery-containing devices by visiting:

- [The Battery Network](#)
- [E-Cycle Wisconsin collection site list](#)
- [Wisconsin Recycling Markets Directory](#)

Join Food Waste Prevention Week, Sept. 28-Oct. 4



Food Waste Prevention Week is a global initiative that creates a shared space for learning, action and reconnecting with the value of food. This year's theme is *Food Heroes in Your Neighborhood* and spotlights the local people and organizations working on food waste.

Sign up to be a partner, submit a Food Hero nomination and access promotional materials by visiting the [Food Waste Prevention Week webpage](#).

Upcoming Webinars, Online Conferences And Events

**All times are in Central Time.*

Film Plastics: Effective Recovery And Management Strategies

Sept. 17, 11 a.m.

Paper and Plastics Recycling Conference

[Register online.](#)

Making Food Scraps Collection Accessible And Optimizing Community Composting For Climate Resilience

Sept. 28, 11 a.m.

Clean Composting Company and Cariboo Compost

[Register online.](#)

Artificial Intelligence Literacy For Recycling Professionals

Sept. 29, 12:30 p.m.

Pennsylvania Recycling Markets Center and the National Recycling Coalition

[Register online.](#)

It's Elementary: Measures To Reduce Food Waste In K-12 Public Schools

Sept. 29, 11 a.m.

Environmental Law Institute

[Register online.](#)

Zero Food Waste At Large-Scale Events: Peeling The Onion Beyond Food Recovery

Oct. 1, 3 p.m.

Sustainable Events Network

[Register online.](#)

Centering Community In Preventing Wasted Food: Lesson Learned For The Future

Oct. 2, 1 p.m.

StopWaste, Food Shift and Climate Changemakers Madison

[Register online.](#)

National Zero Waste Conference

Oct. 21-22

Zero Waste USA

[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.