

# MRF TURF



## Winter 2017

The Quarterly Newsletter of the Manitowoc County Recycling Center

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#### CHRISTMAS LIGHTS

The Manitowoc County Recycling Center is accepting unwanted Christmas lights for FREE. Strings of lights are highly recyclable, even with the bulbs in them. Bring them to the Recycling Center Main Office at 3000 Basswood Road Monday-Friday between 7am and 4pm.



Replacing old lights with new energy efficient LED lights can help you save on your electric bill.

All string lights will be accepted as well as extension cords. Garland, wreaths, trees and other lighted decorations will not be accepted. Normal light bulbs, including spot lights, compact fluorescents, fluorescent tubes, and incandescent bulbs can be recycled but normal fees apply.

Visit the Recycling Center at [www.manitowocrecycles.org](http://www.manitowocrecycles.org) or call 920-683-4333 to learn more about Christmas Light Recycling and similar programs offered in Manitowoc County.

LAMP RECYCLING is one of the services provided by the Manitowoc County Recycling Center's ongoing electronics collection program. Some lamps, including fluorescent tubes, compact fluorescent bulbs and high intensity discharge bulbs, contain small amounts of mercury that can be harmful to human health and the environment when they are disposed of in the trash. Even incandescent bulbs contain lead, which is also a toxic metal. All the materials in these bulbs can be recycled. Over the last five years the Recycling Center has collected approximately 82,000 bulbs from residents and businesses. Once received, the bulbs are carefully packaged for shipping to a specialized recycling facility where hazardous materials are safely removed. All the materials in these bulbs can be recycled without generating any waste. Even the hazardous materials, like mercury, can be recovered and reused.

Bring your burnt out bulbs and ballasts to the main office at the Manitowoc County Recycling Center. When transporting large amounts of fluorescent tubes secure them in boxes or by taping them together in manageable bundles. Make sure to use an easy release tape like painter's tape.



Item	Fee
4 ft. Fluorescent Light Bulbs	\$ 0.40 each
8 ft. Fluorescent Light Bulbs	\$ 0.50 each
Compact Fluorescent Light Bulbs	\$ 0.40 each
High Intensity Discharge (HID) Light Bulbs	\$ 1.35 each
LED Bulbs	\$2.60 each
Incandescent, Flood and Spot Light Bulbs	\$ 0.30 each
Ballasts (non-PCB)	\$0.55 per lb
Ballasts (PCB)	\$0.93 per lb
Capacitors (non-PCB)	\$0.95 per lb
Capacitors (PCB)	\$4.40 per lb
*There will be an additional fee for broken light bulbs.	

#### Mission Statement

To provide materials recycling and recovery services to the citizens of Manitowoc County and to keep the public informed about recycling issues.



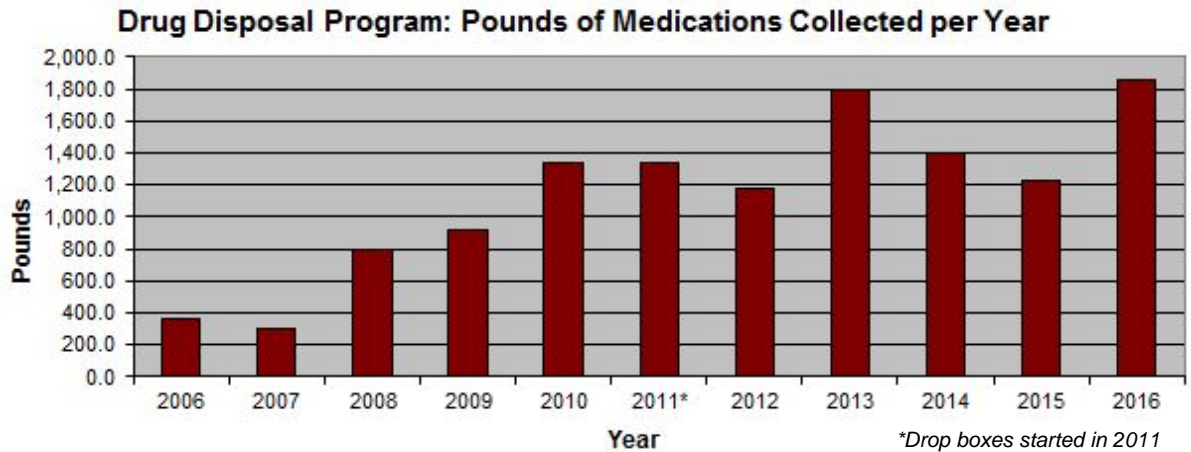
**Manitowoc County Recycling Center & Compost Sites**  
3000 Basswood Road, Manitowoc WI  
920-683-4333

[www.manitowocrecycles.org](http://www.manitowocrecycles.org)



**2016 DRUG DISPOSAL PROGRAM RESULTS**

Thanks to the many participants, 2016 was a record year for the drug collection program. Throughout the year a total of 3 collection events were held that served 307 households. Drop boxes were available at the police departments in the City of Two Rivers and Manitowoc. After all the medications were collected, and packaging was removed, a total of 1,862 pounds was turned in. This was a record amount for the program. This included over the counter medications, dietary supplements, prescription medication and pet medications. The Drug Collection Program started in 2006 and has since collected 12,509.6 pounds of medications.



Unused medications present public health and safety concerns within the community. Medications may lay around the house for weeks or even years. This is often when medications are stolen from relatives and acquaintances. Stolen medications wind up on the illegal drug market where they are abused and have resulted in unintended poisonings as well as overdoses in our community. Pharmaceutical chemicals can also show up in the water supply. This is largely due to the common practice of flushing them down the toilet or throwing them in the trash.

Permanent Dropbox Locations:

Manitowoc City Police Dept: 910 Jay Street, Manitowoc, 7:30am—4:30pm M-F  
 Two Rivers Police Dept: 1717 East Park Street, Two Rivers, 8am—4:30pm M-F

Directions:

Remove pills from original container and put them in a sealed "ziplock" style bag that is quart size or smaller before placing in the drug drop box. Empty pill containers may be placed in your home recycling or trash. Liquid, powder, and cream medications should remain in the original bottles. Accepted medications include over the counter, prescriptions, and pet medications. Never dump thermometers, sharps, or chemicals in a drop box.



Information on the 2017 Drug Disposal Program will be posted on [www.manitowocrecycles.org](http://www.manitowocrecycles.org) once it is available or you can call the Recycling Center at 920-683-4333.

**MERCURY REDUCTION: THERMOSTATS**

Many old non digital thermostats contain mercury. Tossing these old thermostats, or any other mercury containing device, into the garbage will contribute to mercury contamination. The Manitowoc County Recycling Center accepts mercury containing thermostats year round as part of an ongoing mercury reduction program. Drop off your thermostat at the Recycling Center Main Office located at 3000 Basswood Road Monday through Friday between 7am and 4pm. Please leave the thermostat intact. When transporting them, cushion the item and place it in a sealed container.



Improvements in heating system controls have rendered mercury thermostats inadequate. Newer programmable thermostats can save money on heating and cooling costs. When upgrading your heating system be sure to properly dispose of the old mercury thermostat.

These mercury switch thermostats have been in use since the 1950s and are commonly found in older homes. Each thermostat can contain up to 3 grams of mercury in a sealed glass bulb called an ampoule. If this bulb is broken the mercury will spill out. Mercury and other heavy metals can be a threat to human and environmental health when improperly managed. Common sources of mercury, like thermostats, thermometers, light bulbs and electronics have no place in our landfills and should be properly recycled.

**RECYCLE YOUR HOLIDAY TREE**

Manitowoc County residents and businesses may drop off their natural holiday trees at the Basswood Compost Site. Remove all ornaments, tinsel, lights, stands and storage bags from trees before dropping off. If your tree is more than 6 feet long, please cut it in half. The Basswood compost site is located at 3000 Basswood Rd., near the intersection of CTY P and R. Please call 683-4333 or visit [www.manitowocrecycles.org](http://www.manitowocrecycles.org) for information.



According to the National Christmas Tree Association around 29 million natural trees are sold over the holidays. Many of these trees are recycled once their holiday usefulness is over. Used natural trees can be chipped and turned into wood mulch. Mulch is used for groundcover and erosion control in landscaping projects and trails. Another popular use is for constructing wildlife habitat. If properly placed in a backyard these holiday conifers provide shelter and protection for songbirds during the winter. Placed in loose piles at the edge of a woodland, these trees help many wildlife including birds, small mammals and even the animals that depend on them for food. Many sportsmen will construct these brush piles to attract small game or to create hunting blinds. Carefully placed piles on the ice in lakes can be used to create fish habitat once the ice melts and the trees sink to the bottom. Be sure to check for restrictions before building fish or wildlife structures.

Holiday trees may be taken for free from the Manitowoc County Basswood Compost Site during normal business hours. Whole trees will be set aside in a separate pile for those interested in using them.

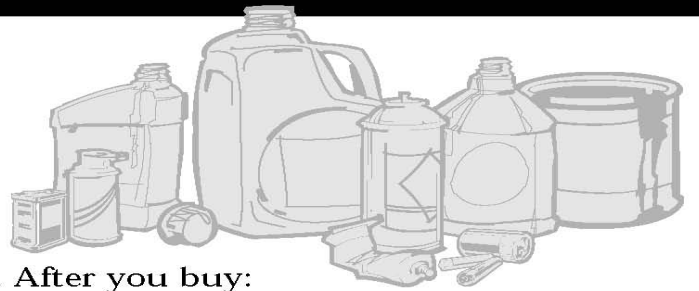
**HAZARDOUS WASTE REDUCTION**

The 2017 Hazardous Waste Clean Sweep for Households, Farms and Businesses will be held on **May 19 and 20**. Details for this popular program will be available in the next issue of this newsletter and online.

While the Clean Sweep program is a great way to dispose of your hazardous waste, the key is to prevent it in the first place. The best way to do this is to use non-hazardous products. If an alternative is not available, then follow these hazardous waste reduction tips:

**Household HazWaste: Reduction as your first choice**

Reduce the amount of potentially hazardous products in your home and eliminate what you throw away by following these easy steps:



**1. Before you buy:**

- Read the labels and be aware of what they mean.
- Look for these words on labels; they tell you what products may need special handling or disposal:
 

Caution	Flammable
Warning	Combustible
Danger	Explosive
Poison	Volatile
Toxic	Corrosive
- Select a product best suited for the job.
- Buy only what you can use entirely.

**2. After you buy:**

- Read precautions and follow directions for safe use.
- Use recommended amounts; more is not necessarily better.
- Store properly and keep in original container.
- Use the child-resistant closures and keep them on tightly.
- Share what you can't use with friends or neighbors.
- Recycle/dispose of empty container properly.

For more information on the Clean Sweep event or hazardous waste reduction, visit the Hazardous Waste section at [www.manitowocrecycles.org](http://www.manitowocrecycles.org) or call 683-4333.

All residents are encouraged to dispose of latex paint in their regular trash. Just take the lid off and let it dry or add paint hardener or cat litter. Latex paint is not considered hazardous waste. Once hardened, latex paint can be safely disposed of in the trash.



**SMOKE DETECTOR DISPOSAL**

Neither the Recycling Center or Clean Sweep Program accepts unwanted smoke detectors. Certain types of smoke alarms contain trace amounts of radiation. The Environmental Protection Agency recommends that households return them to the manufacturer for proper disposal. Please contact the smoke detector manufacturer for instructions on proper disposal. Contact information should be available in the instruction manual, on their website, or on the back of the unit. Owners of unwanted Kidde smoke detectors can call 800-880-6788. Owners of First Alert and BRK smoke detectors should call 800-323-9005.

Residents who do not want to ship smoke detectors to manufacturers may dispose of them in the regular trash as they are not covered under current landfill bans.



**PARK RECYCLING**

The City of Manitowoc was recently awarded a grant for recycling containers from Keep America Beautiful and Dr. Pepper Snapple Group. The recycling bins will be placed at many city parks including Washington, Red Arrow, Upper Schuette, Citizens, and Lincoln Parks as well as others. These new bins will help facilitate away from home recycling in the City of Manitowoc.

Recycling in public places can be a challenge for people since it can often be difficult, or sometimes impossible, to locate a recycling container in many public places. If you are unsure of where to recycle in a park or other public place you visit frequently then it is best to ask someone. Even if they do not offer recycling your question may prompt them to do something about it.

If you know that recycling may not be accessible where you frequent consider keeping a small bag in your vehicle and bringing your recyclables home with you or to a place that offers recycling. Planning a party or gathering at a public place? Bring extra bags to collect recyclables in.

Public place recycling can also be challenging for staff tasked with tending to the containers so it is important to use them properly by only placing items in that they are designed to collect.



**THE HIERARCHY OF WASTE MANAGEMENT**

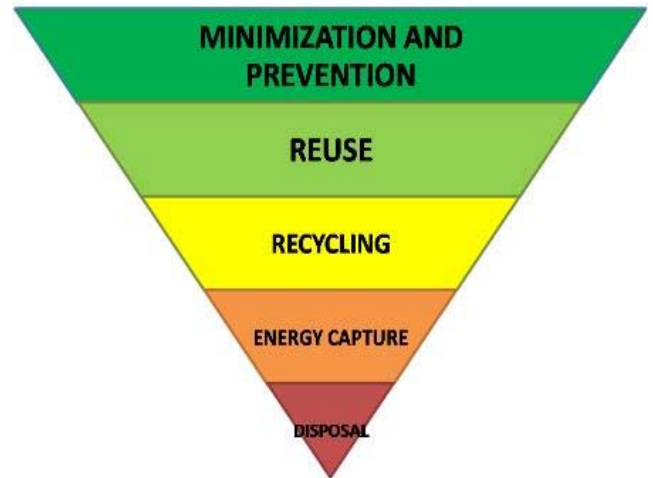
This concept illustrates the preferred way to manage waste. The inverted pyramid places the most favorable options at the top and the least favorable options on the bottom. This approach to waste can be applied at many scales: from the individual or household, to a business, school or even a city or county.

Waste minimization and prevention covers reduction. It is the largest tier because it is the preferred method since it prevents waste from being generated in the first place. This could include purchasing concentrated products, products with minimal packaging, or packaging that is easily reused or recycled.

The next level down, reuse, is the simple act of finding a different use for an item. This includes anytime you sell, donate or purchase a used item. Other reuse practices include using reusable shopping bags, borrowing or renting items instead of buying them, or using a container for a planter or storage. It also covers refurbishing or repairing items or using them for art or design projects.

Recycling refers to taking the material an item is made from and using it to make another item. Recycling differs from reuse because it involves more processing to make the new item. While recycling is beneficial and has an important place in the waste hierarchy, it is less favorable than minimization or reuse because it requires resources to do it.

Energy Capture is using waste to generate energy. This option is less useful for individuals or households but can have a place for certain industries or communities when it makes economic sense to do it. It includes waste to energy plants that incinerate solid waste and use the heat to generate electricity, or biodigesters that generate electricity from the burning of the methane gasses produced from the anaerobic digestion of certain types of waste.



**RECYCLING DEPOT**

The Manitowoc Recycling Center maintains a residential drop off area at the Recycling Center Main office located at 3000 Basswood Road. It is open Monday-Friday from 7am to 4pm, and Saturday from 8am to Noon. This site is intended for use by all county residents. There is no trash or garbage drop off at this location. Contact a local hauler or the Ridgeview Landfill for disposal of trash. Different municipal drop off sites may be more accessible to you depending on the city, township or village you are from.

General Drop Site Guidelines

- Place your recyclables in the bunker or receptacle labeled for that material.
- Remove any plastic bags or strings and take them home with you to place in your trash.
- Do not place nonacceptable items in the bunkers or receptacles.
- Do not place materials outside receptacles on the ground.
- Large loads of cardboard, paper or plastic can be placed on appropriate pile on the tipping floor.
- Use caution driving through the drop site and on the tipping floor.

<p><u>Paper</u> Includes newspapers, junk mail, magazines, computer paper, books with metal or plastic binding removed etc.. Paper should be clean and dry. No paper contaminated with food or oil. No paper coated with foil, plastic or heavy glue. No plastic/foil wrapping paper.</p> 	<p><u>Plastic</u> Check for a neck. <b>We only accept #1 and #2 bottles and jars.</b> Remove the caps, rinse and flatten. No tub shaped containers or bottles that contained oil or pesticide (even if rinsed). No plastic wraps, films, bags, trays, pails, packaging peanuts, Styrofoam, or any other non bottle shaped item. Please do not tie milk jugs together or tie in plastic bags.</p> 
<p><u>Glass Bottles</u> Any color glass bottle or jar can be recycled. Put into designated bunker. Remove lids or caps and rinse. No window glass, mirrors, light bulbs, clay, ceramics, drinking glasses or ovenware.</p> 	<p><u>Cartons</u> Cartons include shelf stable and refrigerated containers for wine, milk, juice, cream, soy milk, soup, and egg substitutes. Drop off cartons with the plastic bottles. They should be emptied and flattened.</p> 
<p><u>Cardboard</u> Should be clean and flattened. No soiled cardboard or cardboard coated with wax, tin, or plastic.</p> 	<p><u>Cans</u> Tin, steel, and aluminum cans. Coated cans, foil, and pie tins are ok. Empty and rinse out food residue.</p> 

**ELECTRONIC NEWSLETTER REQUEST**

Are you interested in receiving current updates recycling programs in Manitowoc County? Join our electronic mailing list to receive our quarterly newsletter. Either call us at 920-683-4333 or email [jonreisenbuechler@co.manitowoc.wi.us](mailto:jonreisenbuechler@co.manitowoc.wi.us) and request to be added to our email distribution list. The recycling center will not give away or sell your information. You will receive our quarterly newsletter detailing news and information about the recycling center and related events.

*The Manitowoc County Recycling Center is managed and operated by Holiday House of Manitowoc County Inc. Serving people with disabilities since 1957.*



*The Manitowoc County Recycling Center is a business unit of the Manitowoc County Department of Public Works and is operated in partnership with the Manitowoc County Expo Center.*

