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Winter 2016

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 or call 920-683-4333 to learn more about Christmas Light Recycling and similar programs offered in Manitowoc County.

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.

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



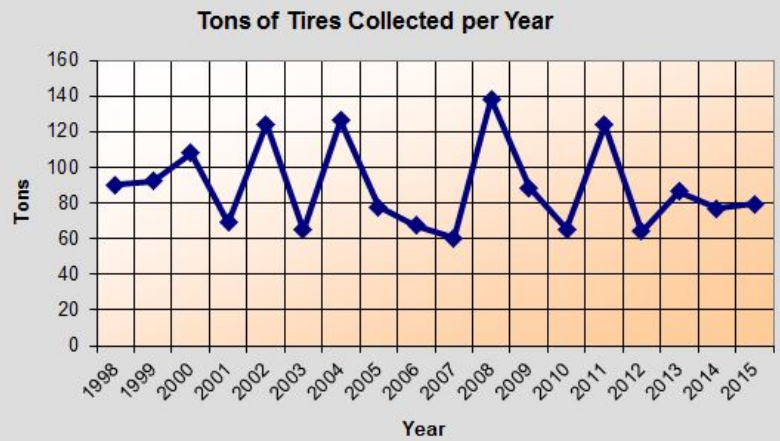
WASTE TIRE COLLECTION RESULTS

Manitowoc County residents and businesses can be proud of their commitment to recycling and the betterment of our environment! Thanks to the many participants, the Manitowoc County Recycling Center's 2015 Tire Collection brought in 79.2 tons of waste tires. The majority of this was car tires, though there were many other types, such as; bicycle, ATV, lawnmower, tractor, semi, and race car tires.

The annual Waste Tire Collection started in 1998 and has collected 1602.8 tons of tires since it began. Every year in mid September, residents, farms, and businesses bring in between 60 and 140 tons of unwanted tires to this collection. Once the collection is finished, all the tires are shipped out to a reputable tire recycler that specializes in recycling tires.

Waste tires can be reused in a number of beneficial ways. They can be shredded into rubber chips and used as artificial turf or as a groundcover in playgrounds. Tire rubber can be incorporated into asphalt roads, athletic tracks and used in other rubber products. Depending on what other materials are in the tire they may also be used as a fuel source. When burned in specially designed incinerators the release of noxious smoke can be controlled. Nylon and steel that is commonly found in tires is also recycled.

Watch for the next tire collection to be held for two weeks in mid-September next year!



DRUG DISPOSAL: PROGRAM UPDATE.

Our guidelines have recently changed to make this program more efficient and safe. Please read below and follow the new guidelines when bringing your unwanted medications to a drop box or drug collection event.

The new guidelines took effect in August 2015. It was estimated that roughly 75% of the event participants followed the update. This helped the events run very efficiently. Overall, the 2015 drug disposal program collected 1231.1 pounds of unwanted medication (not including the packaging/bottles). Thank you to all the participants who use this program! Your efforts are appreciated.

Guidelines:

- Accepted drugs include prescriptions, over the counter, pet medications, and controlled substances.
- Place pills in a "ziplock" style bag that is quart size or less. Liquids, cremes, and powders can stay in the original container.
- Pill bottles and boxes are NOT accepted. Cross out your personal information and dispose of them or recycle them at home.
- Needles, sharps, mercury devices, chemical waste, electronic glucose monitors, non-medical inhalers will NOT be accepted.
- Do NOT bring medications to drug disposal events before or after the listed times.
- Households only. Businesses should call 683-4333 for disposal information.
- Practice safe storage by keeping your medications in a secured location.
- Practice reduction by consulting with your physician about your medication needs.
- Never share your prescriptions with another person.



Permanent Dropbox Locations:

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

If you have questions, visit www.manitowocrecycles.org or call the Manitowoc County Recycling Center at 683-4333.

The Manitowoc County Drug Disposal Program is made possible through the Manitowoc County Drug Disposal Collaborative. This group consists of members from the Manitowoc County Metro Drug Unit, Sheriff's Department, Public Works Department, Recycling Center, Health Department, Aging and Disability Resource Center, North East Wisconsin Area Health Education Center—Substance Abuse Prevention Coalition, Manitowoc City Police Department, Two Rivers City Police Department, and the Kiel Police Department.

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 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 2016 Hazardous Waste Clean Sweep for Households, Farms and Businesses will be held on **May 13 and 14**. 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

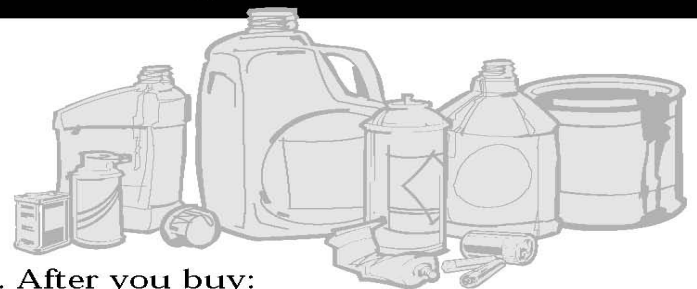
Reduce the amount of potentially hazardous products in your home and eliminate what you throw away by following these easy steps:

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 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.



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.

Paper

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.



Plastic

Check for a neck. We only accept #1 and #2 bottles and jars. 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.



Glass Bottles

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.



Cartons

Cartons include shelf stable and refrigerated containers for wine, milk, juice, cream, soy milk, soup, and egg substitutes. Drop off cartons with the with the plastic bottles. They should be emptied and flattened.



Cardboard

Should be clean and flattened. No soiled cardboard or cardboard coated with wax, tin, or plastic.



Cans

Tin, steel, and aluminum cans. Coated cans, foil, and pie tins are ok. Empty and rinse out food residue.



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.mantowoc.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.

