

For Immediate Release

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Subject:

America Recycles Day

AMERICA RECYCLES DAY: NOVEMBER 15

Our country produces around 251 million tons of municipal waste every year. Manitowoc County produces around 36,000 tons of waste annually. When strolling over to the waste can or recycling bin at home or work to toss in that unwanted item, remember that November 15 is America Recycles Day and recycling is one of the easiest things that we can all do to improve our communities, conserve natural resources and create green jobs.

America Recycles Day is November 15, 2014. It is a nationally recognized day designed to build awareness of recycling and its benefits and to encourage people to buy recycled products. By recycling, you can help reduce emissions of greenhouse gas and water pollution, save energy, supply valuable manufacturing materials, create jobs, and reduce the need for new landfills.



People can easily participate by making an effort to learn about the recycling programs in their community. Visit the Manitowoc County Recycling Center website at www.manitowocrecycles.org to learn more about local recycling and disposal options. Or try www.recyclomorewisconsin.org for information about recycling guidelines throughout Wisconsin. If you want to do more, then make an effort to buy products that contain recycled content or purchase products that can be easily recycled in your community. Visit the America Recycles Day website at <http://americarecyclesday.org> and take the recycling pledge. If you use social media you can share a photo of yourself recycling on Facebook, Twitter, Tumbler or Instagram with the hashtag #RecyclingSelfie for a chance to receive prizes.

Manitowoc County has demonstrated a very proactive approach towards recycling. In the early 90's, before the existing recycling program, approximately 58,000 tons of solid waste was landfilled from Manitowoc County per year. That number has been reduced to around 36,000 tons in 2013 because of the recycling and waste reduction efforts. In 2013 there was 6.6 million pounds of paper and cardboard and 589,000 pounds of plastic bottles recycled at the local recycling center. Despite these impressive numbers, there is still room to improve. The Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) estimates that Americans recycled 63% of their paper and cardboard in 2010. The National Association for PET Container Resources estimated that just 29% of the PET bottles were recycled in 2011.

Manitowoc County recognizes Thursday, November 15th, 2014, as America Recycles Day and acknowledges our county's recycling efforts. The Manitowoc County Recycling Center and Department of Public Works would like to thank Manitowoc County residents and businesses for participating in recycling and special collection programs like Shingle Recycling, Food and Beverage Carton Recycling, Hazardous Waste Clean Sweep, Drug Disposal Program, Waste Tire Collection, Electronics Collection and the Composting Sites. By taking the time to learn about and use these programs and others, participants have helped improve our community, environment and economics. Visit the Recycling Center at www.manitowocrecycles.org or call 920-683-4333 to learn more about these programs and help improve recycling in Manitowoc County.