

City of Madison/Dane County Clean Sweep Program Spring, 2011 Newsletter

2011 Clean Sweep Season: Site Opens Tuesday, May 3rd



The Clean Sweep Program for recycling household hazardous waste will open its 2011 season on **Tuesday, May 3rd, 2011**. Normal hours of operation are on **Tuesdays, Wednesdays, Fridays and Saturdays from 7:30 a.m. to 2:00 p.m.** The collection site is located on 2302 Fish Hatchery Road in Madison, north of the intersection of Fish Hatchery and Badger

Roads. The last day of the season will be Saturday, October 29th 2011. **Please remember that leaving materials at the site when it is closed is illegal and can lead to a \$2000 forfeiture.**

The Clean Sweep Program provides an opportunity for residents of Dane County to safely dispose of household hazardous materials, free of charge. The program includes a Product Exchange area, where many high quality and usable products brought into Clean Sweep each season are made available to the public, free of charge.

Clean Sweep Business Program

The Clean Sweep Program also accepts materials from businesses and local units of government who are Very Small Quantity Generators (VSQG's) of hazardous waste. Waste materials from VSQG's are accepted on **Thursday mornings by appointment**. Prior arrangements need to be made before bringing materials to the site, and there is a per pound charge for use of the program. **Agricultural businesses (Ag VSQG's) are advised that they are required to pay for 50% of the disposal costs for wastes brought to Clean Sweep in 2011, in accordance with WDATCP grant requirements. As always, farmers will be allowed to dispose of their agricultural and household chemicals free of charge in 2011.** All VSQG customers must pre-register and submit an inventory of the materials to be delivered. Registration is available on our web site at www.danecountycleansweep.com or by calling Dave Radisewitz, the Clean Sweep Coordinator, at 243-0347.

For more information on Clean Sweep programs, please refer to our web site at www.danecountycleansweep.com, or call our Information Hotline at (608) 243-0368.

Sale of Mercury-containing Devices Now Prohibited in Wisconsin



"Mercury is a hazardous material that can cause serious environmental and human health problems," says Sue Bangert, administrator of the Air and Waste Division in the Department of Natural Resources. "When products containing mercury are broken, disposed of in a landfill, or incinerated, they risk releasing mercury into the environment, and once it is in the environment, mercury cannot be removed." Mercury-containing devices may no longer be sold in Wisconsin under a new law that went into effect Nov. 1, 2010. Wisconsin Act 44 created Sections 118.07 (4) and 299.49 of the Wisconsin Statutes to ban the sale of many devices made with mercury. The ban covers devices for which mercury-free alternatives are widely available:

- fever thermometers unless prescribed by a practitioner;
- manometers of the type used in milking machines on dairy farms;
- instruments or measuring devices, including barometers, flowmeters, hydrometers and other thermometers;
- thermostats, mercury switches and relays; and
- household items including, toys, jewelry, over-the-counter pharmaceuticals and cosmetics.

New rule also regulates use of mercury in Wisconsin schools

Wis. Act 44 also includes regulations on mercury in schools. Since the beginning of 2010, schools were no longer allowed to purchase free-flowing mercury or any mercury-containing equipment. Beginning January 1, 2012, schools may no longer store mercury anywhere in the building, and must remove all traces of mercury from science labs, equipment and machinery. Schools are not required to make any unplanned changes to equipment such as thermostats or other mercury-containing HVAC infrastructure.

The Dane County Clean Sweep program currently accepts elemental mercury, mercury compounds and most types of mercury-containing devices for recycling.

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MedDrop Program Changes

In 2010, local officials and program supporters collaborated on changes intended to strengthen MedDrop, the highly successful pharmaceutical waste collection program in Dane County. Medicine collection programs like MedDrop make it easy for residents to safely remove potentially dangerous medicine from their homes and prevent them from contaminating our water. The MedDrop program provides a local solution to a public health issue that has become a national concern. Prescription drug overdoses are now the leading type of poisoning that result in death or hospitalization among residents of Madison and Dane County.

For the past three years, the MedDrop program has relied upon local temporary medicine collection events to accomplish its goals. In late 2010, MedDrop launched a plan intended to improve program accessibility and convenience for Dane County residents. The plan developed by Public Health Madison and Dane County (PHMDC) and the MedDrop advisory group envisions phasing out the temporary collection events in favor of the establishment of seven to ten permanent medicine drop-off boxes to be located at local law enforcement offices in Madison and Dane County. The two public drop boxes currently in service are located at:

Madison Police East Precinct (809 E. Thompson Drive)

Middleton Police Department (7341 Donna Drive)

Any Dane County resident can use either drop box location for medicine disposal. Madison and Middleton police have collected more than 800 pounds of unwanted medications from these drop boxes in the past 4 months. Since it began in October 2007, MedDrop has collected over 19,000 pounds of medications in Dane County.

Currently, there is one MedDrop collection event for 2011. This event is tentatively scheduled for June, 2011. Collection site locations and hours of operation will be posted on the MedDrop website.

For additional information and updates, visit the MedDrop website at www.meddropdane.org.

2010 Clean Sweep Season Summary

The 2010 season was again a highly productive season for the City of Madison/Dane County Clean Sweep program. During 2010, program staff:

- Received and managed a grand total of **704,819** pounds of waste materials, a **14%** decrease from 2009 totals;
- Recycled **286,557** pounds of latex paint;
- Returned a total of **25,519** useable products (having an estimated weight of **91,317** lbs) to **3,353** customers through the collection facility product exchange;
- Serviced a grand total of 10,231 customers, including **6,807** household drop-offs, **3,353** product exchange customers, and **61** businesses;
- Collected and recycled **192** auto batteries and approximately **650** pounds of other rechargeable batteries.

Wisconsin Residents Now Need to Recycle Used Oil filters



Each year, Wisconsinites throw away an estimated 187,000 gallons of oil in used oil filters and 1.6 million gallons of oil in oil absorbents. A new law bans the disposal of used automotive oil filters and oil absorbent materials in landfills in Wisconsin as of

January 1, 2011. The ban covers everyone in the state, including homeowners, farmers, businesses, industrial operations, and others.

The oil filters and absorbents ban is intended to keep these materials out of Wisconsin landfills and out of the landfill leachate that is collected from landfills and often treated at municipal wastewater treatment facilities.

Filters also contain steel components that can be recycled. Recycling the approximately nine million filters that currently enter the landfill will save more than 4.5 million pounds of steel for reuse. Recycling options for oil filters and oil absorbent materials are available throughout the state. Many businesses that perform oil changes will accept used oil filters. Some

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communities allow used oil and oil filters to be collected at their waste transfer stations or at specific collection sites.

People should contact their local recycling program for more information. To find other recycling options in your community, see the [Wisconsin Recycling Markets Directory](#) (exit DNR; to find oil filter recyclers, select the "Motor Vehicle Items" category and select oil filters. To find oil absorbent recyclers, select the "Other Materials" category and select oil absorbents) on the University of Wisconsin Cooperative Extension Solid and Hazardous Waste Education website.

Wisconsin landfills for disposal. The state's tipping fee on municipal waste rose from about \$6 per ton to nearly \$13 per ton in 2009. The state-imposed landfill tipping fee varies according to the type of waste thrown away. Revenue from tipping fees is used to support the state recycling program and other state environmental and energy programs.

Landfills are not the only waste facilities affected by the economic downturn. Over the past two years, the volume of waste received at the Dane County Clean Sweep facility has decreased by 25%, falling from a high of 944,575 pounds in 2008 to just 704,819 pounds in 2010.

Less Waste Disposed of in Wisconsin Landfills in 2009

The amount of waste sent to landfills in Wisconsin decreased sharply in 2009, according to data compiled by the Department of Natural Resources. The amount of out-of-state waste disposed of in state landfill declined even faster than waste generated within the state. Every year, landfills are required to report to the DNR the tonnages of all waste received at their facilities from both in-state and out-of-state sources. Although the data for 2010 is not yet available, further declines are anticipated.

The total amount of waste disposed of in landfills in 2009 dropped 15 percent, from 10.3 million tons in 2008 to 8.8 million tons, in 2009. Waste from households, institutions and commercial establishments (referred to as municipal solid waste) dropped the most -- 22 percent from 2008 to 2009 (6.2 to 4.8 million tons).

During the same period, waste coming to Wisconsin landfills from other states decreased 31 percent. After peaking in 2004 at 2.2 million tons, out-of-state waste has fallen by almost half. The 2009 total of 1.2 million tons was the lowest since 1997. The majority of out-of-state waste comes from Illinois and Minnesota.

The amount of waste coming to Wisconsin landfills may be down for several reasons, according to Ann Coakley, director of the DNR Waste and Materials Management Program. "The economic downturn that began in 2008 led many households and businesses to scale back purchases in 2009, which means less material was thrown away," she said. "We are seeing this pattern all over the country. In addition, high fuel prices probably discouraged long-distance hauling of waste into Wisconsin." Coakley said an increase in the state landfill tipping fee also may have reduced the amount of waste disposed of by communities and made it less attractive to haul out-of-state waste to

WDNR Responds to Questions Related to Impact of the FY 11-13 Budget Bill on the State Recycling Program

Governor Walker has proposed significant changes to Wisconsin's recycling laws in the Executive Budget Bill [Senate Bill 27/Assembly Bill 40] for the coming two-year budget cycle (FY 11-13 biennium). A summary of the proposed changes is outlined below. Please remember that proposed changes do NOT take effect until a bill is passed by the Legislature and signed by Governor Walker. Until then, current recycling requirements are in effect.

Provisions in the Budget Bill related to recycling would:

Eliminate the requirement that a municipality or county operate a Responsible Unit Recycling Program to ensure recycling of recyclable paper, containers and other materials;

Eliminate financial assistance from the Department of Natural Resources for local governmental recycling programs. This would eliminate the Basic Recycling Grants to Local Governments as well as the Recycling Efficiency Incentive Grant and the Waste Reduction and Recycling Demonstration Grant programs;

Convert the Recycling and Renewable Energy Segregated Fund to a newly created segregated fund for economic development and direct revenue from the recycling tip fee to the new fund. The \$7/ton state-imposed recycling tip fee in s. 289.645, Wis. Stats. would still be charged on waste disposed of in a Wisconsin landfill and \$3 per ton of revenue from that tip fee would be directed to the environmental fund, to support some state recycling services, as yet undefined;

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Revise the landfill/incineration bans on waste tires, paper products and containers [ss. 287.07 (3) and (4), Wis. Stats]:

Change the landfill disposal ban on waste tires so that it is similar to that on appliances, lead acid batteries, waste oil/oil filters and absorbents [revised s. 287.07(3)], and

Change the landfill/incineration ban on paper products and containers so that the ban prohibits disposal of these recyclable materials by an individual in a container whose contents are destined for disposal in a landfill or incinerator.

Listed below are some of the questions raised in response to the Budget Bill and the associated responses from WDNR.

1. What does this mean for my Responsible Unit status?

Response: There would no longer be a requirement for local units of government to operate a recycling program to comply with the state disposal bans. In essence, this would

- eliminate the state mandated Responsible Unit program
- eliminate any requirement for local governments to enforce state disposal bans.

Local units of government could still operate a recycling program individually or with other units of government, but would not be required to do so under state law.

2. Would my Responsible Unit still receive a yearly grant from the DNR?

Response: All state financial assistance to local recycling programs would be eliminated with enactment of the budget bill. This would affect calendar year 2012 and subsequent years.

3. Will I receive my 2011 recycling grant?

Response: Yes, RUs that submitted recycling grant applications by the deadline in fall 2010 will receive their 2011 calendar year grant later this spring. We have been told that the total available funding will be reduced, but do not yet know by how much. This will mean that grant amounts for Responsible Units will also be reduced. We will contact you again when we have more information.

4. Would there be recycling grants in the future?

Response: The Governor's proposed budget bill does not provide financial assistance to local government recycling programs for the period July 1, 2011,

through June 30, 2013. This action would affect calendar years 2012 and 2013.

5. How would disposal bans on paper and containers be enforced, if the responsibility is placed on the individual disposing of waste in a container destined for disposal?

Response: A local recycling program would not be required to enforce the disposal ban, but could choose to do so through a local ordinance. We are still researching whether a hauler collecting trash or recyclables would not be held accountable for enforcement of the disposal bans. The primary responsibility would be on the individual to comply with state disposal laws both at home and away from home.

6. How can an individual properly recycle and comply with the disposal ban on paper products and containers if no municipal recycling services are available?

Response: All citizens would be expected to comply with the ban on disposal in a container destined for waste disposal. They could contract with private recycling services or haul recyclables to a drop-off center if municipal curbside recycling services were not available.

7. Does the Budget Bill change the bans on appliances, lead acid batteries, electronics, oil filters and yard waste.

Response: No. The bans on these recyclable materials and yard waste are not affected by the Budget Bill.

8. Would businesses, schools, institutions and special events still have to offer recycling?

Response: The recycling requirement would be limited to "individuals" under the Budget Bill whereas the current bans apply to "person," a term defined in s. 287.01(5m), Wis. Stats. to include all of the above entities. We are still looking into the legal ramifications of how the requirement applies to individuals working in a business operation that does not offer recycling options.

8. Will I still have to submit my annual report for calendar year 2010 by the April 30, 2011, deadline?

Response: Yes. Current recycling law is still in place. You must submit your 2010 annual report on time in order to receive your 2011 recycling grant later this spring. If you need assistance, please contact your regional Recycling specialist.