

WAUKESHA COUNTY RECYCLING UPDATE

Recycle Right Campaign: Waukesha County is launching a “Recycle Right” campaign from April through October 2026 to help residents recycle correctly and reduce contamination. The campaign features media outreach; social media posts, ads, videos; email newsletters; a postcard; and community events/direct engagement. Monthly messaging highlights specific materials like paper, cans, glass, plastics, and cartons, with tips to keep items loose, empty, and dry. We encourage you to share these resources to help residents recycle confidently.

Please support Recycle Right outreach by using the ready-to-share posts in your social media channels and newsletters, or by sharing directly from the Waukesha County Recycling Facebook page; we kindly ask that each post be shared only during its designated month, so residents receive timely, relevant information. Questions? Please contact recycling@waukeshacounty.gov

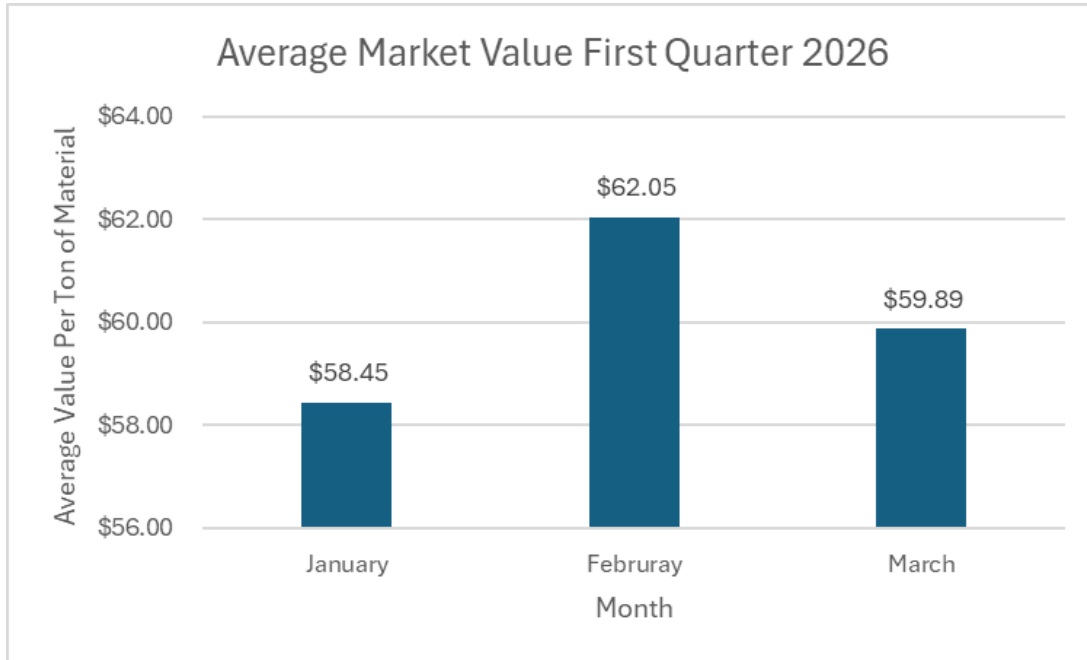
Compost Bin Workshops and Presale- Bins are available for preorder now, while supplies last, with pickup on May 9th at Retzer Nature Center from 8:00am-11:00am. Please see the attached flyer for bin purchase information and details about the free workshops offered on pick up day. We'd appreciate your help promoting the compost bin sale to your residents through your social media channels and newsletters. Remember, composting helps divert waste from landfills and finished compost can be added to soil to help reduce stormwater runoff. It's a win-win! If your community has a stormwater poster for yard waste and composting, please print the compost sale flyer and place it in the empty space on your poster.

Homeowner Association Education Meeting - This year's virtual meeting will be September 24th at 6:30 pm. Even if your topic is not homeowner association education, you can still promote this virtual meeting. The flyer is attached.

2025 Actual Recycling Costs Reporting (Municycle): Thank you to all our recycling partners for providing this important information for the DNR's annual report. In the Fall, we will request your budgeted 2027 costs for the required DNR application. We appreciate your ongoing assistance through this process!

Recycling Ordinance Update: As of July 1, 2025, administrative code that oversees Responsible Unit (“RU”) effective recycling programs and other aspects of Wisconsin's recycling law has been revised. Waukesha County had already met the updated standards as it relates to education, however; an update to the Waukesha County Recycling and Solid Waste Ordinance, Chapter 14, Article 4 was required. The updated ordinance was passed by the Waukesha County Board of Supervisors on March 24, 2026, and includes prescriptive standards for multiple-family dwellings, nonresidential facilities, and properties. It also removes outdated guidelines for Waukesha County purchasing products made from recycled and recovered materials. More information can be found here: <https://events.waukeshacounty.gov/Committee>

Recycling Performance: Below, please find the monthly average market value per ton for recyclables:



For January through March 2026, Midwest recycling market index reporting shows a mixed recycling market: aluminum remained the strongest of the listed commodities, steel improved modestly and then held steady, and cardboard (OCC) posted a small upward move by March, while mixed paper recyclables stayed essentially flat at low levels. Plastic containers like milk jugs and laundry detergent bottles (HDPE) performed better than plastic water bottles (PET) during the quarter, with natural-colored HDPE strengthening into March, in contrast to PET, which weakened significantly over the same period. PET is the clearest negative trend in Q1 2026. After starting the year at already weak levels, it fell further by March, reflecting continued oversupply and soft demand in end markets. Overall, the January–March 2026 Midwest market shows that metals provided the most resilience, fiber was stable but subdued, and PET remained the primary area of concern and the commodity to watch most closely as we move into the second quarter of 2026. Average Market Value of recyclables for the month of April is expected to exceed first quarter performance.

Event Recycling: With warmer weather around the corner, many municipalities around Waukesha County are planning their community events. The Waukesha County Recycling and Solid Waste team offers a free recycling bin-lending program for events in Waukesha County. Supplies are limited during peak event-season so coordinate now with cduffy@waukeshacounty.gov to get your supplies secured for your upcoming events!

WAUKESHA COUNTY

Upcoming Events:

Tuesday April 21st- 6-7pm Green Cleaning Workshop at Hartland Public Library

Saturday April 25th – 10am- 1pm Earth Day Celebration at Retzer Nature Center

Thursday April 30th – 10 am – 12 pm Master Recycler at Retzer Nature Center

Thursday April 30th- 4:30- 6:30 pm Master Recycler at Retzer Nature Center

Saturday May 9th- 8-11am Compost Bin Pick Up at Retzer Nature Center

Saturday May 9th- 10- 10:30 am Yardening at Retzer Nature Center

Saturday May 9th- 10:30- 11am Composting: From Start to Finish at Retzer Nature Center

Monday June 9th- 2-4pm Master Recycler at Brookfield Public Library

Saturday, June 13th – 10:00 to 11:00 am Sustainable Yardening at North Lake Town Hall Library

Saturday, June 27th 10:00 am to 3:00 pm – Outreach at Clean Water Festival, Pewaukee Beach

Monday June 29th- 10:30-11:30 am Composting: From Start to Finish at Waukesha Public Library