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## Winnebago County

### Solid Waste Management Board

*The Wave of the Future*

**DATE:** November 7, 2023

**TO:** Contracted Responsible Units

**FROM:** Kathy Hutter – Operations Manager  
khutter@winnebago-county-wi.gov   
920-232-1853

**RE:** October 2023 Signing Municipality Update & Monthly Scale Reports

**Robotics Installation at Tri-County Recycling Facility** – The era of Artificial Intelligence (AI) is here! The Robotic Sorting Technology Upgrade will take place over two weekends in November, with no impact to our municipal customers. This project entails installation of three robotic sorting arms located on our plastic container line and last chance line. The stations for plastic containers and last chance are currently staffed with personnel who hand-sort materials. Installation of robotics will help us move personnel to other key roles in the MRF. The robotics are supported by AI technology which will learn new materials and identify distorted materials as it operates. The new technology will help us recover more polypropylene and mixed plastics (#3-#7) and catch additional materials that just didn't sort properly (such as flattened water bottles and crushed aluminum cans).

**2023-2024 Holiday String Light Recycling Drive is Here!** – An email push went out to your Municipal Clerks/Officials on November 1<sup>st</sup> to inquire about participation in the annual Holiday String Light Recycling Drive. This effort helps us get the word out that light strands and extension cords are recyclable - but not in recycling carts. We coordinate delivery of bins, signs, and pick-up materials when bins fill. Revenues generated from the sale of this scrap material are returned to your community. The program will run from mid-November through the end of January. Please contact me directly if you missed the initial email blast and are interested in participating.

**2024 Recycling and Household Hazardous Waste (HHW) Brochure Order** – Solid Waste Staff have coordinated the annual Recycling and HHW Brochure Order and submitted it to our printer. We anticipate the order to be completed by mid-November and will deliver print brochures to your Municipal Offices shortly thereafter. PDF files were emailed to our Municipal contacts last week. The Recycling Brochure has had minimal changes so print copies from last year may continue to be used. The HHW program will have significant changes in 2024, including an "appointment only" operation (no open house dates/hours). Further information on the HHW program will be added to our website in upcoming months. During the off-season, Winnebago County residents with household sourced materials may use the Brown County Hazardous Materials Facility at no charge. Additional details for off-season HHW disposal are available on our website.

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