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Winnebago County

Solid Waste Management Board

The Wave of the Future

MEMORANDUM

DATE: July 9, 2025

TO: Winnebago County Signing Municipalities

FROM: Cassie Stadtmueller, Operations Manager
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RE: 2025 Projected Recycling Revenues

The Winnebago County Solid Waste Department, in partnership with Outagamie County Recycling & Solid Waste and Brown County Port & Resource Recovery, reports the following 2025 Projected Recycling Revenues:

First quarter 2025 commodity prices are up approximately \$22 per ton from first quarter 2024. First quarter tonnages through the BOW System are down approximately 18%, primarily attributed to GFL moving materials to their new MRF located in Horicon.

The addition of robotics helps us reduce labor costs and produce an overall cleaner end product for plastic recyclers. With the install of robots, we were able to adjust the headcount from 26 sorters per shift to 21 sorters. We also had an increase of 1.08% of PET material collected, which puts us on track for an extra 756 tons, which is equivalent to 38 additional semi-loads in 2025. Year to date, we have not received any contamination deductions for any of the materials sorted by the robots.

Winnebago County Signing Municipal tonnage through June 2025 is similar to the same timeframe in 2024. Commodity values can change dramatically with material supply and demand, but as it appears now, 2025 will likely be another year with minimal to no surplus for distribution.

The 2026 Recycling tipping fee will be under consideration as we develop our budget. While we recommended a \$2.50/ton increase for the Signing Municipal rate to our Solid Waste Management Board, the final decision is made by the County Executive/County Board during the 2026 budget deliberations.

CS/kh