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Director

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Winnebago County

Solid Waste Management Board

The Wave of the Future

DATE: February 12, 2024

TO: Contracted Responsible Units

FROM: Kelly Reyer – Education & Outreach Specialist KR
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920-232-1802

RE: February 2024 Signing Municipality Update & Monthly Scale Reports

John Rabe, Director of Solid Waste, Retires – John Rabe, a fixture of the Solid Waste Department for many years, submitted retirement papers in early January 2024 and worked his official last day on February 2, 2024. Mike Elder, Director of Facilities & Property Management, will serve as Acting Director of Solid Waste as the County Executive's Office works on filling the vacancy. Mike may be reached via email melder@winnebago-county-wi.gov or telephone 920-236-4790. Responsibilities of the remaining Solid Waste Staff have not changed so feel free to reach out to your regular contacts as needed. We wish John well in his retirement years! *Submitted by K. Hutter, Operations Manager*

Holiday String Light Recycling was a HUGE SUCCESS! – For the third season, we coordinated the Holiday String Light Recycling Program in Winnebago County. In total, 1,989 pounds of lights were collected from 11 Winnebago County communities during the 2023-24 season! This is more than double the amount (in pounds) collected during the last season.

Outreach & Education Updates – We had an interview and educational booth at the February 1st Wisconsin HERD "Go Green" basketball game. We used this opportunity to showcase our updated outreach materials, including our new "Recycling is a Slam Dunk" basketball hoop. Attendees learned about recycling right with this interactive outreach tool. There were several informational handouts provided to attendees including Household Hazardous Waste, Winnebago County Recycling Guide, and Waste Wizard/Betterbin QR code cards.

Our social media content is doing well, with an overall organic reach of 11,546 for the month of January. We have created a February Paper Series of social media posts that are shared every Thursday this month and educate on the recyclability of five different paper products (receipts, tissue paper, egg cartons, drink carriers, and pizza boxes). We have also been sharing "Did you Know" recycling facts on Mondays, and (recycling) Pop Quiz posts every Wednesday.

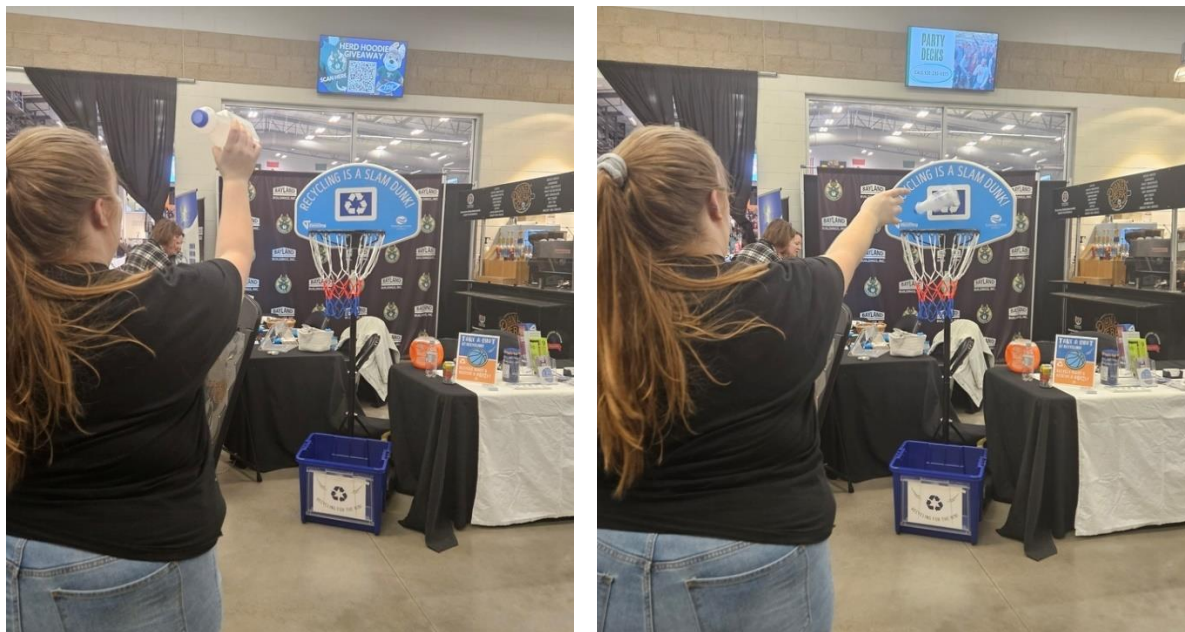
Working in partnership with Outagamie County Solid Waste & Recycling, we are excited to offer our first Recycle Right Master Class of 2024. This Recycling 101 class will take place on Wednesday, March 6th starting at 5:30 p.m. in the Shattuck Community Room at the Neenah Public Library. There is no cost to participate.

Legislative Action & Funding for Rechargeable Battery Disposal – As mentioned in last month's Program Update, Wisconsin Council on Recycling's request for legislation to address rechargeable battery disposal and battery fires in the waste industry has received favorable response from our State Legislators. **2023 Assembly Bill 987** and partner **2023 Senate Bill 906** - An Act to amend 20.370 (4) (hq) and 287.21 (intro.); and to create 287.25 of the statutes; Relating to: education about rechargeable batteries and providing grants for collecting and recycling rechargeable batteries. (FE) were introduced in late-January, 2024.

First, this act requests increased funding for WDNR to improve education/outreach for proper disposal/recycling of rechargeable batteries. Second, the act requests the funding and means to create a grant program for municipalities, businesses or non-profits to properly collect and transport rechargeable batteries to recycling sites. Third, the grant funding request also includes a provision for fire suppression/fire detection system updates at solid waste/recycling facilities. Bill details and updates can be found at: <https://docs.legis.wisconsin.gov/2023/proposals/ab987> and <https://docs.legis.wisconsin.gov/2023/proposals/REG/SB906>

The legislation is supported by Solid Waste Association of North America (SWANA) and Associated Recyclers of Wisconsin (AROW) and we anticipate many other industry organizations, municipalities and businesses will support it. While we work on a response and letters of support from our Brown, Outagamie and Winnebago County Solid Waste Department governing committees and boards, we encourage you to familiarize yourself with this upcoming legislation and support it. We feel this will help overcome some of the barriers to effective end-of-life management for rechargeable batteries. *Submitted by K. Hutter, Operations Manager*

SAVE-THE-DATE: MRF Open House & Meet the Robots event scheduled for March 20th at 11:30 a.m. More details to come.



Photos from the 2.1.24 Wisconsin HERD "Go Green" Night in Oshkosh