

JOHN M. RABE, P.E.
Director

www.winnebago-county-solid-waste.com
solidwaste@winnebago-county-wi.gov



LANDFILL/ADMINISTRATION
100 W. COUNTY RD. Y
OSHKOSH, WI 54901

PHONE (920) 232-1800
FAX (920) 424-1189

Winnebago County

Solid Waste Management Board

The Wave of the Future

DATE: January 10, 2024

TO: Contracted Responsible Units

FROM: Kelly Reyer – Education & Outreach Specialist *KR*
kreyer@winnebago-county-wi.gov
920-232-1802

RE: January 2024 Signing Municipality Update & Monthly Scale Reports

A Note from the New Education & Outreach Specialist – I'm excited to be here! My education and experience in the environmental field has fueled my passion for resource conservation, and I appreciate the opportunity to encourage proper material disposal and teaching proper recycling practices. About a month into my role with Winnebago County Solid Waste, I have to say that I've learned so much and I am very impressed with the variety and amount of recycling opportunities this facility offers. Additionally, having been born and raised in Winnebago County, I look forward to sharing about these opportunities and resources with my fellow Winnebago County residents.

Wisconsin Counties Association Magazine Highlights Statewide Recycling – The December issue of this statewide publication is titled, *From Waste Streams to Revenue Streams, Managing Solid Waste in Wisconsin*, and covers various topics including new technologies, food waste, improper battery disposal, landfill site reclamation, and more. You will see that Winnebago County's Ken Robl Conservation Park is featured on pages 32-33. Access the magazine online by using this link, <https://www.wicounties.org/publications>.

Wisconsin Council on Recycling (WCOR) Drafts Request for Legislation Action & Funding for Rechargeable Battery Disposal – In 2023, the waste and recycling industry experienced destructive fires caused by rechargeable batteries in transfer stations and recycling facilities in Columbia County, WI and Milwaukee. At many other locations across our state, including our own Transfer Station, rechargeable battery fires were located and extinguished without property damage. In consideration of the increasing number of fire incidents in waste/recycling facilities, and with the growth of battery containing devices (BCDs) in consumer markets, WCOR submitted recommendations to the governor to help the waste industry remove batteries from the waste stream. In the December 5, 2023 draft letter, WCOR recommended creation and funding of an expanded network of battery collection sites using segregated funds and establishment of an extended producer responsibility program, requiring manufacturers of BCDs to fund collection of the products they sell. WCOR also recognizes that removal of batteries from general waste can only be effective with legislative support and education efforts. We will watch for updates on Battery Recycling and Disposal Legislation to encourage our RUs, Boards, Executives and Partner Counties to support action. WCOR's draft letter to the Governor is at <https://dnr.wisconsin.gov/topic/Recycling/Council.html>. *Submitted by K. Hutter, Operations Manager*