

To: Mayor Tony Penterman and the Legislative Committee

Subject: Recycling

I would like to bring up a major concern I have that involves our present enforcement of our recycling laws and procedures in the City of Kaukauna.

The state of Wisconsin has a law that simply states all residents of the state are required to recycle and for the most part, we do a good job, and it is something we can all be very proud of. Something that continues to go unchecked, and we all tend to ignore, is the use of trash dumpsters for new home construction and remodeling projects in our city. A contractor or homeowner constructs a new building and immediately orders a 200-foot dumpster which is placed in the front yard to collect the trash and building materials that are discarded during the building process. The problem is that over 50% of the material that is placed into these dumpsters is recyclable materials. You all know the old saying, out of sight, out of mind. Sometimes multiple dumpsters are needed for the project, and when they are full, the company hauls the containers directly to the county landfill. It is weighed and dumped directly into the pit with no thought or concern about recycling.

Some people are naive to think these dumpsters are just dumped out and someone is separating the materials, if you believe this, I have a bridge to sell you. So, I ask, why do we allow this? Why do individual homeowners diligently separate their recycling every two weeks when you can glance down the road and see these huge dumpsters stuffed full of material? It's a slap in the face to all of us.

Dumpster companies do provide recycling containers, but this would require an additional dumpster to be delivered and an added cost to the contractor. Builders will continue to avoid this until we do something and enforce the recycling laws.

So, I ask the City of Kaukauna and members of this committee to investigate this problem and please consider enforcing our recycling laws. Be the first community to put a stop to this and you will do a tremendous favor for future generations.

If you have any questions, feel free to contact me. I thank you all for your time.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Paul Hennes". The signature is written in dark ink and is positioned above the printed name.

Paul Hennes