



AGENDA ITEM MEMORANDUM

DATE: 4-10-26

TO: Public Works Committee

FROM: Joel Kolste – Deputy Director of Field Operations

SUBJECT: Amend Sections 46-1; 46-82; 46-88; 46-89; and 46-91 of the Municipal Code to solid waste and recycling in general.

ISSUE

Should the Public Works Committee recommend approval of the amended ordinance to comply with the Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources Rule Revisions for Responsible Units.

STAFF RECOMMENDATION

Staff recommends approval of the amended recycling ordinance to meet requirements of Chapter NR 544, Wis. Adm. Code.

BACKGROUND/DISCUSSION

The Department of Natural Resources (DNR) has revised the administrative code that oversees Responsible Units (RUs) effective recycling programs and other aspects of Wisconsin's recycling law.

As the City of Sheboygan is a local government responsible unit (RU) providing a recycling program to its residents, the City is required to comply with the new requirements. The City's existing Recycling Ordinance needs to be amended to reflect these changes.

The adopted rule revisions make the following changes for responsible unit's which must be reflected within its ordinance:

- **Definitions**
Various definitions were updated for clarity.
- **Multi-family complexes / apartments (5 or more units)**
Provides specific options for how to provide "adequate" recycling.
Multi-family properties need to provide "adequate, separate containers" for recycling. The new rule provides clarity on what "adequate" means.

Providing adequate recycling services to multi-family properties must include an equal or greater ratio of recycling containers to trash containers and one the following.

- a) Minimum total volume of recycling provided is 20 gallons / week per dwelling unit.
 - b) Ratio of trash container volume to recycling container volume is at most 2:1; or
 - c) An alternate method which does not result in recyclable container overflow between collections.
- **Non-residential facilities and properties**
Provides specific requirements for providing recycling containers.

DEPARTMENT OF
PUBLIC WORKS

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AGENDA ITEM MEMORANDUM (CONT.)

Non-residential facilities and properties need to provide “adequate” separate containers for recyclable materials. The new rule provides clarity on what “adequate” means.

Provide adequate, separate containers for the recycling program established under this section. The total volume of recycling containers shall be sufficient to avoid overflow during the time period between collection of materials and delivery to a recycling facility.

Users, tenants and occupants must be notified which materials are collected, how to prepare materials in order to meet the processing requirements, collection methods or sites, and locations of drop-off collection sites to recycle materials not collected on-site.

City staff will communicate these changes to the requirements through various methods and stages of new and existing non-residential and commercial properties. This may include during planning phases of new developments, landlord training events, compliant follow-up activities, or other educational material distributions.

FUNDING IMPACT

While the Department does not anticipate direct funding impacts, administrative staff time may be required to review and provide recycling information to non-residential and commercial properties through various methods.

IF APPROVED, NEXT STEPS:

Following Council approval, Amended Ordinance 42-25-26 shall be in effect from and after its passage and publication to law.