

2021 Recycling & Materials Management Survey

The Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources conducts surveys to assess awareness and participation in Wisconsin's recycling and materials management program. Approximately 960 respondents participated in the 2021 survey. These results help guide waste reduction and diversion efforts throughout the state.

Successes

Environmental responsibility was rated the most important reasons to recycle, ahead of obeying the law and job creation



84% of respondents brought their old tires to a drop-off site



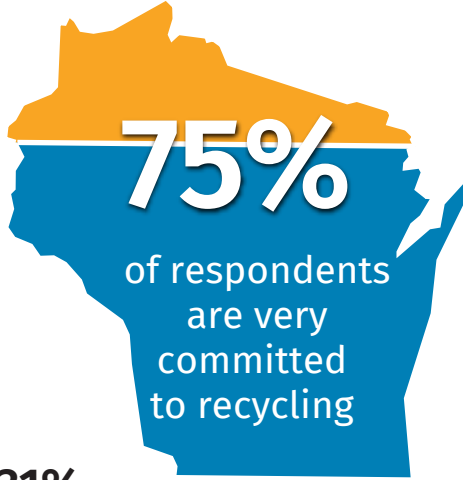
4 out of 5 respondents knew how to properly dispose of pharmaceuticals



Sharps drop-off disposal is up 20% over the past decade

75%

of respondents are very committed to recycling



71% received recycling information from local government



Mailings were rated as the most popular method for obtaining information, followed by the internet

31% in 2016



Recycling accessibility is a barrier to fewer respondents

18% in 2021



75% of respondents are willing to separate food waste

35% of rural respondents already compost



Leftovers and scraps can be kept out of landfills and create fertilizer for crops

Challenges

Top barriers to recycling more

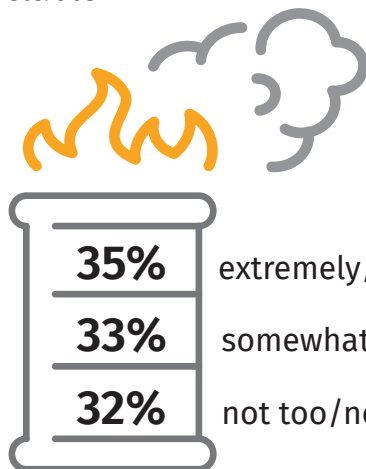
39% heard recyclables end up in a landfill

39% feel it's easier to trash recyclables

35% sometimes forget

28% not sure what is recyclable

Burning trash pollutes air and poses health risks, yet it isn't a major concern for most



Only 1 in 3



renters received mandatory recycling info from the property owner



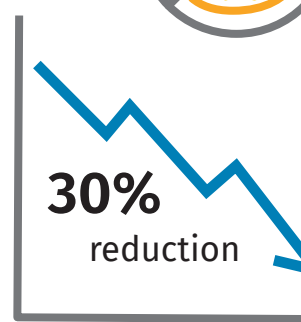
85% of respondents disposed of batteries in the past year

32% knew how to dispose of them properly



Less than half of respondents reported bringing their household hazardous waste to a drop-off site.

30% reduction



in recycling law awareness over 10 years

Doing More



Ask your municipality, hauler or landlord for recycling information specific to your area.



Wisconsin Clean Sweep events support community collection of household hazardous waste, pesticides and prescriptions. Go to dnr.wi.gov, search "household hazardous waste" to look for a site near you!

Universally accepted materials include:
 Aluminum, bi-metal, steel (tin) containers
 Glass containers
 Plastic #1 and #2 containers
 Corrugated cardboard/containerboard
 Magazines, newspapers and similar materials
 Office paper



Learn more about what and how to recycle on the DNR's website



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