



Outagamie County & Sustainable Communities Network (SCN)

Christine Miller
Recycling Coordinator



Outagamie County

- 2002 went to reusable bin vs. plastic bag collection
- 2009 Single-stream MRF
 - No debugging system
 - Screen issues
 - Identified local retail/grocery stores who collected bags



Increased education on bag recycling...

- Brochure
- Website
- Newsletters
- Magazine articles

Top 3 Questions about Recycling

- 1. Can I recycle plastic bags?**

Plastic bags are NOT accepted through the Outagamie County curbside or drop off recycling program. The recycling system is not designed to remove plastic bags. Plastic bags actually cause a major problem to the recycling equipment including increased maintenance time at the end of each day.

There are local outlets to recycle plastic bags; a listing can be found at: www.co.outagamie.wi.us/sw/plastic_bag_drop_off_sites.htm


- 2. Which plastic containers can I recycle?**

You can identify your plastic container by the numbering system usually found on the bottom of the container. In the Fox Valley area ONLY plastics with a # 1 or a #2 and with a narrow neck are recyclable. There are many other numbered containers such as #3, #5 and #7. These are currently not accepted into our curbside recycling stream because there currently isn't a consistent, reliable and cost effective market for these materials. We continue to evaluate the ability of adding any new materials to be collected.

There are narrow neck and wide mouth plastic #2 containers. #2 plastics are made of high-density polyethylene (HDPE) which can be "blow molded" to form bottles or "injection-molded" to form tubs. The two applications are chemically different and have different "melting points." Even though both containers have the same #code on the bottom, they cannot be collected together in our recycling program. A good rule of thumb: If it has a screw like top, and there is a #1 or #2 stamped on the bottom, it's recyclable.



- 3. Do I need to rinse my containers and remove labels and caps before recycling?**

To be courteous to the people who sort the recycling, we ask that you rinse your containers before tossing them into your bin or cart. Also, there is no need to remove the labels because they are burned off during the recycling process. Finally, removing bottle caps and lids is a good recycling habit. When caps are left on, the liquids stay in the bottle which makes it difficult for the specialized machinery to properly sort the plastic. The bottle could then end up in the trash rather than being recycled.



PLASTIC BAGS

Plastic bags are highly recyclable, but are NOT part of the Outagamie County recycling program. Plastic bags wrap around the specialized equipment and cause maintenance issues.

You are highly encouraged to take your plastic bags to a local grocery or retail store listed below to be properly recycled.

Copps Grocery Stores
Don's Quality Market
Festival Foods
Gunderson Cleaners
Pick N Save Stores
Piggly Wiggly Stores
Kohl's Department Stores
Sam's Club
Shopko Stores
Target Stores
Wal-Mart Stores



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Plastic bags can be dropped off at the following locations:

COPPS FOOD CENTER	811 W. Calumet St., Appleton 2400 E. Calumet St., Appleton 2700 N. Ballard Rd., Appleton
DON'S QUALITY MARKET	1471 W. Wisconsin St., Seymour 93108 Van Ray Rd., Appleton
FESTIVAL FOODS	1200 W. Northford Ave., Appleton 328 N. Shawano Ave., New London
GUNDERSON CLEANERS	All locations except Maunula St., Appleton
J.C. PENNEY	4301 W. Wisconsin Ave., Appleton
KOHL'S	300 Northford Ave., Appleton 95208 City Trk, Appleton
LOWE'S	10205 Van Ray Road, Appleton
PICK N SAVE	14135 Stonew Brook Rd., Appleton 800 S. Main Ave., Kimberly
SAM'S CLUB	1000 N. Waubesa Blvd., Appleton
SHOPKO	800 S. Main Ave., Kimberly
TARGET	1800 S. Hanchington Ct., Appleton 4301 W. Wisconsin Ave., Appleton
WALMART	890 Mutual Way, Appleton 2700 E. Calumet St., Appleton 1717 N. Shawano Ave., New London

Stores offering a \$0.05 discount per bag if you receive a paper bag or bring your own reusable bag.



Sustainable Communities Network (SCN)

UW Extension

Outagamie County

City of Appleton

Town of Greenville

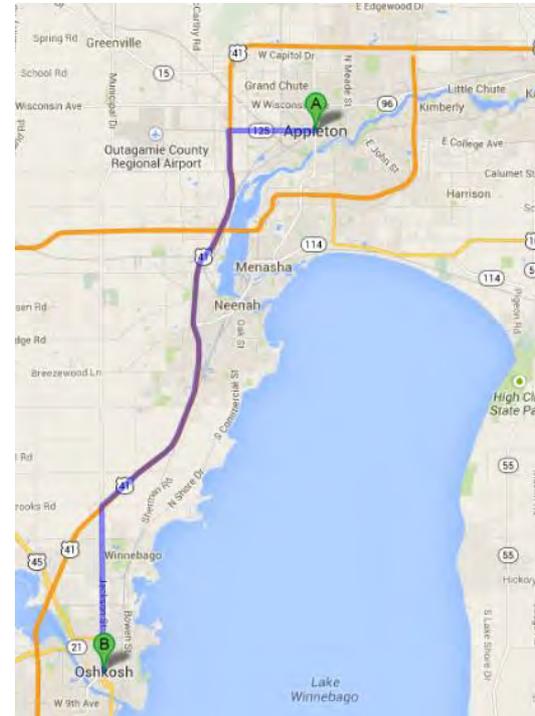
Town of Grand Chute

City of Menasha

City of Neenah

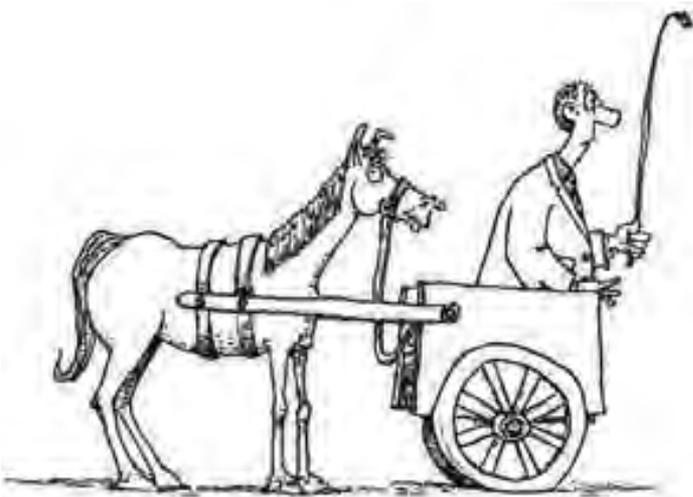
City of Oshkosh

Town of Menasha



Cart in front of the horse...

- Prematurely put collection sites on www.plasticfilmrecycling.org
- Not sure if all collections can accept all film plastics?
- Don't want to sabotage any collection program



- Summer intern contacting all local/corporate collection sites
- SCN volunteers to push WRAP program at acceptable locations
- Update www.plasticfilmrecycling.org



Lessons Learned

- Don't assume all plastic bag collections accept other plastic films
- Make sure volunteers clearly understand that not all bag collections want/accept other plastic film
- Find plastic film buyers who accept the WRAP films and encourage stores to contact them
- Kohl's department stores allow other plastic film in their collections and may be interested in partnering with WRAP and others to promote recycling film plastic



Christine Miller
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chris.miller@outagamie.org

920-968-5721

