

## **Composting & Food Waste**



Food waste is a big problem in the United States. Americans waste roughly 30-40% of the total food supply each year, leading to large amounts of food that is deposited into landfills (FDA). This food waste is responsible for about 58% of methane emissions originating from landfills (EPA). Do your part to save landfill space and contribute to decreasing greenhouse gas emissions by composting food waste instead of throwing it away. By composting, you can convert organic wastes – kitchen scraps, yard trimmings, and leaves – into a

dark, crumbly mixture that can be used to improve your soil health and reduce your use of fertilizer and water. To get started, visit <https://dnr.wisconsin.gov/topic/Recycling/Compost.html>

## **Electronics**



Did you know that many electronic items have been banned from Wisconsin landfills? These items include, but are not limited to: TVs, computers, printers, cell phones, and tablets. These items have been landfill banned because some components can be reused while others could be toxic to the environment.

Electronic items cannot be placed in your curbside trash or recycling. Fortunately, there are several businesses in the area that accept electronics for recycling. Visit the Waukesha County Recycling website for a list of these businesses:

[www.waukeshacounty.gov/ewaste](http://www.waukeshacounty.gov/ewaste).

For more information on what is accepted in your curbside recycling bin, please visit:

[www.waukeshacounty.gov/CurbsideRecycling](http://www.waukeshacounty.gov/CurbsideRecycling). Thank you for doing your part and recycling right!

## **Batteries**



You encounter batteries every day: in your phone, laptop, remote control, even singing greeting cards. Batteries are everywhere! Although batteries can be recycled by some retailers, they should **never** be placed in your curbside recycling bin because they can cause significant damage or start fires in recycling trucks and recycling facilities. Do your part to protect recycling staff and equipment by properly managing your used batteries.

Here are some helpful tips and information on how to safely recycle batteries:

**Traditional lead acid** batteries are found in cars and boats. A standard battery can contain about 18 pounds of lead. Stores that sell lead acid batteries typically have a take-back program.

**Nickel Cadmium** batteries are less common than lead acid. They are typically used in remote control vehicles, toys, portable electronic and solar powered garden lights. Take these to stores that accept them for recycling.

**Lithium-ion** batteries can cause serious damage if they are not handled properly. If damaged, they can cause fires. Take these to stores that accept them for recycling.

Several local retailers may offer battery recycling programs. Please make sure to check with individual store policies first!

- Batteries Plus Bulbs
- Best Buy
- Home Depot
- Elite Energy Distribution

Check out the full list at <https://www.waukeshacounty.gov/batteries/>

More information about proper handling of used batteries can be found by visiting: <https://dnr.wisconsin.gov/topic/Recycling/batteries.html>

## **CFL Bulbs & Tubes**



Fluorescent bulbs and tube lights contain mercury, posing risks to human health, animals, and the environment. When these fluorescent lights end up in landfills, they contribute to soil and groundwater contamination. Exposure to mercury can lead to severe health consequences. Moreover, proper recycling of these materials conserves energy, as recycling requires less

energy than manufacturing new products outright.

Do your part and take CFL bulbs and tubes to participating businesses:

- Batteries Plus Bulbs
- Lowes
- The Home Depot
- Menards

TIP: Call to check individual store policies before you go!

## **Municipal Drop-Off Centers**



Several municipalities within Waukesha County maintain recycling drop off centers for residents to use. The City of Brookfield, Village of Pewaukee, and City of Waukesha accept recyclables from all Waukesha County residents. Several other municipalities accept recyclables from their residents, only. If you have excess recyclables and would like more information, please visit:

<https://www.waukeshacounty.gov/landandparks/recycling/drop-off-sites/>

## **HHW Sites, Items, & Reuse**



Common household products such as oil-based paints, stains, varnishes, certain cleaners, solvents, and pesticides are hazardous to human health and the environment. Proper disposal of these items is important. Waukesha County residents can bring Household Hazardous Waste to a collection site conveniently located around the County.

Additionally, County residents can visit these sites to take advantage of the reuse program. HHW products in new and good condition can be picked up free of charge.

More information on this program can be found here:

<https://www.waukeshacounty.gov/hazardouswaste>