



Wisconsin Council on Recycling

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Today's Discussion

- Council Structure and Duties
- Open Meeting Rules
- Wisconsin Recycling Law
- Overview of Recent Council Work (2009-2014)



Councils

(s. 15.09, Stats.)

- Part of executive branch
- Attached to an agency
- Election of officers – chair, vice-chair, secretary
- Meet at least annually
- Meeting location is discretionary
- Majority constitutes a quorum
- Advise the agency head; study and recommend solutions and policy alternatives for its area of focus
- No compensation
- Annual report upon request by agency head





Wisconsin Council on Recycling

(s. 15.347(17), Stats.)

- A citizen's group appointed by the governor to advise the governor, legislature and state agencies on solid waste reduction, recovery and recycling policy.
- Staffed by the Department of Natural Resources.
- Consists of 7 members appointed for a four-year term expiring on the date of commencement of the next gubernatorial term.



Council on Recycling Duties

(s. 287.22, Stats.)

- Promote implementation of state 3R programs
- Advise and assist in coordination of state and local 3R programs and exchange of information
- Advise agencies on rules for recyclable packaging, product labeling and building standards to facilitate recycling
- Advise DNR and UW on 3R education and research
- Develop recommendations for recyclable packaging, in cooperation with the packaging industry
- Advise/recommend on recycling of oil filters
- Advise DNR on a statewide plan for radio and TV public service announcements on recycling
- Advise the governor and legislature



Open Meetings

- Council and subcommittees are “governmental bodies.”
- Council meetings are open to the public and participation is allowed in the public comment portion of the meeting, or as allowed by the chairperson.
- A council meeting takes place when there is a quorum. This can include a face to face meeting, phone conference, email conversation, group text, or web-based chat that involves the exchange of information and discussion of topics.
- A walking quorum is a series of gatherings among separate groups of members of the council, not constituting a quorum, who agree to act uniformly in a sufficient number to reach a quorum.



Open Meetings


- Public notice of Council on Recycling meetings, including the date, time, location and agenda, must be provided in advance of all meetings.
- **New items can be introduced in the “Other Business”** portion of the agenda, but cannot be acted upon until they are on the original agenda.
- **The Wisconsin Department of Justice document “Wisconsin Open Meetings Law”** provides compliance guidance.
- **Robert’s Rules of Order** provide guidance to establish order, maintain relevance and efficiency and promote respect.



Wisconsin Recycling Law

- Solid Waste Reduction, Reuse, Recycling, Composting and Resource Recovery Policy
- Landfill and incineration bans
- Mandatory recycling of landfill banned items
- Local governments provide recycling collection and processing programs that meet state standards
- State provides cost sharing grants to local governments
- Shared enforcement





Solid Waste Reduction, Reuse, Recycling, Composting and Resource Recovery Policy (s. 287.05, Stats.)

- Maximum solid waste reduction, reuse, recycling, composting and resource recovery is in the best interest of the state
- Solid waste reduction, reuse, recycling, composting and resource recovery are preferable to land disposal
- Wisconsin should not become overly committed to land disposal by allowing excessive landfill lifespans or excessive aggregate landfill capacity to develop in Wisconsin
- We should follow the waste hierarchy



WI Waste Management Hierarchy

- Reduction
- Reuse
- Recycling
- Composting
- Recovery of energy
- Land disposal
- Burning without energy recovery



Mandatory Recycling

- Items banned from landfills and incinerators include:
 - Containers (plastic #1&2 bottles; aluminum, bi-metal and steel cans; glass bottles)
 - Paper and Cardboard (corrugated cardboard, magazines, catalogs or other materials on similar paper, newspaper and newsprint materials, office paper)
 - Yard Materials (**grass clippings, debris and brush under 6" in diameter and leaves**)
 - Vehicle Items (lead-acid batteries, tires*, used oil filters)
 - Waste Oil*
 - Appliances
 - Electronics

*These items may be burned in a solid waste treatment facility with energy recovery.



Recycling Law Implementation

- 1,061 local governments (“responsible units”) provide citizens with collection and processing under DNR rules that define an effective recycling program
- Focus on compliance through education, technical assistance and financial assistance.
- The DNR conducts statewide data collection, produces free outreach materials and administers financial aid to the RUs.
- In 2015, the DNR will disburse \$15 million in grants, down from \$19 million in 2014 and \$32 million in 2010. In 2017, the level of funding will return to \$19 million.





External Forces

- Recognition of resource value in other materials: e.g., carpet, cartons, organics, C&D, paint, other plastics
- Changes in recycling technology
- Changes in packaging technology
- Market volatility for recovered commodities
- Fuel prices and other costs
- Relative costs of other options
- Industry interest in sustainability
- Concern about supply chain security
- Policy innovations in Europe, Canada, Asia



Challenges

- Stagnating recycling rates
- Reduced funding from state for administration and implementation of recycling programs
- Unsustainability of funding mechanism
- Local funding constraints
- Uncertain support for alternative funding approaches for recycling – cost internalization
- Disconnect between the price of land disposal and the true cost





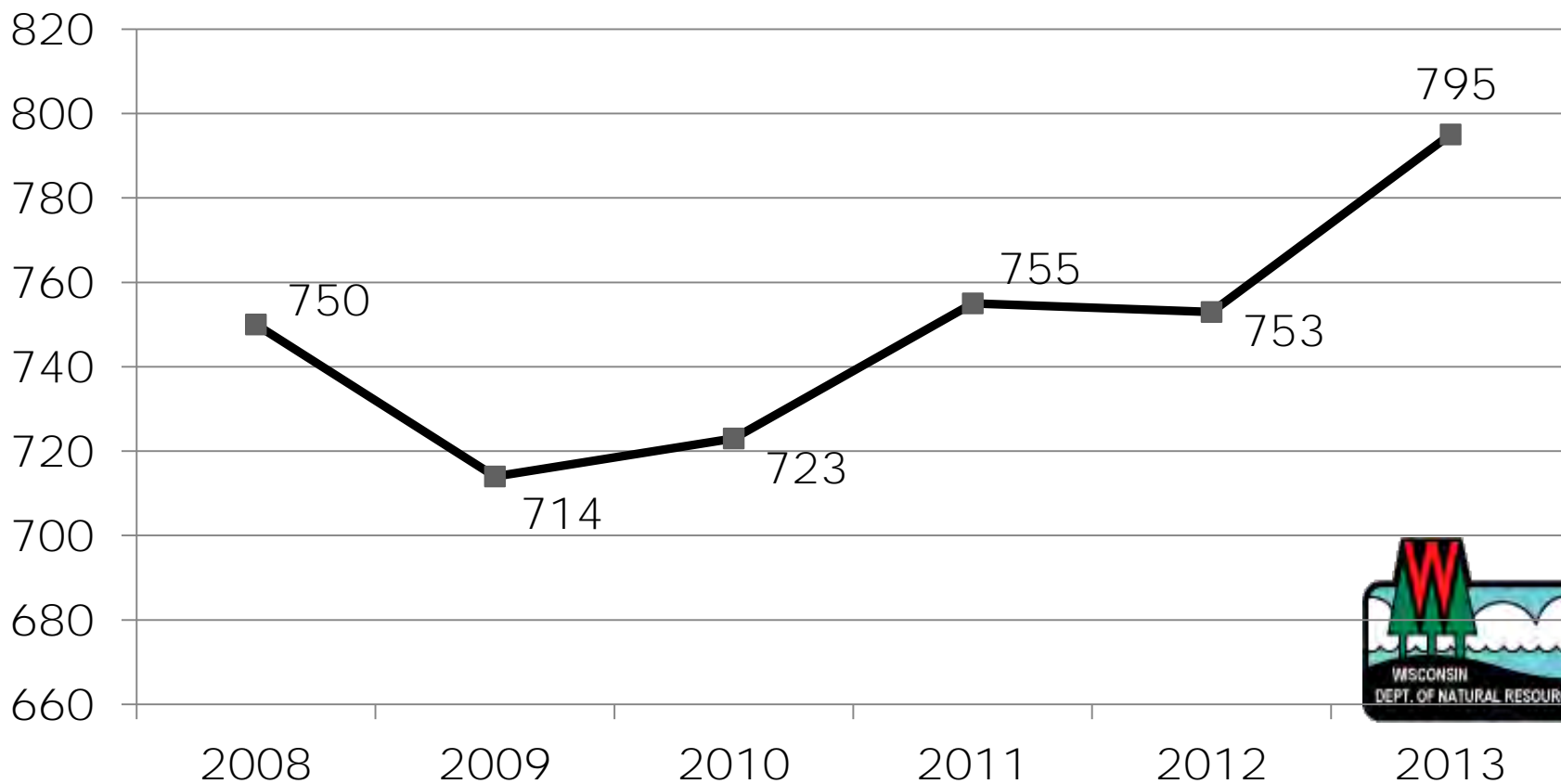
Challenges, continued

- Diminishing quality of marketed recyclables
- Inability of local governments to influence material choices, product design, markets
- Efficiencies of scale in local program delivery
- Large number of local recycling programs
- Metrics



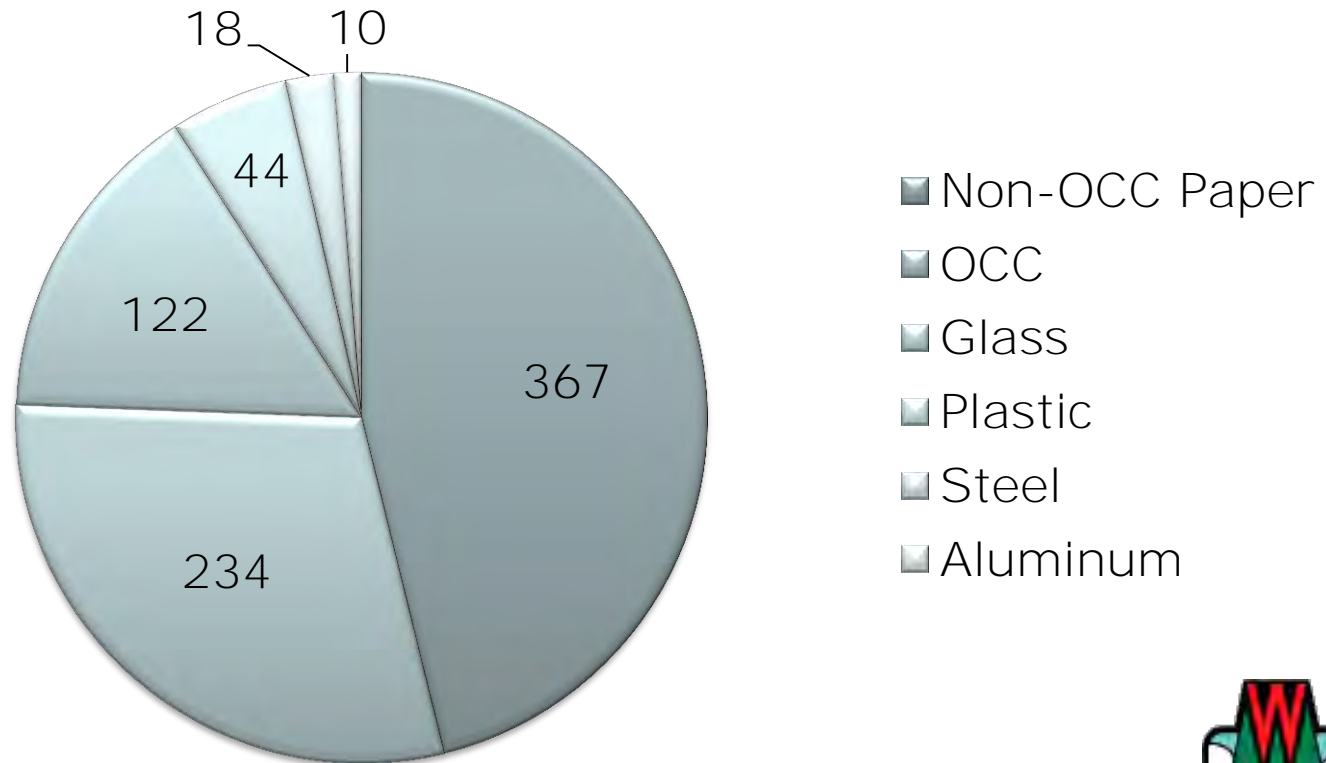
Program Results

Trends in MRF Tonnages (000's of tons)



Program Results

2013 MRF Tonnages, 000's of Tons



Program Results

Material	2013 Tons	MTCO ₂ E	Passenger Car Equiv.	House Electricity Equivalents
Non-OCC Paper	367,312	1,256,693	264,567	114,662
OCC	234,042	710,476	149,574	64,824
Aluminum	10,012	91,577	19,279	8,356
Plastic Bottles	43,868	46,998	9,894	4,288
Glass Bottles	121,767	38,381	8,080	3,502
Steel Cans	18,330	33,914	7,140	3,094
TOTAL	795,240	2,178,039	458,534	198,726



Overview of Council Work 2009-14

- Supported the expansion of banned items to include electronics, mercury, oil filters and used oil absorbents
- Supported new state rules making it easier to commercially compost food and other organics
- Encouraged product stewardship approaches to managing waste materials including paint, batteries, carpet and other materials
- Supported expanded recycling of plastics including film, rigids, agricultural and containers
- **Highlighted links between recycling and Wisconsin's economy**
- Advocated sustained funding for recycling programs
- Developed relationships with key lawmakers



Plastics Workgroups

- Based on the 2012 Plastics Study Report prepared for the DNR, the council established workgroups to research and develop strategies to capture bottles (PET & HDPE), non-bottle rigids from the ICI sector, film/wrap and agricultural plastics for recycling.



Bottle & Non-bottle Rigid Plastics

- A combined effort of the Council, DNR and WBA led to the development a bottle recycling bin made from repurposed syrup bins donated by the WBA.
- An ICI Rigids study by Moore Recycling Associates is underway to determine the materials, markets and consolidation opportunities in Wisconsin.



Film/Wrap Plastic

- 85% of Wisconsin residents now have access to plastic film recycling drop-off services.
- Two independent consumer education campaigns are underway in the city of Milwaukee and Outagamie county, with the goal of educating the public on the types of film that can be recycled and where to recycle it.



Agricultural Plastics

- The DNR facilitated a survey to determine the types and volumes of ag plastics generated in Wisconsin as well as other factors affecting the potential for recycling.

