



April 20, 2011

TO: ALL WISCONSIN MUNICIPAL SOLID WASTE LANDFILL OWNERS AND OPERATORS  
ALL WISCONSIN TRANSFER FACILITY OWNERS AND OPERATORS

RE: UPDATE ON WISCONSIN LANDFILL AND INCINERATION BANS

I am writing to remind you of the waste disposal bans under Wisconsin state law. These laws prohibit landfill disposal or incineration of recyclable paper products and food and beverage containers, certain used electronic devices, and oil filters and oil absorbents. This letter also clarifies the existing landfill disposal ban on yard materials. Governor Walker's proposed budget for FY 11-13 contains changes to the recycling law and the disposal bans. Any changes to the existing laws are not in effect until the budget is adopted. We will notify you if and when changes are made in Wisconsin law relating to recycling and disposal bans.

**Electronics Ban:** Effective September 1, 2010, 2009 Act 50 prohibits disposal of certain electronic devices in Wisconsin landfills, burning in an incineration facility, or placing these devices in a container intended for disposal or incineration [s. 287.07(5), Wis. Stats.]. This ban does **not** require a solid waste treatment or disposal facility to retrieve a consumer video display device (a television or computer monitor with a tube or a screen that is at least 7 inches in its longest diagonal measurement) if doing so is impractical or would jeopardize the health or safety of a worker, or if the device has been damaged to the extent that recycling is no longer practical or feasible [(s. 287.07(5)(b), Wis. Stats.]. Electronic devices included in the ban are listed at the end of this letter. For more information about this law, see <http://dnr.wi.gov/topic/ecycle/wisconsin.html>.

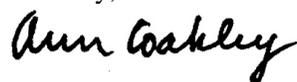
**Oil Filter/Absorbents Ban:** Effective January 1, 2011, 2009 Act 86 prohibits disposal in a solid waste disposal facility of a used oil filter or oil absorbent materials that contain waste oil. Oil absorbents containing less than one gallon of waste oil resulting from a nonroutine spill are exempted from the prohibition [s. 287.07(4m), Wis. Stats.]. For more information about this law, see <http://dnr.wi.gov/org/aw/wm/publications/newpub/wa1503.pdf>.

**Clarification to the Yard Waste Ban:** Effective November 12, 2009, 2009 Act 55, Section 17 clarifies that the yard waste disposal ban does not apply to plants classified by the DNR as invasive species under s. 23.22 (2), Wis. Stats., or their seeds, so long as the plants and seeds are not comingled with other yard waste [(s. 278.07 (7) (cm) Wis. Stats.].

**Other recyclable Materials:** Sections 287.07, Wis. Stats., and NR 506.095, Wis. Adm. Code, prohibit disposal of certain recyclable materials in Wisconsin landfills (see list on reverse side of this letter). Once these materials have been separated for recycling as part of a municipality's effective recycling program, they may not be disposed of in landfills in Wisconsin. Many of these landfill-banned materials have substantial market value and many consume large amounts of energy in their manufacture and distribution. It is important to recover as much of these materials as possible to minimize the environmental impacts of manufacturing replacement products using virgin materials and to reduce energy consumption. Because these recyclable materials serve as industrial feedstocks, recovering more of them is everyone's interest—it may help preserve manufacturing jobs here in Wisconsin and elsewhere in the U.S. The list of **other recyclable materials banned from landfill disposal** or incineration can be found at the end of this letter.

Landfill airspace is a valuable commodity and should be reserved for residual materials that cannot readily be recycled. Thank you for your continued cooperation in ensuring Wisconsin's leadership in the area of waste and materials management. Please do not hesitate to contact Cynthia Moore, Recycling Program Coordinator, Recycling and Solid Waste Section, at 608-267-7550 or by email at [cynthia.moore@wisconsin.gov](mailto:cynthia.moore@wisconsin.gov) if you have any questions about this letter.

Sincerely,



Ann Coakley, Director  
Waste and Materials Management Program

Enc.

cc: DNR Waste Management Specialists  
DNR Waste & Materials Management Program Coordinators and Regional Program Supervisors

WA1531

**Electronic Devices Prohibited from Disposal in Wisconsin Landfills and Incinerators**

Consumer computers  
Consumer printers  
Consumer video display devices  
Computer peripherals  
Fax machines  
Dvd players, vcrs and other video players (i.e., dvrs)

**Recyclable Items Prohibited from Disposal in Wisconsin Landfills and Incinerators**

Absolute bans:

Lead-acid batteries  
Major appliances (except microwave ovens from which the capacitor has been removed)  
Waste oil  
Yard waste (except invasive species exempted under s. 287.07(cm), Wis. Stats.)

“Conditional” bans\*

Aluminum containers  
Corrugated paper or other container board (i.e., “cardboard”)  
Foam polystyrene packaging (currently this ban is waived due to the unavailability of recycling)  
Glass containers  
Magazines and other materials printed on similar paper  
Newspapers and other materials printed on newsprint  
Office paper  
Plastic containers (currently plastics 3-7 are waived due to the unavailability of recycling)  
Steel containers  
Waste tires  
Bi-metal carbonated- or malt-beverage containers

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\* Conditional bans do not apply to materials generated in a region that has an effective recycling program as determined by the Department—the idea being that effective programs capture the majority of recyclables, and therefore an absolute ban on disposal of these materials is unnecessary. All Wisconsin municipalities currently have DNR-designated effective recycling programs. Conditional bans do, however, apply to materials that were separated for recycling as part of an effective recycling program.