



### Solid Waste and Hazardous Materials Committee

Gene Ciszek, Chair  
Maynard Bedish, Vice Chair  
Ed Bluthardt  
Dennis Nielsen  
Fred Radtke

### Upcoming Collections

#### Hazardous Waste

Vilas County Fairgrounds, Eagle River  
August 1— Noon to 4 pm  
August 2— 8 am to Noon

#### Electronics and Pharmaceuticals

Vilas Co Hwy Dept, Hwy 45 North, Eagle River  
October 18 — 10 am to Noon

#### Pharmaceuticals

Oneida County Dept on Aging, Rhinelander  
October 25 — 10 am to Noon  
  
Lakeland Senior Center, Woodruff  
November 1— 10 am to Noon

Go Green! **“Reduce, Reuse, Recycle”** - in that order. First, work to **reduce** the amount of waste you generate by buying items with minimal packaging and buy in bulk if feasible. Look for items made from, or containing recycled materials in their packaging. Try to avoid items that will eventually end up in a landfill, especially single-use or disposable items. **Reuse** as much as you can by fixing, mending, repurposing or donating still-usable items. Finally, if you can't reduce or reuse, **recycle** as much as you can. Only after these three tests should you discard of something in the trash.

Vilas County Recycling Program  
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## Vilas County Solid Waste & Hazardous Materials Committee

# The Recycling Buzz

August, 2008

## Vilas County's Recycling Responsibilities

The Vilas County Solid Waste Committee oversees the recycling programs in the county. The County is considered the “responsible unit” (RU) under the Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources’ administrative rules governing recycling in the state. As RU, Vilas County receives and disburses an annual recycling grant to all 14 Towns and the City of Eagle River. The County surveys the municipalities each year and collects data on their recycling programs. Once all the units submit their numbers, the County submits an overall report to the DNR. In 2007, Vilas County residents recycled 1,628 tons of mixed paper, aluminum, other metals, plastic and glass containers, up from 1,271 tons in 2006.

Thanks to the Towns and City for their efforts in planning and managing superb recycling programs and for their cooperation with the County in running one of the most effective recycling programs in the state!

Vilas County operates its recycling program through a cooperative agreement with the Oneida County Solid Waste Department. Operating jointly allows the County to receive more grant dollars through a “Recycling Efficiency” program offered by the DNR, and it also allows staffing capabilities that Vilas alone does not have. Joint programming with Oneida County has increased Vilas County’s ability to expand the number and type of waste collections in 2008.



Vilas County residents recycled 1,628 tons of material in 2007, up 28% from 2006 — thank you!



## Recycling: What's Required, What's Not

Questions often arise about what is recyclable and what's not. Many materials that are recyclable are still not collected as such because there is not yet a big enough commercial market for them, or the technology isn't yet available to process them. A good example of this are plastics numbered 3 and above. For residential and municipal customers that use commercial haulers, always check with the hauler to determine what they collect for recycling and how they collect it. The following items are banned from landfills under Wisconsin Law:

Lead acid batteries	Newspapers	Glass bottles and jars
Major appliances	Magazines	Aluminum cans
Used motor oil	Corrugated cardboard	Steel (tin) cans
Yard waste	Office paper	Bi-metal cans
Tires	Plastics #1 and #2	Plastics #3 and above are currently waived

Commercial haulers in Vilas County now use "dual stream" collection which means that all recyclable paper (newspaper, magazines, cardboard, office paper) can be mixed in one bin or bag; and all containers (glass, plastic, aluminum, steel) can be mixed in one bin or bag. If you bring your recyclables to a drop-off site, check with the site manager to see if further separation is required, as some towns use multiple haulers.

*Local recycling ordinances can be more strict than the state requirements—check with your town or city. Most have this information available on their web sites.*

## Requirements for Business

Owners of commercial, retail, institutional and industrial facilities are responsible for recycling activities on their property. This includes apartment buildings. They have two options:

- 1) Provide occupants with a collection system and adequate storage containers for recyclables, notify occupants how and what to recycle, and ensure that recyclables are transported to a recycling center; or
- 2) Ensure that all trash generated (including recyclables) is collected and transported to a processing facility that separates and recycles banned items (see table above).

Vilas County enforces the business recycling law through spot inspections of businesses throughout the county. Businesses not in compliance can be fined.



## Vilas County's Recycling Programs

Vilas County sponsors collections of various materials to promote recycling and keep volume out of our landfill and harmful materials out of our water supply. Dates and times are listed on back.

### Tire & Appliance Amnesty

Vilas supports recycling of old tires and unwanted appliances or "white goods" through this program. This includes stoves, refrigerators, water heaters, washers and dryers, microwaves, and various other appliances. Residents obtain an amnesty voucher from their town or city clerk, and present the voucher at the Highway G Landfill for free disposal of up to five tires, two appliances, or a combination of up to five tires and one appliance. So far in 2008, 321 items have been recycled using this program.

### Pharmaceuticals Drop-off

Vilas County has made a commitment to ensure that harmful drugs stay out of our water supply as well as out of the illegal drug trade by offering drop-off of expired and unwanted pharmaceuticals. The County maintains strict procedures for handling and storing these controlled substances.

To prepare pharmaceuticals for the recycling drop-off, residents should leave the drugs in their original containers and mark over or scratch out any patient identification. Do not mix different drugs together. While waiting for the drop-off date, be sure to store the items on a high shelf or under lock.

### Hazardous Waste Collections

Two "Clean Sweep" drop-off collections are offered for old paints, fertilizers and other hazardous materials. There is a charge of \$.30 to \$2.00 per weight for hazardous material disposal.

### Electronics Drop-off

With the upcoming switch to digital broadcasting in February, 2009, people are disposing of their analog televisions at a higher rate than normal, and Vilas County wants to keep these TVs out of the landfill. Televisions and computer monitors have components that are recyclable, but they need to be handled separately from other recyclable materials.



In 2008, the County is offering half off the normal fee for recycling televisions and computer monitors, which can now be recycled for \$5 each; \$10 for console televisions. The June 28 collection netted 173 pieces of electronics, with TVs being the largest share. A second electronics collection will be held on October 18, 2008 at the Vilas County Highway Department, Highway 45 North in Eagle River from 10 a.m. to Noon.