

CHAPTER 24

RECYCLING ORDINANCE FOR DOOR COUNTY

1.01 Title. Recycling Ordinance for Door County

1.02 Purpose. The purpose of this ordinance is to promote recycling, composting, and resource recovery through the administration of an effective recycling program, as provided in s. 287.11, Wis. Stats., and ch. NR 544, Wis. Adm. Code.

1.03 Statutory Authority. This ordinance is adopted as authorized under _____ s. 287.09(3)(b), Wis. Stats.

1.04 Abrogation and Greater Restrictions. It is not intended by this ordinance to repeal, abrogate, annul, impair or interfere with any existing rules, regulations, ordinances or permits previously adopted or issued pursuant to law. However, whenever this ordinance imposes greater restrictions, the provisions of this ordinance shall apply.

1.05 Interpretation. In their interpretation and application, the provisions of this ordinance shall be held to be the minimum requirements and shall not be deemed a limitation or repeal of any other power granted by the Wisconsin Statutes. Where any terms or requirements of this ordinance may be inconsistent or conflicting, the more restrictive requirements or interpretation shall apply. Where a provision of this ordinance is required by Wisconsin Statutes, or by a standard in ch. NR 544, Wis. Adm. Code, and where the ordinance provision is unclear, the provision shall be interpreted in light of the Wisconsin Statutes and the ch. NR 544 standards in effect on the date of the adoption of this ordinance, or in effect on the date of the most recent text amendment to this ordinance.

1.06 Severability. Should any portion of this ordinance be declared unconstitutional or invalid by a court of competent jurisdiction, the remainder of this ordinance shall not be affected.

1.07 Applicability. The requirements of this ordinance apply to all persons within Door County.

1.08 Administration. The provisions of this ordinance shall be administered by the Door County Highway Commissioner.

1.09 Effective Date. The provisions of this ordinance shall take effect on January 1, 2026.

1.10 Definitions. For the purpose of this ordinance:

- 1) "Bi-metal container" means a container for carbonated or malt beverages that is made primarily of a combination of steel and aluminum.
- 2) "Container board" means corrugated paperboard used in the manufacture of shipping containers and related products.
- 3) "Foam polystyrene packaging" means packaging made primarily from foam polystyrene that satisfies one of the following criteria:
 - a) Is designed for serving food or beverages.
 - b) Consists of loose particles intended to fill space and cushion the packaged article in a shipping container.

- c) Consists of rigid materials shaped to hold and cushion the packaged article in a shipping container.
- 4) "Glass Container" means a glass bottle, jar or other packaging container used to contain a product that is the subject of a retail sale and does not include ceramic cups, dishes, oven ware, plate glass, safety and window glass, heat-resistant glass such as pyrex, lead based glass such as crystal, or TV tubes.
 - 5) "HDPE" means high density polyethylene, labeled by the resin code # 2.
 - 6) "LDPE" means low density polyethylene, labeled by the resin code # 4.
 - 7) "Magazines" means magazines and other materials printed on similar paper.
 - 8) "Major appliance" means a residential or commercial air conditioner, clothes dryer, clothes washer, dishwasher, freezer, microwave oven, oven, refrigerator, furnace, boiler, dehumidifier, water heater or stove.
 - 9) "Multiple-family dwelling" means a structure containing 5 or more residential units, including units that are occupied seasonally.
 - 10) "Newspaper" means a newspaper and other materials printed on newsprint.
 - 11) "Non-residential facilities and properties" means commercial, retail, industrial, institutional and government facilities and properties. Non-residential facilities and properties includes any location at which goods or services are provided or manufactured, including locations under construction, demolition, or remodeling, or used for special events such as fairs, festivals, sport venues, conferences, and exhibits. This term does not include multiple family dwellings.
 - 12) "Office paper" means a variety of high-grade printing and writing papers. This term does not include industrial process waste, newspaper or packaging.
 - 13) "Other resins or multiple resins" mean plastic resins labeled by the resin code # 7.
 - 14) "Person" includes any individual, corporation, limited liability company, partnership, association, local government unit, as defined in s. 66.0131(1)(a), Wis. Stats., state agency or authority or federal agency.
 - 15) "PETE" or "PET" means polyethylene terephthalate, labeled by the resin code # 1.
 - 16) "Plastic container" means an individual, separate, rigid plastic bottle, can, jar or carton, except for a blister pack, that is originally used to contain a product that is the subject of a retail sale.
 - 17) "Postconsumer waste" means solid waste other than solid waste generated in the production of goods, hazardous waste, as defined in s. 291.01(7) Wis. Stats., waste from construction and demolition of structures, scrap automobiles, or high-volume industrial waste, as defined in s. 289.01(17)., Wis. Stats.
 - 18) "PP" means polypropylene, labeled by the resin code # 5.
 - 19) "PS" means polystyrene, labeled by the resin code # 6.
 - 20) "PVC" means polyvinyl chloride, labeled by the resin code # 3.
 - 21) "Recyclable materials" includes lead acid batteries; major appliances; waste oil; yard waste; aluminum containers; corrugated paper or other container board; foam polystyrene packaging; glass containers; magazines; newspaper; office paper; rigid plastic containers, including those made of PETE, HDPE, PVC, LDPE, PP, PS and other resins or multiple resins; steel containers; waste tires; and bi-metal containers.
 - 22) "Solid waste" has the meaning specified in [s. 289.01\(33\), Wis. Stats.](#)
 - 23) "Solid waste facility" has the meaning specified in [s. 289.01\(35\), Wis. Stats.](#)
 - 24) "Solid waste treatment" means any method, technique or process which is designed to change the physical, chemical or biological character or composition of solid waste. "Treatment" includes incineration.
 - 25) "Waste tire" means a tire that is no longer suitable for its original purpose because of wear, damage or defect.

- 26) "Yard waste" means leaves, grass clippings, yard and garden debris and brush, including clean woody vegetative material no greater than 6 inches in diameter. This term does not include stumps, roots or shrubs with intact root balls.

1.11 Separation of Recyclable Materials. Occupants of single family and 2-to-4-unit residences, multiple-family dwellings and non-residential facilities and properties shall separate the following materials from postconsumer waste:

- 1) Lead acid batteries
- 2) Major appliances
- 3) Waste oil
- 4) Yard waste
- 5) Aluminum containers
- 6) Bi-metal containers
- 7) Corrugated paper or other container board
- 8) Foam polystyrene packaging
- 9) Glass containers
- 10) Magazines
- 11) Newspaper
- 12) Office paper
- 13) Rigid plastic containers made of PETE, HDPE, PVC, LDPE, PP, PS, and other resins or multiple resins
- 14) Steel containers
- 15) Waste tires

1.12 Separation Requirements Exempted. The separation requirements of s. 1.11 do not apply to the following:

- 1) Occupants of single family and 2-to-4-unit residences, multiple-family dwellings and non-residential facilities and properties that send their postconsumer waste to a processing facility licensed by the Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources that recovers the materials specified in s. 1.11 from solid waste in as pure a form as is technically feasible.
- 2) Solid waste which is burned as a supplement fuel at a facility if less than 30 % of the heat input to the facility is derived from the solid waste burned as supplement fuel.
- 3) A recyclable material specified in s. 1.11(5) through (15) for which a variance has been granted by the Department of Natural Resources under s. 287.11(2m), Wis. Stats., or s. NR 544.14, Wis. Adm. Code.

1.13 Care of Separated Recyclable Materials. To the greatest extent practicable, the recyclable materials separated in accordance with s. 1.11 shall be clean and kept free of contaminants such as food or product residue, oil or grease, or other non-recyclable materials, including but not limited to household hazardous waste, medical waste, and agricultural chemical containers. Recyclable materials shall be stored in a manner which protects them from wind, rain, and other inclement weather conditions.

1.14 Management of Lead Acid Batteries, Major Appliances, Waste Oil and Yard Waste. Occupants of single family and 2-to-4-unit residences, multiple-family dwellings and non-residential facilities and properties shall manage lead acid batteries, major appliances, waste oil, and yard waste as follows:

- 1) Lead acid batteries shall be taken/delivered to a licensed hauler under section NR 502.06, Wis. Adm. Code.

- 2) Major appliances shall be taken/delivered to a licensed hauler under section NR 502.06, Wis. Adm. Code
- 3) Waste oil shall be taken/delivered to a licensed hauler under section NR 502.06, Wis. Adm. Code.
- 4) Yard waste shall be taken/delivered to a licensed hauler under section NR 502.06, Wis. Adm. Code.

1.15 Preparation and Collection of Recyclable Materials. Except as otherwise directed by the County of Door, occupants of single family and 2-to-4-unit residences shall do the following for the preparation and collection of the separated materials specified in s. 1.11(5) through (15):

Aluminum containers, bi-metal containers, corrugated paper, or other container board, foam polystyrene packaging, glass containers, magazines, newspaper, office paper, rigid plastic containers including: PETE, HDPE, PVC, LDPE, PP, PS, and plastic containers made of other resins or multiple resins, steel containers, and waste tires, shall be prepared, handled and/or collected as required by the local municipal ordinance.

1.16 Responsibilities of Owners or Designated Agents of Multiple-Family Dwellings.

- 1) Owners or designated agents of multiple-family dwellings shall do all of the following to recycle the materials specified in s. 1.11(5) through (15):
 - a) Provide adequate, separate containers for the recycling program established in compliance with the ordinance. The number of recycling containers shall equal or be greater than the number of trash containers and at least one of the following shall be met:
 - i. The minimum total volume of recycling container space is equal to 20 gallons per week per dwelling unit.
 - ii. The ratio of trash container volume to recycling container volume is at most 2:1.
 - iii. An alternative method that does not result in the overflow of a recycling container during the time period between collection of materials and delivery to a recycling facility.
 - b) Notify tenants in writing at the time of renting or leasing the dwelling and at least semi-annually thereafter about the established recycling program.
 - c) Provide for the collection of the materials separated from the solid waste by the tenants and the delivery of the materials to a recycling facility.
 - d) Notify tenants which materials are collected, how to prepare the materials in order to meet the processing requirements, collection methods or sites, and locations of drop-off collection sites to recycle materials not collected on-site.
- 2) The requirements specified in 1) do not apply to the owners or designated agents of multiple-family dwellings if the postconsumer waste generated within the dwelling is treated at a processing facility licensed by the Department of Natural Resources that recovers for recycling the materials specified in s. 1.11(5) through (15) from solid waste in as pure a form as is technically feasible.

1.17 Responsibilities of Owners or Designated Agents of Non-Residential Facilities and Properties.

- 1) Owners or designated agents of non-residential facilities and properties shall do all of the following to recycle the materials specified in s. 1.11(5) through (15):

- (a) Provide adequate, separate containers for the recycling program established under this section. The total volume of recycling containers shall be sufficient to avoid overflow during the time period between collection of materials and delivery to a recycling facility.
 - (b) Notify in writing, at least semi-annually, all users, tenants and occupants of the properties about the established recycling program.
 - (c) Provide for the collection of the materials separated from the solid waste by the users, tenants and occupants and the delivery of the materials to a recycling facility.
 - (d) Notify users, tenants and occupants which materials are collected, how to prepare materials in order to meet the processing requirements, collection methods or sites, and locations of drop-off collection sites to recycle materials not collected on-site.
- 2) The requirements specified in 1) do not apply to the owners or designated agents of non-residential facilities and properties if the postconsumer waste generated within the facility or property is treated at a processing facility licensed by the Department of Natural Resources that recovers for recycling the materials specified in s. 1.11 (5) through (15) from solid waste in as pure a form as is technically feasible.

1.18 Prohibitions on Disposal of Recyclable Materials Separated for Recycling. No person may dispose of in a solid waste disposal facility or burn in a solid waste treatment facility any of the materials specified in s. 1.11 (5) through (15) that have been separated for recycling, except waste tires may be burned with energy recovery in a solid waste treatment facility.

1.19 Anti-scavenging or unlawful removal of recyclables. It shall be unlawful for any person, unless under contract with or licensed to operate in Door County, to collect or remove any recyclable material that has been deposited or placed at the curb or in a container adjacent to a home or nonresidential building for the purposes of collection for recycling.

1.20 No Dumping.

- 1) It shall be unlawful for any person to dispose of or dump garbage in any street, road or other public place within Door County or in any receptacles or private property without the owner's consent unless it is placed in bags or containers in the manner and at the times specified by local ordinance.
- 2) No person shall place for collection any garbage at the curb not owned or occupied by such person.

1.21 No Burning or Burying. It shall be unlawful to burn or bury solid waste and recyclables by residential and nonresidential sectors and at construction sites without the proper municipal permit.

1.22 Non-disposable materials. It shall be unlawful for any person to place for disposal any of the following wastes: Hazardous and toxic wastes, chemicals, explosives, flammable liquids, paint, trees and stumps, construction debris, carcasses, and medical wastes.

1.23 Garbage from outside of Door County. It shall be unlawful to bring refuse for disposal (and recyclables) from outside the corporate limits into Door County unless authorized by agreement with the County of Door.

1.24 Hauler Reporting Requirements. The recycling haulers and processors operating in Door County are required to maintain records and report in writing at least twice each year. Reports shall include the amount of recyclables collected and transported from Door County; the amount of recyclables processed and or marketed by item type from Door County; and the final disposal local of the recyclable material.

1.25 Ownership of Recyclables. Recyclable materials, upon collection by any permitted collector under municipal contract shall become the property of the County of Door.

1.26 Exemptions. The County of Door reserves the right to designate additional solid waste materials as recyclable or currently collected materials as no longer recyclable in accordance with state law and to either add or delete them from any collection services provided by the municipality or its contractors. The County of Door shall provide written notice to its service recipients of this declaration.

1.27 Enforcement.

- 1) For the purpose of ascertaining compliance with the provisions of this ordinance, any authorized officer, employee or representative of Door County Highway Department may inspect recyclable materials separated for recycling, postconsumer waste intended for disposal, recycling collection sites and facilities, collection vehicles, collection areas of multiple-family dwellings and non-residential facilities and properties, and any records relating to recycling activities, which shall be kept confidential when necessary to protect proprietary information. No person may refuse access to any authorized officer, employee or authorized representative of the Door County Highway Department who requests access for purposes of inspection, and who presents appropriate credentials. No person may obstruct, hamper, or interfere with such an inspection.
- 2) Any person who violates a provision of this ordinance may be issued a citation by the County of Door to collect forfeitures. The issuance of a citation shall not preclude proceeding under any other ordinance or law relating to the same or any other matter. Proceeding under any other ordinance or law relating to the same or any other matter shall not preclude the issuance of a citation under this paragraph.
- 3) Penalties for violating this ordinance may be assessed as follows:
 - (a) Any person who violates s. 1.18 may be required to forfeit \$50 for a first violation, \$200 for a second violation, and not more than \$2,000 for a third or subsequent violation.
 - (b) Any person who violates a provision of this ordinance, except s. 1.18, may be required to forfeit not less than \$10 or more than \$1,000 for each violation.

(Ord. No. 2-94; 2/22/94) (Ord. No. 25-94; 12/27/94) (Ord. 2025-12; 11/12/2025)