



**Adopted on August 7, 2018**  
**St. Croix County Board of Supervisors**  
**Ordinance # 870(2018).**

**Prepared by:**

**St. Croix County Community Development Department**

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**University of Wisconsin – River Falls Survey Research Center**

**Historical Research and Background:**

Jon Tulman, Consultant

**ACKNOWLEDGMENTS**

**Community Development Committee**

Daniel Hansen, Chair

Jill Ann Berke, Vice Chair

Tom Coulter

Chris Matter

Tammy Moothedan

Dick Hesselink, FSA Representative

*Cover photos provided by St. Croix County Recycling.*



**Ordinance No. 870 (2018)**  
**ORDINANCE TO ADOPT THE ST. CROIX COUNTY SOLID WASTE &  
RECYCLING MANAGEMENT PLAN**

1           **WHEREAS**, St. Croix County is authorized to prepare and adopt a comprehensive plan  
2 as defined in Wis. Stat. §66.1001(1)(a); and

3           **WHEREAS**, St. Croix County is authorized to prepare and develop a solid  
4 waste management plan as defined in Wis. Stat. §59.70(2)(a); and

5           **WHEREAS**, the Solid Waste & Recycling Management Plan is Section 16,  
6 Volume 1 and 2 of the St. Croix County Comprehensive Plan; and

7           **WHEREAS**, St. Croix County's Solid Waste & Recycling Management Plan was last  
8 updated in 1981 and is outdated; and

9           **WHEREAS**, the Community Development Committee and county staff have gathered  
10 input from residents, businesses and organizations regarding solid waste and recycling  
11 activities through a public opinion survey, a website of all plan development materials, public  
12 meetings and an open house; and

13           **WHEREAS**, the Community Development Committee and county staff have drafted an  
14 updated St. Croix County Solid Waste & Recycling Management Plan, attached; and

15           **WHEREAS**, the Community Development Committee held a public hearing on the  
16 St. Croix County Solid Waste & Recycling Management Plan on March 15, 2018 and  
17 recommends adoption of the attached Solid Waste & Recycling Management Plan is  
18 Section 16, Volume 1 and 2 of the St. Croix County Comprehensive Plan;  
19

20           **THEREFORE**, the St. Croix County Board of Supervisors does ordain that the St. Croix  
21 County Solid Waste & Recycling Management Plan is adopted as part of the St. Croix County  
22 2012-2035 Comprehensive Plan Section 16, Volume 1 and 2 under Wis. Stat. §66.1001 and Wis.  
23 Stat. §59.70(2)(a).

24           **FURTHER** be it resolved that the St. Croix County Board of Supervisors does ordain  
25 this ordinance will take effect upon publication.

**Legal – Fiscal – Administrative Approvals:**

Legal Note:

Fiscal Impact:

  
Scott L. Cox, Corporation Counsel 7/20/2018

  
Ken Witt, Interim-Finance Director 7/27/2018

  
Patrick Thompson, County Administrator 7/27/2018

05/17/18

Enacted

Vote Confirmation.

  
Dan Hansen Community Development, Chairman 7/27/2018

**St. Croix County Board of Supervisors Action:**

Roll Call - Vote Requirement – Majority of Supervisors Present

<b>RESULT:</b>	<b>ENACTED [UNANIMOUS]</b>
<b>MOVER:</b>	Daniel Hansen, Supervisor
<b>SECONDER:</b>	Tammy Moothedan, Supervisor
<b>AYES:</b>	Schachtner, Nordstrand, Miller, Coulter, Long, Moothedan, Fosterling, Feidler, Ostness, Larson, Hansen, Brinkman, Peterson, Anderson, Achterhof, Leibfried, Peavey
<b>ABSENT:</b>	Roy Sjoberg, District 13

# ST. CROIX COUNTY

## SOLID WASTE & RECYCLING

### MANAGEMENT PLAN

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## SOLID WASTE AND RECYCLING MANAGEMENT VISION

*By 2035, St. Croix County is a leader in the state by recycling 50% of all municipal solid waste in the county. All municipalities wholly located within the county are part of the St. Croix County Responsible Unit (RU) providing more efficient and convenient countywide coordination of recycling services.*

*All county residents have access to curbside recycling and the recycling program coordinates with waste and recycling haulers that operate in the county to provide uniform access to curbside waste and recycling services. All residents have access to a variety of curbside recycling options including #1-7 plastics, cartons and organics. Residents are charged volume-based fees for waste services to promote reuse and recycling.*

*There is countywide coordination of recycling services for items such as appliances, electronics, tires, medical waste, unwanted prescription medications, yard waste, hazardous waste and other recyclable materials. Residents prioritize waste reduction and reuse before recycling and utilize many of the available reuse options locally and online.*

*St. Croix County in cooperation with local municipalities protects public health and land and water resources by administering the recycling and solid waste program.*

## Introduction

Solid waste and recycling management is critical to improve and protect the safety, health and welfare of our residents and land and water resources. A substantial portion of solid waste and recycling management in the county is provided by private sources although there is still significant public investment through municipally operated recycling centers and county-sponsored collections.

The State of Wisconsin Solid Waste Reduction, Recovery and Recycling Law (§287.09) created Responsible Units (RU) for the administration of effective recycling programs. Counties were considered RU's by default and municipalities had the choice to opt out and become their own individual RU. St. Croix County became the RU for 26 of the 35 municipalities in St. Croix County. RU's are charged with providing easy and convenient access to recycling along with recycling education and outreach.



Town of Richmond Recycling Center

## Conditions, Trends, and Issue Prioritization

### Conditions & Trends

- Weight of recyclable materials collected in the County has decreased from 5,994 tons in 2010 to 5,427 tons in 2015. This is likely due to the “light-weighting” of packaging materials by manufacturers. The volume of recyclable materials has stayed the same or increased.
- The amount of hazardous waste collected during the Clean Sweep programs has increased from 39,914 pounds in 2010 to 47,239 pounds in 2015.
- The amount of unwanted prescription and non-prescription medicine collected has increased from 400 pounds in 2011 when the program began to 1,329 pounds in 2015. Demand is expected to increase as the county population ages.
- The number of opportunities for recycling items such as electronics and appliances, has decreased within the private marketplace in the County.

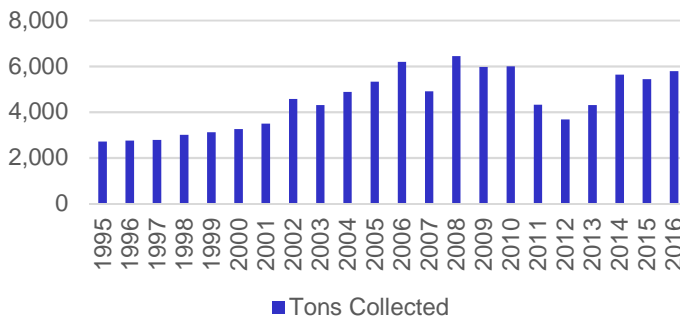


2016 Clean Sweep Program

### Top Issues

- Illegal dumping of solid waste, tires, electronics, appliances and other recyclable items continues to be a costly problem for municipalities.
- Finding alternative funding sources for the recycling and hazardous waste programs as state grants decrease and demands for services increase.
- Access to curbside recycling services continues to be a concern in rural areas of the county.
- Demand for hazardous waste disposal services and convenient electronics recycling is increasing.
- Illegal burning of solid waste, recyclables and yard waste is still occurring in the county. This pollutes the air and is a health hazard for residents.

### St. Croix County RU Recycling Tonnage



### Implications

- Increasing population growth will result in increasing demand for solid waste and recycling services. The County and municipalities will need to assess and prioritize cost effective and convenient ways to provide solid waste and recycling services to residents.
- The effectiveness and efficiency of solid waste and recycling services could improve with multi-municipality approaches. Cooperative efforts between municipalities for drop-off centers and collection events will be crucial with increasing demand and decreasing budgets. The County can provide assistance in evaluating cooperative efforts.
- Explore partnerships between the public and private sectors to maintain adequate access to convenient and responsible recycling disposal opportunities.

## Special Subsections

### ***History of Solid Waste Management in St. Croix County***

Prior to 1987, most local municipalities operated “local dumps” where solid waste was buried or burned, however regulations in the 1970’s decreased the viability of these operations. In 1981, there were 15 licensed landfills in St. Croix County. By 1987, all the licensed landfills had been capped and closed and waste was hauled outside St. Croix County.

In response to increased regulations and decreasing landfill capacity, two solid waste planning studies were conducted in the early 1970’s. Both studies concluded that the County should take a leadership role in solid waste management. In 1981, the County adopted a solid waste management plan that concluded a single landfill, owned and operated by the County, was the preferred solid waste management strategy. When only one site was deemed feasible to operate a landfill, the County Board directed the committee to research the possibility of a waste-to-energy (WTE) incinerator.

In 1987, construction of the \$8.5 million waste-to-energy incinerator began in New Richmond. American Resource Recovery (ARR) was to construct and operate the incinerator that provided steam heat to the nearby County-owned nursing home. The incinerator began operation in 1988. After operations began, the facility faced ongoing operational problems. In 1992, there were several lawsuits contesting the Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources (DNR) permitting process, emissions compliance, noise and vibrations from the facility. The incinerator was shut down until it could meet acceptable dioxin emission, it never reopened. Eventually, ARR released the County from its contract and the incinerator was razed.

The current St. Croix County Recycling ordinance was most recently updated in 2012. Chapter 21: St. Croix County Municipal Solid Waste: Reduction, Recovery and Recycling became effective in March 2012. This ordinance repealed Chapter 41: Metal or Glass, Chapter 43: Recycling, and Chapter 44: Storage of Waste Tires.

### ***Review of Existing Operations***

#### **Solid Waste**

Solid waste is primarily collected via curbside collection or drop-off centers, depending on the municipality. In addition, there are several transfer stations operated by private haulers that operate within the county. The Advanced Disposal Transfer Station, located in Roberts, is the only transfer station open to the public for solid waste disposal on a pay-for-service basis. There are no landfills operating within St. Croix County.

Landfills and waste haulers are not required by law to report how much waste they collect in any given community so there are no exact numbers for the amount of waste generated in St. Croix County. A 2013 study by the United States Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) found the municipal solid waste generation rate to be 4.4 pounds per person, per day. They also calculated a 34.3% national recycling rate which then calculates the rate of solid waste disposed of per capita to be 2.89 pounds per day. Using this number, it is estimated that

#### ***St. Croix County Solid Waste & Recycling Public Opinion Survey Report Results, 2015:***

- County residents reported using the following methods of solid waste disposal:
  - Curbside service (75%)
  - Residential dumpster (13%)
  - Municipal drop-off center (8%)
  - Other (4%)



125.5 tons of solid waste per day are thrown away for a total of 45,808 tons of solid waste per year in St. Croix County.

## Recycling

St. Croix County is a Responsible Unit (RU) tasked with ensuring adequate recycling access is provided to residents within its jurisdiction. When the county became a RU by resolution, several municipalities within the county opted out and chose to be their own RU. These municipalities include:

- Town of Cady
- Town of Cylon
- Town of Forest
- Town of Warren
- Village of Roberts
- Village of Wilson
- City of Glenwood City

### ***St. Croix County Solid Waste & Recycling Public Opinion Survey Report Results, 2015:***

- County residents reported recycling regularly at the following locations:
  - Home (94%)
  - Work (78%)
  - Public Places-Gas Stations, Parks, Schools, etc. (33%)

The Village of Spring Valley and the City of River Falls were assigned to the Pierce County RU since the majority of their population is located in Pierce County. The county applies for and administers the grant funding from the state Department of Natural Resources (DNR). The state recycling grant is the sole funding source for the recycling program.

Municipalities interested in joining St. Croix County's Responsible Unit can discuss the pros and cons with the County Recycling Specialist. Becoming part of the County's RU would not change local management of drop off centers but would provide assistance with grant applications and reports and possibly additional funding. Recyclables are primarily collected via curbside collection or drop off centers, depending on the municipality. The county provides support to local municipalities recycling efforts by providing financial assistance and education.

The County hosts collection events for appliances and tires that are co-sponsored with local municipalities. These collections are held twice per year. The County also offers special event recycling bins for recycling at community festivals, family gatherings and school sporting events.

Private businesses provide recycling opportunities for many items not typically collected in curbside collections or drop off centers. Private opportunities for recycling electronics, appliances, scrap metal, oil filters, fluorescent light bulbs, plastic film and bags, rechargeable batteries, printer cartridges and tires are available in St. Croix County.

The County holds a compost bin sale each spring in conjunction with the Resource Management Division tree sale. The bins are sold to promote backyard composting of yard waste and food scraps.

The county recycling specialist provides recycling education through a variety of platforms including printed newsletters, a recycling website, Facebook, Pinterest, educational presentations and displays, school field days, email and phone conversations.

## Hazardous Waste

St. Croix County sponsors a two-day Clean Sweep hazardous waste collection once or twice each year. The program is partially funded by a grant administered by the Wisconsin Department of Agriculture, Trade and Consumer Protection (DATCP). The program consists of household, farm and business collection of hazardous waste.

The county contracts with a vendor to collect, transport and properly dispose of the hazardous waste from the event. The county organizes and promotes the event as well as provides traffic control, answers questions and conducts surveys.

Highlights of the program are:

- A fee-for-service business collection is open to businesses who qualify as a very small quantity generator (VSQG).
- An agricultural hazardous waste collection is open to farms and ag-related businesses.
- A household hazardous collection is open to all county residents. Residents of Pierce, Polk and Dunn counties are also invited through cooperative agreements with those counties.
- Latex paint was added as an accepted item, for a fee, beginning in 2015. Revenue collected from the fee helps offset the disposal costs for the county. The addition of latex paint has stimulated an increase in attendance and pounds of hazardous waste collected. Figure 3.1 shows the participation numbers and weight of waste collected each year the hazardous waste collection was held. The County provided two collections, spring and fall, from 1998 to 2010 and in 2017, a single collection event the other years.

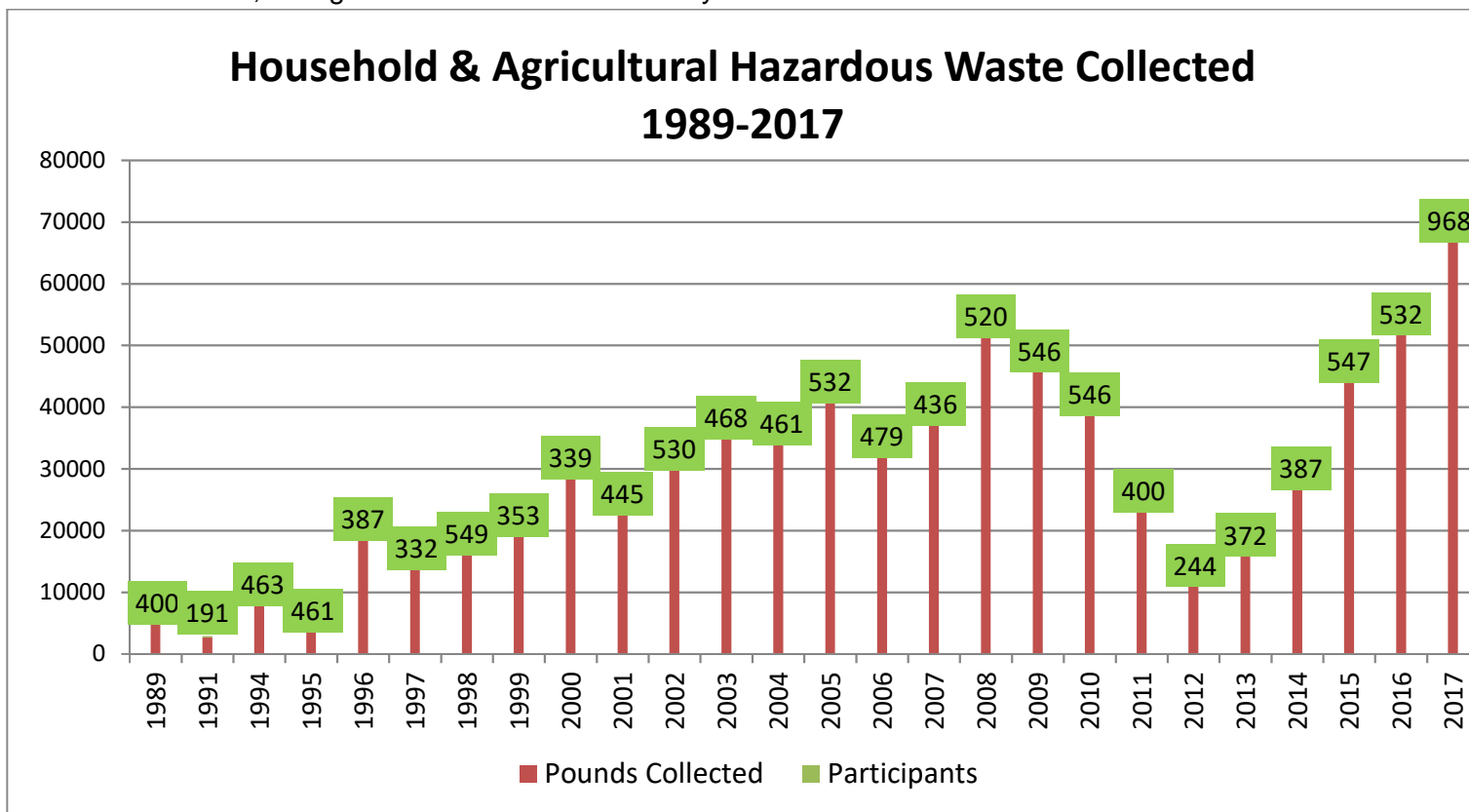


Figure 16.1 Clean Sweep Hazardous Waste program participants and weight of waste collected. Source: St. Croix County Recycling Program.

## Medical Waste

St. Croix County has programs for collecting and properly disposing of sharps and unwanted medications. The sharps program is a cooperative effort between the St. Croix County Recycling program and the St. Croix County Public Health department. The program is largely funded on a donation from a local Lion's Club to purchase the red sharps collection containers. Residents can receive a free container then bring it back to local care centers, clinics and hospitals to dispose of sharps and exchange it for a new container.

The medication take back program is administered by the St. Croix County Sheriff's Office with cooperation from municipal law enforcement departments and the St. Croix County Recycling program. Permanent drop-off boxes for unwanted prescription and non-prescription medications are found at the St. Croix County Sheriff's Office and each of the nine municipal police departments in the county.

## Assessment of Future Needs

### Solid Waste

Access to convenient solid waste disposal will continue to be a high priority in St. Croix County. Increasing access to curbside solid waste disposal in rural areas will be a priority, especially as the county population grows and ages. St. Croix County will continue to provide a supportive role to municipalities and waste haulers who manage the majority of solid waste within the county. The county's primary role in solid waste management will continue to be assisting and supporting residents, businesses and municipalities with their solid waste needs.

### Recycling

As the county population grows, addressing the gap in access to convenient and quality recycling in rural areas will be critical. Several areas of the county do not have access to curbside recycling at this time. Future recommendations for the recycling program include:

- Increase recycling education efforts to community groups, schools and businesses.
- Maintain semi-annual tire and appliance collections and evaluate locations on a yearly basis to provide convenient access to all county residents.
- Maintain semi-annual mailings of the recycling newsletter
- Restore the county-sponsored electronics collection program as private electronics recycling opportunities have significantly decreased in recent years. Evaluate the demand for this program and frequency of collections.
- Continue to evaluate the recycling specialist position and level of serviced needed to accommodate collection events and recycling education in the county.

#### **St. Croix County Solid Waste & Recycling Public Opinion Survey Report Results, 2015:**

- County residents reported they preferred to receive recycling information from the following sources:
  - County newsletter (57%)
  - County website (26%)
  - Newspaper (11%)

- Evaluate recycling programs for other recyclables, including, but not limited to, mattresses, carpet, and motor oil, as needed to provide convenient recycling access to county residents.
- Encourage municipalities and haulers to expand curbside recycling and waste collection in rural areas of the county.
- Encourage multi-municipality cooperation in recycling services, whether it be mutual drop-off centers or multi-municipality contracts with waste and recycling haulers. Increasing efficiencies between municipalities will decrease recycling costs in the county.
- Consider alternative funding mechanisms for the recycling program in the event that state grant funding dramatically decreases. Enacting a special assessment collected with real estate taxes could be an option to consider.
- Consider creating a uniform minimum recycling code for haulers operating in St. Croix County. This minimum code would ensure equal and uniform recycling access to all St. Croix County residents. Consider licensing the haulers to operate in St. Croix County as a way to ensure the minimum recycling code is being followed.
- Encourage all municipalities wholly located within the county to join the St. Croix County RU to help provide coordinated and efficient recycling services.

***St. Croix County Solid Waste & Recycling  
Public Opinion Survey Report Results, 2015:***

- 84% of County residents reported that they find it difficult to recycle electronics. 56% reported it was due to cost and 46% reported that it was due to inconvenient locations.

## **Hazardous Waste**

The demand for hazardous waste disposal will continue to grow as the population grows in St. Croix County. The county has several options to pursue to meet the demand for hazardous waste disposal, including:

- The county should consider adding collections events and/or days to existing collections to help keep up with the demand for hazardous waste disposal and prevent some illegal dumping of these materials.
- The county should continue to accept latex paint at the Clean Sweep collections and evaluate the fee structure for latex paint on a yearly basis.
- Evaluate alternate funding options such as per vehicle user fees, free-will donations and sponsorships from local businesses. Disposal costs continue to greatly exceed state grant funding, so alternative sources of revenue to offset the county levy impact will be needed.
- Attempts have been made in the past to partner with the Washington County (MN) Environmental Center to have St. Croix County residents be able to use their hazardous waste disposal facility. This may be worth attempting again in the future to offer year-round opportunities for hazardous waste disposal.
- Consider offering a waste exchange facility where residents could bring usable paint, stain, cleaners, automotive fluids, and lawn and garden products for reuse. County residents could also come pick up items from the waste exchange facility for free. This might decrease the disposal cost at Clean Sweep collection events.

***St. Croix County Solid Waste & Recycling  
Public Opinion Survey Report Results, 2015:***

- 84% of County residents reported that they would be more likely to attend the Clean Sweep Hazardous Waste Collection if it was held for more days per year.

## MEDICAL WASTE

The need for proper disposal of unwanted or unused medications and sharps will continue to increase as the county population grows and ages. Future recommendations for the medication take-back program and sharps program include:

- The unwanted and unused medication take back program will continue to be coordinated through the St. Croix County Sheriff's office and the local law enforcement agencies who all have permanent drop boxes for residents to use.
- The county recycling program will continue to educate and promote residents on the proper disposal of medications and sharps.
- No major changes to the medication take-back program are recommended as the drop-off model should work well into the future.
- The recycling program, along with the St. Croix County Public Health Department and community partners will continue to offer sharps disposal via drop-off locations.
- Expanding the current drop off model for the sharps disposal program to include more locations may be necessary in the future. Convenient locations where residents purchase medical supplies, like pharmacies and drug-stores, could be targeted to be included in the program.
- A program for agricultural sharps should be evaluated in the future to provide proper disposal of these materials for the county's agricultural producers.

## Goals and Objectives

***Goal 1: Protect public health and land and water resources through proper solid waste management and recycling.***

### Objectives:

- 1.1 Protect the county's public health, natural environment, groundwater and surface water resources, air, land and other natural resources through proper solid waste disposal and responsible recycling.
- 1.2 Provide information, coordination, education and assistance to local municipalities and residents on the proper management of solid waste, hazardous waste and recyclable materials.
- 1.3 Ensure compliance with state and local laws and ordinances regarding solid waste and recycling to reduce illegal dumping and disposal of solid waste.

***Goal 2: Provide convenient and adequate access to quality recycling services for all county residents.***

### Objectives:

- 2.1 Encourage private haulers to expand curbside collection of solid waste and recyclables to rural areas of the county.
- 2.2 Provide convenient access to recycling at all county owned facilities and parks.
- 2.3 Provide support to municipalities and businesses to establish recycling programs in public places such as parks, gas stations and schools.



- 2.4 Ensure that multi-family residences provide adequate recycling to all tenants.
- 2.5 Create a uniform recycling requirement that ensures all county residents have access to the same consistent recycling opportunities.

### ***Goal 3: Reduce the amount of waste generated within the county.***

#### **Objectives:**

- 3.1 Encourage the establishment of municipal composting and organics collection.
- 3.2 Educate residents on the benefits of waste reduction and re-use through private non-profits.

### ***Goal 4: Provide cost efficient and coordinated solid waste and recycling services for all county residents.***

#### **Objectives:**

- 4.1 Solicit bids for county sponsored recycling collection services every three to five years to maintain the most cost effective services.
- 4.2 Encourage municipalities to join together to solicit multi-municipality contracts for solid waste and recycling collection services to reduce costs.
- 4.3 Pursue a partnership with a permanent household hazardous waste facility to provide residents with a year-round, cost effective disposal option for hazardous waste.
- 4.4 Encourage municipalities to join St. Croix County's Responsible Unit to increase efficiency and access of solid waste and recycling services.

## **Policies**

### ***Solid Waste & Recycling***

- 1.1 Local municipalities and/or residents will continue to be responsible for private curbside or drop-off sites for solid waste and recycling collection and disposal. The county will continue to provide support.
- 1.2 St. Croix County will continue to serve as the Responsible Unit for its 26-member municipalities to implement the state recycling laws, expand education, information, special collections and related services for recycling.
- 1.3 Sponsor and organize countywide collections for appliances, tires and electronics.
- 1.4 Evaluate the need for other collection events, such as electronics and mattresses, as deemed appropriate by market conditions to provide convenient recycling options for residents.
- 1.5 Provide resources and information to individuals, businesses and municipalities regarding recycling laws, best practices and recycling opportunities.
- 1.6 Loan recycling bins to local municipalities and residents for use at festivals, concerts, events and family gatherings within the county.
- 1.7 Support establishment of municipal composting programs and organics collection.

- 1.8 Encourage private haulers to expand curbside collection of solid waste and recyclables to rural areas of the county.
- 1.9 Promote continuation and strengthening of recycling and household hazardous waste collection programs.

## ***Hazardous Waste***

- 2.1 Sponsor and organize an annual, countywide hazardous waste collection event open to households, farms and businesses.
- 2.2 Maintain existing partnerships with surrounding counties to allow County residents to dispose of hazardous waste at other counties Clean Sweep collection events.
- 2.3 Expand Clean Sweep Hazardous Waste program to include two or more collection events in the county to provide more convenient and frequent access to proper hazardous waste disposal.
- 2.4 Explore the possibility of partnering with permanent household hazardous waste facilities in the Twin Cities to offer year round hazardous waste disposal opportunities.

## ***Medical Waste***

- 3.1 Provide opportunities for residents to drop off unwanted medications at municipal law enforcement agencies and the St. Croix County Sheriff's Department.
- 3.2 Evaluate adding a medication take back event to one of the existing collection events such as the Clean Sweep Hazardous Waste collection, appliance collection, or Earth Day event.
- 3.3 Provide opportunities for residents to dispose of sharps at the St. Croix County Public Health Department, care centers, clinics and hospitals.

## ***Program Funding***

- 4.1 Annually evaluate user fees charged for all county sponsored collection events.
- 4.2 Evaluate options for enacting special charges on real estate parcels to supplement funding for the Clean Sweep and recycling programs in the event state grant funding is eliminated or drastically reduced.
- 4.3 Explore possibility of licensing waste and recycling haulers who work in the county.

## ***Education***

- 5.1 Update and maintain the county recycling website to provide accurate information on proper recycling and solid waste disposal options.
- 5.2 Provide recycling education via various outlets including social media, the internet, displays at public venues and public presentations.
- 5.3 Publish biannual recycling newsletters to inform residents of recycling opportunities.
- 5.4 Coordinate with local centers of learning, including schools, universities, community centers and libraries to display recycling information.

**SOLID WASTE AND RECYCLING MANAGEMENT VISION**

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**Introduction**

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The State of Wisconsin Solid Waste Reduction, Recovery and Recycling Law (§287.09) created Responsible Units (RU) for the administration of effective recycling programs. Counties were considered RU's by default and municipalities had the choice to opt out and become their own individual RU. St. Croix County became the RU for 26 of the 35 municipalities in St. Croix County. RU's are charged with providing easy and convenient access to recycling along with recycling education and outreach.

**Table 16.1 List of County Responsible Units (RU)**

St. Croix County RU	St. Croix County RU	Individual RU
Town of Baldwin	Town of St. Joseph	Town of Cady
Town of Eau Galle	Town of Stanton	Town of Cylon
Town of Emerald	Town of Star Prairie	Town of Forest
Town of Erin Prairie	Town of Troy	Town of Warren
Town of Glenwood	Village of Baldwin	Village of Roberts
Town of Hammond	Village of Deer Park	Village of Wilson
Town of Hudson	Village of Hammond	City of Glenwood City
Town of Kinnickinnic	Village of North Hudson	Pierce County RU
Town of Pleasant Valley	Village of Somerset	City of River Falls
Town of Richmond	Village of Star Prairie	Village of Spring Valley
Town of Rush River	Village of Woodville	
Town of Somerset	City of Hudson	
Town of Springfield	City of New Richmond	

*Source: Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources*

**INVENTORY OF SOLID WASTE & RECYCLING SERVICES**

**Solid Waste & Recycling Haulers**

There are eight solid waste and recycling haulers that provide service in St. Croix County. These haulers service residential, multi-family and/or commercial accounts. Some haulers provide curbside waste and recycling services, some service municipal drop-off centers and others only provide dumpster services. Table 16.2 lists the waste and recycling haulers that provide service in St. Croix County. The waste and recycling haulers listed may not provide service in all St. Croix County communities. Several haulers collect mixed recyclables all in one cart or bin while others require residents to sort recyclables. Advanced Disposal, Murtha Sanitation, Paul's Industrial Garage (PIG) and Waste Management collect mixed recyclables from residents. Olson Sanitation, River City Disposal, Stephens Sanitation and Waterman Sanitation require residents to sort recyclables into two or more categories.

Hauler	Location
Advanced Disposal	St. Paul, MN
Murtha Sanitation	Baldwin, WI
Olson Sanitation	Somerset, WI
Paul's Industrial Garage (PIG)	Hager City, WI
River City Disposal	River Falls, WI
Stephens Sanitation	New Richmond, WI
Waste Management	Somerset, WI
Waterman Sanitation	Amery, WI

Source: St. Croix County Recycling Program

**Municipal Solid Waste & Recycling Centers**

Several communities in the county provide drop-off centers for residents to bring their trash and recycling. Most communities contract with haulers to transport and market the materials collected. A few communities do sell their aluminum cans, scrap metal, paper and cardboard on their own. Most of the drop-off centers are open to residents of that particular community, with the exception of the Town of Richmond Recycling Center, which is open to all St. Croix County residents.

Table 16.3 details the communities within the St. Croix County Responsible Unit (RU) that operate drop-off centers for recycling and the haulers they contract with. Note that not all communities are part of the St. Croix County RU and not all operate drop-off centers.

Municipality	Hauler
Town of Baldwin	Murtha Sanitation
Town of Emerald	Murtha Sanitation
Town of Glenwood	Murtha Sanitation
Town of Hammond	Murtha Sanitation
Town of Kinnickinnic	River City Disposal
Town of Pleasant Valley	Waste Management
Town of Richmond	Stephens Sanitation
Town of Rush River	Waste Management
Town of Somerset	Olson Sanitation
Town of Springfield	PIG
Town of Stanton	Waterman Sanitation
Town of Troy	PIG
Village of Deer Park	Waterman Sanitation
City of New Richmond	Stephens Sanitation

Source: St. Croix County Recycling Program

**Curbside Solid Waste & Recycling Service**

Most communities pair their curbside recycling collection with curbside trash collection services. Curbside recycling service is typically provided weekly or bi-weekly by haulers. Several haulers in the county have transitioned to providing recycling carts, instead of a standard 18 gallon recycling bin, and provide bi-weekly collection service. These haulers also typically utilize fully automated arms to pick up recycling carts, eliminating the need for the collection driver to leave the vehicle.

Some municipalities contract directly with haulers to provide curbside trash and recycling services while others allow residents to privately subscribe to the hauler of their choice.

Table 16.4 details haulers that provide curbside recycling service and the communities they serve. Note that not all communities are part of the St. Croix County Responsible Unit (RU) and not all communities have access to curbside recycling. Data is not available for the municipalities which are not part of the St. Croix County RU.

Community	Hauler	2017 Recycling Services	
		Municipal Curbside Contract	Private Curbside Subscription
<b>Towns</b>			
Eau Galle	Murtha Sanitation	X	
Erin Prairie	Waste Management		X
Hammond	Waste Management		X
Hudson	Waste Management	X	
Kinnickinnic	Waste Management		X
Kinnickinnic	PIG		X
Pleasant Valley	Waste Management		X
Richmond	Waste Management		X
Rush River	Waste Management		X
St. Joseph	Waste Management		X
St. Joseph	Olson Sanitation		X
Somerset	Olson Sanitation		X
Somerset	Waste Management		X
Stanton	Waste Management		X
Star Prairie	Waste Management		X
Troy	Waste Management		X
Troy	PIG		X
<b>Villages/Cities</b>		<b>Curbside</b>	<b>Subscription</b>
Baldwin	Murtha Sanitation	X	
Hammond	Murtha Sanitation	X	
North Hudson	Advanced Disposal	X	
Somerset	Olson Sanitation	X	
Star Prairie	Waterman Sanitation	X	
Woodville	Advanced Disposal	X	
Hudson	Advanced Disposal	X	
New Richmond	Stephens Sanitation	X	

Source: St. Croix County Recycling Program



**Transfer Stations, Landfills and Incinerators**

All trash that is collected in St. Croix County is disposed of in a landfill or incinerator in Wisconsin. Trash is often combined at local transfer stations before being hauled to a landfill or incinerator. Table 16.5 lists transfer stations, landfills and an incinerator that provide service to haulers who collect trash in St. Croix County.

Table 16.5 Transfer Stations, Landfills and Incinerators	
Operator	Location
Transfer Stations	
Advanced Disposal	Eau Claire, WI
Advanced Disposal	Roberts, WI
Boxx Sanitation	Eau Claire, WI
Dunn County Solid Waste	Menomonie, WI
Paul's Industrial Garage	Hager City, WI
Waste Management	Chippewa Falls, WI
Waste Management	Osceola, WI
Waste Management	River Falls, WI
Landfills	
Lake Area Disposal	Sarona, WI
Seven Mile Creek	Eau Claire, WI
Timberline Trail	Weyerhaeuser, WI
Incinerator	
Barron County	Almena, WI

Source: Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources

**Material Recovery Facilities (MRF)**

Material Recovery Facilities (MRF) are facilities that receive multiple recycling commodities from haulers and prepare them for sale. They are designed to sort the various components of the recycling stream, such as paper, metal, glass, and cardboard, so that the commodities can be baled or otherwise readied for the market. Wisconsin's recycling law requires MRFs to be registered with the state and for recycling programs to send their materials to licensed facilities. Table 16.6 lists the four MRFs that current accept recyclables generated in St. Croix County.

Table 16.6 Material Recovery Facilities (MRF)	
Operator	Location
Paul's Industrial Garage	Hager City, WI
Pierce County Solid Waste	Ellsworth, WI
Polk County Recycling	St. Croix Falls, WI
Waste Management Recycle America	Minneapolis, MN

Source: St. Croix County Recycling Program

**Yard Waste**

Yard waste is defined by Wisconsin law as grass, leaves, garden refuse and wood branches that are 6” or less in diameter. These materials have been banned from landfills since 1995. Burning of yard waste is allowed by the state but may be banned at the municipal level. Burning is highly discouraged due to air pollution and safety concerns. There are a few communities that operate yard waste disposal sites for their residents. Other municipalities only offer seasonal pick-ups, such as in the fall and spring on certain dates. At this time, there is no county operated yard waste disposal site. In addition to municipal opportunities, there are several private businesses

and haulers that provide yard waste disposal in the county. A table of these opportunities is detailed in Table 16.7.

Table 16.7 Yard Waste Services in St. Croix County		
<b>Haulers</b>	<b>Location</b>	<b>Service</b>
Advanced Disposal	Several	Subscription Curbside
Waste Management	Several	Subscription Curbside
<b>Municipalities</b>	<b>Location</b>	<b>Service</b>
Village of Baldwin	Baldwin	Drop-off
Glenwood City	Glenwood City	Pick-up
Village of Hammond	Hammond	Drop-off
New Richmond	New Richmond	Drop-off
Village of Somerset	Somerset	Pick-up
Woodville	Woodville	Pick-up
<b>Private Businesses</b>	<b>Location</b>	<b>Service</b>
Diamond D Farms	Somerset	Drop-off
Freedom Farm	Houlton	Drop-off
All Natural Recycling	River Falls	Drop-off
Composting Concepts	Woodbury, MN	Drop-off
Sean & Sons	Spring Valley	Pick-up

Source: St. Croix County Recycling Program

**ST. CROIX COUNTY PROGRAMS**

**Recycling**

The County recycling program provides the following services:

- Organizes hazardous waste, tire, appliance and electronics collections
- Supports the County medication and sharps disposal programs
- Coordinates the special event recycling program
- Answers solid waste and recycling questions
- Educates residents on recycling and solid waste topics through a variety of platforms
- Supports recycling in the 26 member municipalities of the St. Croix County Responsible Unit (RU) administratively and financially
- Sells compost bins to help promote backyard composting

The county recycling program is almost entirely dependent on state grants administered by the DNR. There are no general tax levy dollars that support recycling in St. Croix County. The state grant reimbursement program was established as part of the state mandatory recycling law. The

recycling specialist is responsible for applying for grant funding on behalf of the county and the 26 municipalities that are part of the St. Croix County RU. This includes annually collecting recycling tonnage and expenses from the RU member municipalities and reporting it to the state.

The formula to determine grant awards has varied over the years. A list of state grant awards to the St. Croix County Recycling Program can be found in Table 16.8. Note that the recycling program costs include expenses incurred by the county and the RU member municipalities. During the years 1995-1999, a portion of the grant funding was set aside as supplemental grants. These were per capita grants based on the number of residents within the RU whose fees for garbage service were based on volume. From 2003-2009, in addition to the basic grants, additional

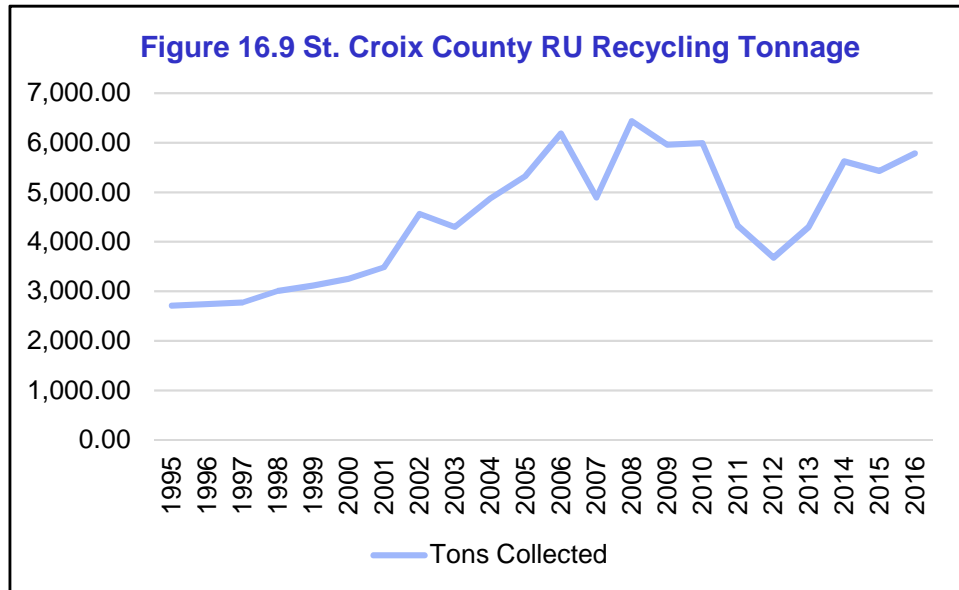
Year	Recycling Program Cost	Basic State Grant Received	Recycling Efficiency Incentive Grant	Total State Grant	Percent of County & RU Expenses Covered by Grants
1995	\$300,583	\$208,190	***	\$208,190	69%
1996	\$264,762	\$193,025	***	\$193,025	73%
1997	\$228,963	\$228,963	***	\$228,963	100%
1998	\$264,762	\$222,215	***	\$222,215	84%
1999	\$291,276	\$230,397	***	\$230,397	79%
2000	\$319,348	\$228,074	***	\$228,074	71%
2001	\$363,468	\$227,760	***	\$227,760	63%
2002	\$400,123	\$227,766	***	\$227,760	57%
2003	\$407,442	\$227,974	\$42,457	\$270,432	66%
2004	\$448,446	\$228,254	\$46,289	\$274,543	61%
2005	\$426,687	\$228,112	\$42,006	\$270,118	63%
2006	\$434,535	\$228,085	\$47,105	\$275,190	63%
2007	\$470,064	\$227,965	\$48,421	\$276,386	59%
2008	\$372,572	\$288,351	\$45,007	\$333,358	89%
2009	\$405,108	\$259,535	\$39,163	\$298,698	74%
2010	\$362,511	\$273,122	***	\$273,122	75%
2011	\$336,654	\$176,454	***	\$176,454	52%
2012	\$338,719	\$196,522	***	\$196,522	58%
2013	\$325,850	\$196,539	***	\$196,539	60%
2014	\$457,186	\$196,532	***	\$196,532	43%
2015	\$312,502	\$196,685	***	\$196,685	63%
2016	\$387,674	\$187,483	***	\$187,483	48%
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$7,919,235</b>	<b>\$4,878,003</b>	<b>\$310,448</b>	<b>\$5,188,446</b>	<b>66%</b>

Source: St. Croix County Recycling Program

funds were available through a separate appropriation known as the Recycling Efficiency Incentive Grant (REIG). St. Croix County used the REIG funding to work on joint programming efforts with Dunn, Eau Claire, Pierce and Polk Counties. This work included an inventory of recycling at multi-family buildings, convenience stores and schools and expanding recycling efforts in these areas.

The state grant money covers all of the county recycling expenses and the remaining balance is distributed to the RU member municipalities to help offset the cost of their recycling programs. Since 2013-14, the distribution

of grant monies to the municipalities has been based on of a percentage of the previous year's recycling expenditures. One check per year is cut to each RU member municipality with qualifying recycling expenses. Since recycling funding has decreased while expenses continue to increase, the county has taken steps to reduce its expenditures, primarily by reducing the recycling specialist position from full time to part time and cutting newsletter printing costs by decreasing the size and length of each issue.



Source: St. Croix County Recycling Program

The amount of recycling collected in the St. Croix County RU since the state recycling law went into effect in 1995 is shown in Figure 16.9. The increase in recycling collected since 1995 can be attributed to:

- Increased population
- Curbside recycling availability
- Increased single stream (mixed recycling) collection
- More materials becoming recyclable

The data represents only the recycling collected from municipalities who are part of the St. Croix County RU. It does not include recycling from the independent RUs in the county or recycling that is done in the private sector; for example, scrap metal dealers who accept aluminum cans or businesses that recycle electronics, appliances, tires, used oil, etc. These numbers also do not include any yard waste tonnage accepted curbside or at municipal drop-off centers in the county.

**Hazardous Waste**

St. Croix County held its first Clean Sweep Hazardous Waste collection in 1989. The collection has been held annually since 1993. There are no businesses located within the county that provide hazardous waste disposal. St. Croix County residents have the opportunity to dispose of hazardous waste at other local counties' Clean Sweep events due to partnerships with Pierce, Dunn and Polk counties. Residents who are moving or otherwise have an immediate need to dispose of hazardous waste are able to schedule an appointment with WRR Environmental Services in Eau Claire, WI for disposal.

**St. Croix County Solid Waste & Recycling Public Opinion Survey Report Results, 2015:**

- 74% of County residents reported that they would be more likely to attend the Clean Sweep program if additional collection days were added.

The County has historically contracted with Northwest Regional Planning Commission (NWRPC), located in Spooner, WI, for hazardous waste disposal services. In 2017, the county changed contractors to hire WRR Environmental Services, located in Eau Claire, WI. WRR quoted significant cost savings for the program and allowed the County to increase the number of hazardous waste collection days from two to three days in 2017.

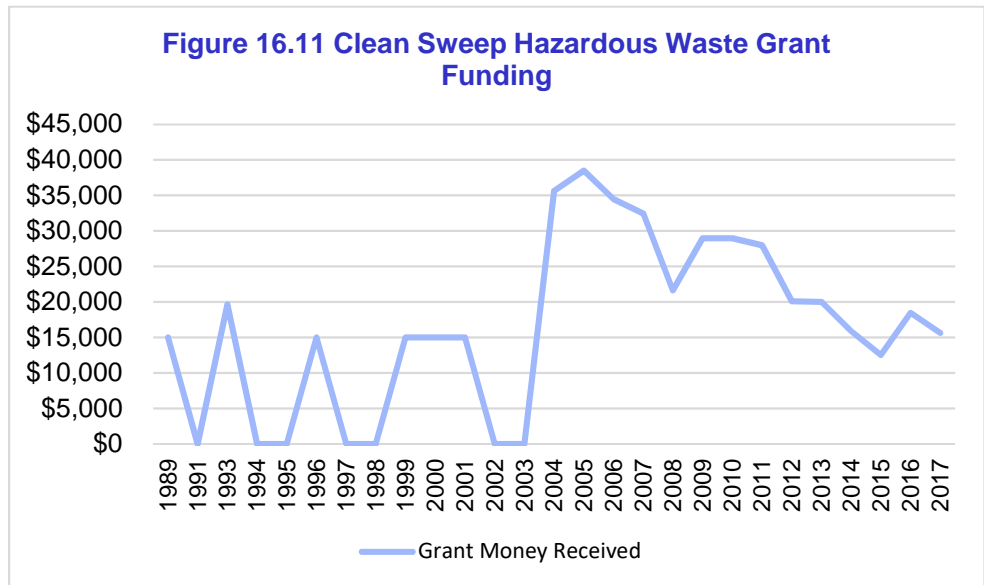
The County began with just a single yearly collection in 1989 but expanded the program to two collections in 1998. In 2011, the program was decreased to a single yearly event due to grant funding decreases. The Clean Sweep program was expanded in 2017 to hold two collections; the normal two-day collection in the spring and a one day collection in the fall.

**Table 16.10 Latex Paint Weights & Revenue**

Year	Latex Paint Collected (lbs)	Net Profit (\$)
2015	14,158	2,743.80
2016	9,224	1,942.00
2017	13,542	6,694.65
<b>Total</b>	<b>31,129</b>	<b>11,380.45</b>

Source: St. Croix County Recycling Program

Latex paint was added to our Clean Sweep Hazardous Waste collection in 2015 in response to requests from residents and as a way to generate revenue for the program. Residents were extremely happy with this addition and a large amount of latex paint was brought in to the Clean Sweep collection in 2015. This also resulted in people bringing in more hazardous waste, making it the largest single event hazardous waste collection in St. Croix County history, in terms of weight of hazardous waste. Latex paint is collected from residents during the Clean Sweep collection for a nominal fee. All revenue from the collection of latex paint is used to pay for latex paint disposal and excess funds help fund



Source: Wisconsin Department of Agriculture, Trade and Consumer Protection (DATCP)



the Clean Sweep program. The amount of latex paint collected and the net profit from the latex paint collection (after disposal costs) is shown Table 16.10. The amount of latex paint has decreased each year since the initial collection in 2015, which is expected as residents dispose of stored latex paint. Table 16.10 shows that the latex paint net profit has increased even though the amount of paint collected has decreased. This is because in 2015 and 2016, WRR Environmental Services handled the latex paint collection, but was not the prime contractor for the event, so the county had to pay for disposal boxes provided by WRR for the latex paint collection.

In 2017, WRR became the prime contractor and the boxes for disposal were part of the general collection invoice, thus showing a greater net profit for latex paint.

The Clean Sweep Hazardous Waste program is funded by a combination of state grant funding and the general county tax levy. The state grant funding for hazardous waste is administered by the Department of Agriculture, Trade, and Consumer Protection (DATCP). The state has reduced the amount of money programs receive for Clean Sweep grants in recent years due to the total amount of funding for the statewide program decreasing from \$1,000,000 to \$750,000 in 2009 and using a portion of that money to fund drug collection programs, starting in 2008. The amount of grant funding the county has received for Clean Sweep is shown in Figure 16.11.

Table 16.12 details the number of collections, number of participants, weight of hazardous waste collected and the pounds collected per participant.

Year	Number of Events	Number of Collection Days	Number of Participants	Poundage	Pounds per Participant
1989	1	1	400	5,311	13.28
1991	1	1	191	2,707	14.17
1993	1	1	76	4,661	61.33
1994	1	1	463	8,533	18.43
1995	1	1	461	4,582	9.94
1996	1	1	387	20,008	51.70
1997	1	1	332	14,745	44.41
1998	2	2	549	17,600	32.06
1999	2	2	353	22,320	63.23
2000	2	2	339	30,239	89.20
2001	2	2	445	24,064	54.08
2002	2	2	530	31,000	58.49
2003	2	2	468	35,879	76.66
2004	2	2	461	33,453	72.57
2005	2	2	532	41,663	78.31
2006	2	2	461	35,454	76.91
2007	2	2	470	38,407	81.72
2008	2	2	536	42,691	79.65
2009	2	2	546	37,848	69.32
2010	2	2	572	39,914	69.78
2011	1	2	407	26,623	65.41
2012	1	2	264	9,934	37.63
2013	1	2	391	23,585	60.32
2014	1	2	375	27,886	74.36
2015	1	2	515	54,529	105.88
2016	1	2	526	52,217	99.27
2017	2	3	1,006	78,041	77.58
<b>Total</b>	<b>41</b>	<b>48</b>	<b>12,056</b>	<b>763,894</b>	<b>60.58</b>

Source: St. Croix County Recycling Program

The number of participants in the Clean Sweep program has significantly increased since the addition of latex paint. This has led to significant back-ups and long wait times for residents to dispose of hazardous waste. The County has made several efficiency improvements including eliminating fees for all items except latex paint, increasing the amount of contractor labor, increasing hours for the household collection, and implementing a number system to serve residents in order of arrival. These improvements helped some but wait times can exceed one hour during peak hours of the household collection. The demand for proper hazardous waste disposal will continue to increase as the population increases and becomes more concerned with protecting our natural resources in St. Croix County. Increasing the number of collections and/or number of collection days will be needed to keep up with demand. This will result in an increasing strain on the general county levy funding. The continued support of the County Board will be needed to allocate funding for additional Clean Sweep collections in the future.



Cars backed up on to US Hwy 12 during the Fall 2017 Clean Sweep event. Source: St. Croix County Recycling Program.

## Medical Waste

### Medication Collection Program

Unwanted prescription and non-prescription medications can be safely disposed of through the St. Croix County Medication Collection Program. This effort, implemented in 2011, is coordinated by the St. Croix County Sheriff's Department due to state and federal regulations. Permanent drop-off containers were purchased in 2011 for the St. Croix County Sheriff's Office and all of the local municipal law enforcement agencies. Unwanted medicines are collected anonymously and for free in permanent drop-boxes located at the county sheriff's office and all municipal police departments in the county. Unwanted medicines can be dropped off during normal office hours of the Sheriff and police department.

A list of permanent medication take-back program drop-box locations can be found in Table 16.13. The St. Croix County Sheriff's Department is responsible for consolidating the collected medications from the municipal law enforcement agencies and accompanying the transportation of the consolidated medications to the State Patrol Headquarters in Eau Claire, WI. This consolidation happens twice per year. The Wisconsin Department of Justice (DOJ) currently funds the disposal of the medications at licensed facilities.

The Sheriff's Department has received a grant in the past from the Department of Agriculture, Trade and Consumer Protection (DATCP) to help cover eligible expenses related to the program. As long as the disposal of the medication continues to be covered by the DOJ, the costs to run this program will be minimal for the county. Table 16.14 summarizes the expenses, grant revenue and medication

**Table 16.13 Medication Take Back Program Drop Box Locations**

Locations
St. Croix County Sheriff (Hudson, WI)
Baldwin Police Department
Glenwood City Police Department
Hammond Police Department
Hudson Police Department
North Hudson Police Department
New Richmond Police Department
River Falls Police Department
Village of Roberts Police Department
Somerset Police Department
Woodville Police Department

Source: St. Croix County Sheriff's Department

collected since 2011. The St. Croix County Sheriff's Office has not applied for a grant since 2015, therefore there is no grant related expense information for 2016 and 2017.

Year	Pounds	Total Costs	In-Kind Expenses	DATCP Grant	Cost per Pound
2011	400	\$3,692.59	\$994.68	\$2,697.91	\$9.23
2012	640	\$2,362.64	\$719.79	\$1,642.85	\$3.69
2013	1,100	\$3,611.14	\$2,011.14	\$1,600.00	\$3.28
2014	1,000	\$2,401.70	\$951.70	\$1,450.00	\$2.40
2015	1,329	\$3,006.85	\$1,406.85	\$1,600.00	\$2.26
2016	1,132	-	-	-	-
2017	2,239	-	-	-	-
<b>Total</b>	<b>7,840</b>	<b>\$15,074.92</b>	<b>\$6,084.16</b>	<b>\$8,990.76</b>	

*Source: St. Croix County Sheriff's Department*

### Sharps Disposal Program

The sharps disposal program began in 2005 and is a joint effort between the St. Croix County Public Health Division of the Health & Human Services Department, the St. Croix County Recycling program, the Lions Club and local medical clinics.

The sharps program was initiated by a monetary donation from the Lions Club to fund the purchase of sharps containers. The county contributed some funds to purchase additional containers as well. The recycling program primarily handles promotion and education of the program while Public Health handles the distribution of the sharps containers and works with community partners for disposal.

There are several hospitals and clinics in the county that accept sharps from St. Croix County residents. These locations are listed in Table 16.15. These community partners receive sharps containers from St. Croix County Public Health but are responsible for the administrative and financial costs of properly disposing of the sharps. The county only pays for the disposal of sharps generated by the county. The county contracts with Medical Disposal Systems in Shakopee, Minnesota to properly dispose of sharps generated by Public Health and the St. Croix County Health & Rehab Center. The sharps are sterilized and then landfilled at the SKB Landfill in Rosemount, Minnesota.

Facility	Location
Western Wisconsin Health	Baldwin, WI
Glenhaven Care Center	Glenwood City, WI
American Heritage Care Center	Hammond, WI
Hudson Hospital	Hudson, WI
Park View Care Center	Woodville, WI
Westfields Hospital	New Richmond, WI

*Source: St. Croix County Public Health*

In addition to the community partners listed, sharps containers can be picked up at the St. Croix County Services Center in New Richmond and the County Market grocery store pharmacy in Hudson. Neither of these locations accepts sharps for disposal from the public.

The sharps program is for household use only. Pharmacies, commercial entities and agricultural producers must dispose of their sharps through mail-back programs or contract with a sharps disposal service.

**Appliances**

St. Croix County has sponsored spring and fall collections for appliances since 1994. These collections are hosted in coordination with several municipalities and in conjunction with the county-sponsored tire collection. Historically, there have been three collection sites in spring and two collection sites in the fall. Since 2015, there are three collection sites in both spring and fall.

**St. Croix County Solid Waste & Recycling Public Opinion Survey Report Results, 2015:**

- 85% of County residents reported that they recycle appliances and 62% indicated they recycle them through public events.

The county currently contracts with JR's Advanced Recyclers from Inver Grove Heights, Minnesota to recycle the appliances. JR's collects all fees from the residents and hauls the appliances away the same day. The only expense the county has for the appliance collection is the time spent by the recycling specialist to organize locations and promote the collection. Table 16.16 shows the number and weight of appliances collected during county-sponsored appliance collections from 2011-2017.

In addition to the county sponsored collections, there are several private opportunities to recycle appliances year-round. These businesses are listed in Table 16.17. Some garbage haulers also pick-up appliances curbside for recycling and several municipalities host clean-up days in which residents can bring appliances to be recycled.

**Table 16.16 St. Croix County Appliance Collections**

Year	Number of Collections	Number of Appliances	Tonnage
2007	5	726	54.2
2008	5	726	53.0
2009	5	682	52.9
2010	5	728	50.9
2011	5	426	29.7
2012	5	434	27.3
2013	5	362	24.2
2014	5	456	29.2
2015	6	728	49.1
2016	6	692	46.6
2017	6	614	40.4

Source: St. Croix County Recycling Program

**Table 16.17 Appliance Recycling Locations**

Business	Location
Advanced Disposal Transfer Station	Roberts, WI
Habitat for Humanity ReStore	Roberts, WI
JR's Advanced Recyclers	Inver Grove Heights, MN
Sears Hometown Store	River Falls, WI
Sears Hometown Store	Menomonie, WI
Appliance-B-Gone	Spring Valley, WI
Sean & Sons	Spring Valley, WI

Source: St. Croix County Recycling Program



Appliances are being unloaded at a 2017 Appliance Collection in the Town of Troy. Source: St. Croix County Recycling Program.



## Tires

Similar to appliances, St. Croix County has held tire collections annually since 1995. The tire collections are also co-sponsored by local municipalities. Traditionally, the tire collection has only been offered in the spring but in 2015 a fall collection was added. The program allows residents to recycle tires at various locations for a per tire fee. The program accepts a wide range of tire sizes, from bicycles to tractors.

The county co-sponsors tire collections twice a year in coordination with several municipalities and in conjunction with the county sponsored appliance collection. Each collection occurs at two or three host municipalities who provide a convenient site to host the collection at. The county contracts with Liberty Tire from Savage, MN to recycle the tires.

Unlike the appliance collection, Liberty Tire does not collect fees or haul away the tires on collection day. The host municipality is responsible for collecting fees and providing a secure location to store the tires until Liberty Tire picks up the tires the week after the collection.

The host municipality then provides the county with a count of the number and type of tires collected and forwards all fees collected to the county. Table 16.18 shows the number, weight and cost of tires collected from 2011-2017.

In addition to county sponsored events, several municipalities host clean-up days where tires can be recycled. There are several private businesses within the county that recycle tires year-round. A detailed list of tire recycling locations in St. Croix County can be found in Table 16.19.



Tires collected from a Spring 2017 Tire Collection in the City of Hudson.

### **St. Croix County Solid Waste & Recycling Public Opinion Survey Report Results, 2015:**

- 62% of County residents reported that they recycle tires and 38% indicated they recycle them through public events.

**Table 16.18 St. Croix County Tire Collections**

Year	Number of Collections	Number of Tires	Tonnage	Cost per Ton
2007	3	1,888	42.6	\$110.00
2008	4	2,000	47.0	\$110.00
2009	3	1,928	36.3	\$115.00
2010	3	2,660	35.86	\$115.00
2011	3	1,813	30.5	\$110.00
2012	4	1,553	27.1	\$125.00
2013	3	2,236	37.4	\$135.00
2014	4	863	21.8	\$135.00
2015	5	1,819	38.0	\$143.00
2016	5	1,932	40.4	\$175.00
2017	5	1,544	23.7	\$185.00

Source: St. Croix County Recycling

**Table 16.19 Tire Recycling Locations**

Business	Location
Emerald Tire & Auto	Emerald, WI
Mike's Auto Body	Glenwood City, WI
Dave's Auto Service	Hammond, WI
Hilltop Service Center	Hudson, WI
Fleet Farm	Hudson, WI
J&R Tire	New Richmond, WI
Nobles Tire Service	New Richmond, WI
River Falls Tire Co.	River Falls, WI
Swede's Marathon	River Falls, WI
Dave's Service Center	Star Prairie, WI
OB's Repair	Wilson, WI
Village Auto Service	Woodville, WI

Source: St. Croix County Recycling Program



**Electronics**

St. Croix County sponsored an electronics collection from the early 1990's until 2010. In 2010, the state passed the mandatory E-Cycle law that banned certain electronics from landfills. This led to an increase in private recycling opportunities and the county no longer sponsored an electronics collection. There are several private businesses within the county and several in surrounding counties that recycle electronics. A list of businesses can be found in Table 16.20.

**St. Croix County Solid Waste & Recycling Public Opinion Survey Report Results, 2015:**

- 88% of County residents reported that they recycle electronics. 86% of the municipal officials surveyed reported they would like the county to resume an electronics collection.

The county resumed sponsoring an electronics collection in 2017 due to decreased private recycling opportunities and due to demand from municipalities and residents.

St. Croix County sponsored electronics collections up until the state passed a mandatory electronics recycling law. This law provided opportunities for local governments and businesses to register with the state and become electronics collectors.

The registered collectors work with registered recyclers to properly recycle the collected electronics. Manufacturers of electronics were required to help pay for a portion of the cost of electronics recycling, based on how many electronics they sold in the state. This created opportunities in the industry and many local businesses became registered collectors. Since there were ample opportunities for residents to conveniently and affordably recycle their electronics in the area, the county decided to discontinue its electronics collections in 2010.

Business	Location
E-Cycling	Hudson, WI
Town of Richmond Recycling Center	New Richmond, WI
St. Croix Electric Cooperative	Hammond, WI
Best Buy	Oakdale, MN
JR's Advanced Recyclers	Inver Grove Heights, MN
ProAct, Inc	Red Wing, MN

Source: St. Croix County Recycling Program

Over time, the cost of recycling electronics increased due to market conditions and many local businesses stopped recycling electronics. In response to decreased local opportunities to recycle electronics and increases in illegal dumping of electronics in municipal ditches, the county decided to resume an electronics collection in 2017. The 2017 collection had limited participation due to the event being scheduled after the spring *Your Wasteline* newsletter was distributed. The county will again hold a collection in 2018 and will evaluate the success of the program and decide whether to continue in 2019.



Electronics being unloaded during the 2017 Electronics Collection at the St. Croix County Services Center in New Richmond.

## Event Recycling

The county purchased 40 portable recycling bins in 2012 to be loaned out for recycling at public events, town festivals, graduation parties, family reunions, etc. These bins help support compliance with our county recycling ordinance, which requires recycling to be available in public places. The bins were purchased with financial assistance from the following sponsors: St. Croix County Fair, St. Croix Electric Cooperative, Hudson Boosters, North Hudson Pepperfest, Xcel Energy and the St. Croix County Sportsman's Alliance. The bins were first available for use in 2013. The bins are rented for free to county residents and towns. The bins have steadily increased in use, with 175 bins being rented out in 2013 to 227 bins being rented out in 2017.



*Special event recycling bins being used during the 2016 Earth Day Celebration at YMCA Camp St. Croix in Hudson.*

## Education

An integral part of the recycling program in St. Croix County is providing recycling education to county residents through a variety of different platforms. The county provides recycling education through printed newsletters, a recycling website, Facebook, Pinterest, educational presentations and displays, school field days, email, phone conversations, brochures and promotional items featuring recycled content.

Some highlights of the recycling education program include:

- The recycling program mails out a recycling newsletter twice a year to all of the addresses in the county. This newsletter contains information on upcoming recycling events, a recycling guide, frequently asked recycling questions and waste reduction tips.
- The recycling website contains information regarding upcoming collection events, how to properly dispose of many items, hauler contact information, a recycling guide, information on our special event recycling bins and more. The recycling website is updated and maintained by the recycling specialist.
- The recycling Facebook page was created in 2012 as an additional way to reach residents with recycling information. The page is maintained by the recycling specialist and has steadily grown in followers. Posts include information on upcoming recycling events, fun recycling facts and recycling articles.
- The recycling Pinterest page was created in 2015 as another online platform to provide recycling education to residents. Information on Pinterest includes composting tutorials, recycling infographics, re-use ideas, natural cleaner recipes, waste reduction tips, and holiday craft projects using recyclable items.
- The recycling specialist speaks at a variety of community and civic groups, schools and libraries free of charge. These presentations include information on what is recyclable in St. Croix County, waste reduction ideas, composting information and natural cleaner recipes. In 2017, the recycling specialist gave eleven recycling presentations, reaching 280 residents.



*The recycling specialist reads a book to a local group of Girl Scouts in 2015.*