Overview of Wisconsin's Recycling Program & Response to National Sword/Market Development

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Wisconsin's Recycling Law (1990)

- Defines a waste and materials management **policy** for WI

- **Bans certain items** from landfilling or incineration

- Establishes **local government** units to implement recycling

- Partially **funds** local recycling programs so that bans can be complied with (presently $20M/year)

Wisconsin Recycles

The following items are **banned** from landfills and incinerators statewide and should be reused, recycled or composted.

Containers

- #1 and #2 plastic bottles and jars
- Aluminum containers
- Bi-metal cans
- Glass containers
- Steel (tin) cans

Paper and Cardboard

- Corrugated cardboard
- Magazines, catalogs, and other materials on similar paper
- Newspaper and newsprint materials
- Office paper

Yard Materials

- Grass clippings
- Debris and brush under 6" in diameter
- Leaves

Vehicle Items

- Lead-acid vehicle batteries
- Tires *
- Used oil filters
- Waste oils *

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

Appliances

- Air conditioners
- Boilers
- Clothes dryers
- Clothes washers
- Dehumidifiers
- Dishwashers
- Freezers
- Furnaces
- Microwaves
- Ovens
- Refrigerators
- Stoves
- Water heaters

Electronics

- Cell phones
- Computers – desktop, laptop, netbook, tablet
- Computer monitors
- Computer keyboards and mice
- Computer scanners
- Computer speakers
- Desktop printers (including those that fax and scan)
- DVD players, VCRs, DVRs and all other video players
- External hard drives
- Fax machines
- Flash drives/USBs
- Other items that plug into a computer
- Televisions

Why ban items from the landfill and incinerator?

The items on this list are made of materials that can be reused in new products. Some also have toxic components that we do not want in our groundwater, air or soil. Recycling and composting allow landfills to last longer, provide markets with valuable reusable materials, create jobs, and prevent pollution.

Why not ban more materials?

Corrugated cardboard is banned while waxed cardboard is not. Some things with plugs, like computers, are banned, while others, like toasters, are not. Why? Current bans cover some of the most easily reusable or most toxic materials on the market today. Eventually more items may be added to this list as new recycling markets develop or the types of materials we throw away change.

Some communities go above and beyond what is required by state law. Check with your local government or recycling service provider to find out what additional materials are accepted for recycling in your area. For more information about Wisconsin's recycling program, search "recycle" at dnr.wi.gov. Wisconsin's recycling requirements apply to everyone in the state at all residences and places of work or play.

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National Sword Effects on WI

Paper

- Newspaper, cardboard, magazines and office paper are only materials banned from landfill disposal, but many programs collect or produce 'mixed paper'
- Quality of utmost importance; significantly increased domestic supply allows mills to take the best feedstock
- WI benefitting from strong, state markets
- Lower paper prices
- Educate and reduce contamination

National Sword Effects on WI

Plastic

- #1 PETE and #2 HDPE are only materials banned from landfill disposal, but some programs collect #3-7 or mixed bulky rigid plastics
- Few domestic buyers of #3-7 bales; much mixed bulky rigid plastic is also exported
- Can MRFs legally landfill collected, sorted & processed (baled) #3-7 plastics? Yes
- In 2017, the City of Madison stopped accepting mixed bulky rigid plastic

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Wisconsin Recycling Markets Directory

Directory Submission

The Wisconsin Recycling Markets Directory (WRMD) provides information about outlets for recycling various materials in Wisconsin. Users can search the list of recyclers for various materials, view information about the recyclers and suggest additional recyclers to include in the listing.

WI Market Development

- Recycling Market Development Board
  - Ended in 1999
  - Provided grants/loans & technical assistance for recycling business market development
- Wisconsin Recycling Markets Directory
  - Partnership between UW-Green Bay & WDNR
  - 15 categories, >180 subcategories
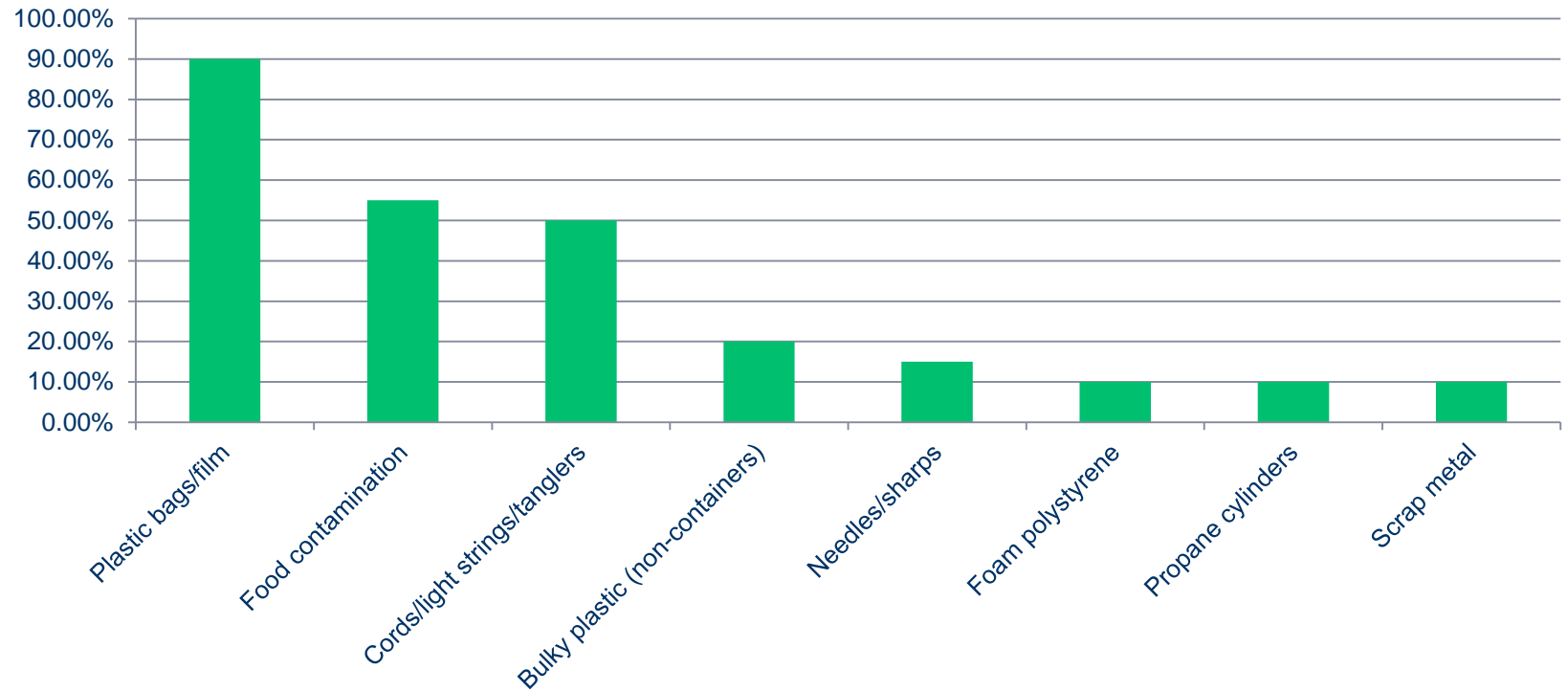- No dedicated Recycling Market Development funds or staff at present

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Addressing National Sword

MRF Stakeholder Meeting

- Nearly 50% of MRFs in attendance
- Public/private owned and operated, various facility sizes, geographical representation, single-stream/dual-stream/source separated
- Background info on National Sword; clarification on WI's recycling law, outside storage for MRFs
- MRF operator presentations (BMPs, modifications)
- Staffing/labor retention major issues
- What can WDNR do?

Problematic Contamination

Biggest sources of contamination

Education & Outreach

- Challenging for WDNR to educate "what to recycle" (beyond bans)
- Statewide education campaign: Recycle Right- emphasize clean, properly prepared recyclables
  - Back to Basics
  - New recycling hierarchy
  - Anti-contamination communication plan
  - 'Wish-cycling' posts on social media

RECYCLING IS EVERYONE'S RESPONSIBILITY

Looking Ahead

- Market developments in WI
  - Nine Dragons in Biron
  - Green Bay Packaging in Green Bay
- Collaborative with stakeholders
  - Associated Recyclers of WI
  - EPA Region 5 market development efforts
- Monitor other states' initiatives
  - EPR for packaging (CT, ME, OR, etc.)
  - Other statewide educational initiatives (FL, etc.)

Questions

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