



Solid Waste Management Fee A Closer Look

In the WLSSD region, we are fortunate that our friends and neighbors are as committed as we are to making our community a better place to live. Since 2006, our communities have increased the amount of waste we recycle to nearly 50%, we've reduced the amount of trash we send to the landfill by about 25%, and we've seen an increase of 25-30% in the use of our Hazardous Waste Facility, Materials Recovery Center and Yard Waste Compost Site. This is all great news!

About 30% of the costs to operate these programs come from state grants and the fees collected on materials dropped off at WLSSD facilities. The remaining 70% of costs are covered by a Solid Waste Management Fee (SWMF) paid by residents and organizations in the region.

Under a system that started in 1997, WLSSD collects a small fee from all waste-generators in the region based on the amount of garbage they generate. A second portion of the SWMF is collected as a flat fee on residential property tax bills. These fees help pay for many programs including free hazardous waste disposal, recycling of many types of materials and free yard and food waste drop-off in the region. Despite the tremendous increase in use and success of programs, WLSSD has been able to keep cost increases to just 1.5% since 2006.

But, with funding for these programs directly tied to our declining garbage volumes, we are challenged by reduced dollars and increased demand for services. We have found that it's necessary to adjust the SWMF to ensure we continue to increase recycling and protect our environment well into the future.

The amount of SWMF residents pay based on garbage volumes will remain at \$0.0085 per gallon. The fees collected on property tax statements will increase from \$18 per year to \$25 per year. This fee is cut in half for seasonal properties, and property owners with more than one adjacent parcel are charged only one \$25 fee.

So what does this fee look like on your garbage bill? The WLSSD Solid Waste Management Fee should be listed as a separate line on your bill from your garbage hauler. It's easy to calculate how much you should be paying.

For example, if you have a 32-gallon garbage container that's picked up by your hauler each week:

$$32 \text{ gallons/pickup} \times \$0.0085/\text{gallon} = \$0.27/\text{pickup}$$
$$\$0.27/\text{pickup} \times 4.3 \text{ pickups/month} = \$1.16/\text{month}$$

So how can you be sure that you're only paying for the services you need? Your garbage bill and the SWMF you pay are based on the size of your garbage can.

- First, continue to recycle and reduce waste to be sure you're only throwing away what you have to.
- Second, be sure your garbage service is the right size for your needs. If you're only filling part of your can each week, talk to your garbage hauling company to reduce the size of your can.

Taking these simple steps can save you money and help reduce the waste sent to the landfill each year.

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Recycling A-No-No

Styrofoam®, tin foil, plastic wrap, and plastic cups are just a few of those pesky items that we'd all LOVE to see snuggling next to the milk jugs and newspapers in our curbside recycling bins. Unfortunately, it's just not an option.

If recycling is taking something old and making it into something new, then we should be able to recycle anything, right? So all those teddy bears, old tennis shoes, broken lawn furniture and even your senior prom dress can go into the recycling bin? Not so fast!

Just like any other industry, there are markets for recyclables that drive what we can and can't recycle. There must be a buyer for our milk jugs and newspapers in order for recycling to work. WLSSD mandates that the basics are recycled (like bottles, boxes, cans, glass, paper and cardboard), and there have been steady



markets for these materials to ensure that our recyclables get a new life.

But when it comes to Styrofoam®, there simply isn't a manufacturer out there that can use the heaps of foam that we discard. In other states, with easier transportation options or closer proximity to a specialty factory, there may be a market. The Twin Ports is not so lucky.

The same goes for plastic cups. They are made of a lower grade plastic and are not as desirable for manufacturers to use in making new products.

Your best bet? Avoid non-recyclable items at all costs. Use reusable cups, mugs, utensils and food storage containers. Skip the tin foil and plastic wrap, and grin and bear it when you have to toss all that Styrofoam® in the trash.

TRASH TRIVIA QUESTION

What is the Solid Waste Management Fee charged on a 96-gallon trash cart, picked up weekly for one year?

All correct answers received by 5 pm on Tuesday, November 25th, will be entered into a drawing for a reusable shopping bag kit with recyclable items. Please email your answer to wastepaper@wlssd.com

LAST ISSUE'S ANSWER:

What states have beverage container deposit laws?

Several states (CA, CT, HI, IA, ME, MA, MI, NY, OR, and VT) have bottle deposit laws requiring an extra 5-10 cent deposit to be paid on a variety of beverage containers, redeemable upon return. The laws were enacted as early as 1972 and as late as 2005 and have been hard at work increasing recycling.



The ten states with bottle bills account for nearly half of all beverage containers recycled in the entire nation.

* Limit one winner per household per year



Questions?

Visit wlssd.com

or call the Hotline at **218-722-0761**



Residential Food Waste Drop Sites



email: gardengreen@wlssd.com

5 Convenient Locations

WLSSD's 27th Ave W Yard Waste Site during regular facility hours. The bin moves to the Household Hazardous Waste Facility in winter months (hours on page 4). Obtain free bags from staff.

Marshall Hardware (parking lot at 4415 E Superior St). Bags for sale in store.

WLSSD's Materials Recovery Center at Rice Lake and Ridgeview Roads during regular facility hours (hours on page 4). Obtain free bags from staff.

Chester Creek Cafe (1902 E 8th St). Obtain free bags inside the cafe.

Willard Munger Inn (7408 Grand Ave). Obtain free bags from Inn staff.

Wastewater Rules!

Wastewater is really nifty, it's true, but in this case we're talking about the actual rules, as in Minnesota laws passed in 2014 that have implications in keeping our waters clean and healthy.

Minnesota has tightened its mercury disposal regulations by removing some special exemptions; all mercury-containing items are now banned from disposal in the trash or down the drain. Minnesota laws already required most household

items that contain mercury, such as thermostats, thermometers and fluorescent light bulbs, be brought to a household hazardous waste facility for disposal, but the new law means that the few remaining unregulated specialty items used in commerce and industry will need special handling too.

Also, Minnesota is now the first state in the nation to ban the use of triclosan, an anti-microbial chemical

found in "anti-bacterial" soaps and personal care products. Triclosan is not removed in the wastewater treatment process. Triclosan is a hormonally active compound that is harmful to aquatic plants and may interfere with survival and reproduction in aquatic animals. Triclosan is not known to be harmful to humans, though widespread use of triclosan could result in bacteria that are resistant to antimicrobials.

The ban takes effect in 2017. In the meantime, check those labels to avoid purchasing products with this chemical; studies show that washing with plain soap and water is just as effective in removing bacteria.

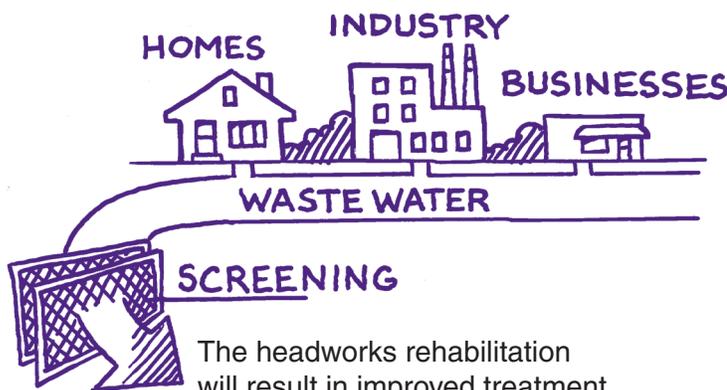
Spectacular Screens

WLSSD's Headworks Rehabilitation Project is underway at the wastewater treatment plant. This \$10.2 million capital improvement project includes the replacement of equipment used to remove the trash and grit at the beginning of the wastewater treatment process.

Removal of trash like wipes, rags, plastics and other debris is accomplished using bar screens. As wastewater flows through the bar screens, debris is caught, removed from the screen by automatic rakes,

and sent to the landfill. The new bars will be positioned closer together (one quarter inch from one another) and will be raked continuously to better remove the increasing amount of "flushable" materials like wipes and single-use cleaning cloths entering the plant.

The grit tanks used to settle out sand and gravel from the system, as well as remove floating materials, will also be rehabilitated and the mechanisms replaced.



The headworks rehabilitation will result in improved treatment, significant improvement in downstream maintenance issues and contribute to a safer work environment.

You can help! Place a trash can in the bathroom and use it for anything that doesn't easily dissolve in water on its own—including those products labeled "flushable".

No Curbside Recycling?



Look for recycling information in:

- your township newsletter
- wlssd.com

Convenient recycling drop off centers are located in area townships:

Canosia, Duluth, Fredenberg, Grand Lake, Lakewood, Midway, North Star, Rice Lake & Solway

Separate these items from your trash:

- Plastic (most haulers accept rigid containers #1-7)
- Glass (clear, brown & green)
- Aluminum Cans (food & beverage cans)
- Metal Cans (food & beverage cans)
- Newspapers & Magazines (including glossy inserts)
- Office Paper (letter, copier, notebook or computer paper)
- Boxboard or Pasteboard (cereal, soda & pasta boxes)
- Corrugated Cardboard (clean, free of oil & food)

Did you know?

Recycling 10 plastic bags saves enough energy to power a 60W compact fluorescent bulb for 13 hours!

Carlton County Facilities

Transfer Station
1950 Hwy 210, Carlton

Solid/Demolition Waste, Appliances, Electronics, Tires & Brush for a fee from Carlton County Residents

Winter Hours - Nov 1 to Mar 31:
Mon through Fri 8:30 am - 4:00 pm
Saturday 8:30 am - 1:00 pm

For rural recycling shed locations and hours, visit www.co.carlton.mn.us

Household Hazardous Waste Facility
1950 Hwy 210, Carlton

Closed until Spring 2014

Carlton County residents can always use the WLSSD HHW Facility



Western Lake Superior Sanitary District

FACILITY HOURS

For Holiday hours or other questions, call the WLSSD Hotline 218-722-0761 or visit wlssd.com

LOCATION

FOR DISPOSAL OF

OPERATING HOURS

Yard Waste Compost Site

27th Ave West & Courtland Street



Grass, leaves, garden debris	Free
Brush and branches	\$8/cu yd
Dirt and sod (3 cu yd limit)	\$8/cu yd

MID-APRIL THROUGH MID-NOVEMBER
Friday, Saturday 9 am - 5 pm
Sunday, Monday 9 am - 5 pm
Tues, Wed, Thurs Closed

Household Hazardous Waste Facility

27th Ave West & Courtland Street



Paint products	Free
Button batteries	Free
Used oil & filters	Free
Chemicals & pesticides	Free
Fluorescent bulbs	Free

YEAR-ROUND
Thursday 9 am - 5 pm
Friday 9 am - 5 pm
Saturday 9 am - 5 pm
Sun, Mon, Tues, Wed Closed

Materials Recovery Center

Corner of Rice Lake & Ridgeview Roads



Mixed waste	\$22/cu yd
Sorted, recoverable waste	\$10/cu yd
Microwaves	1 free per day (\$5 each add'l)
Appliances	\$5 each
Tires	4 free per day (\$3 each add'l)
Electronics	\$10, \$7, \$5, \$2 or Free
Recyclables, fluorescent bulbs, metal	Free

APRIL - OCTOBER
Mon, Tues, Wed, Thurs 10 am - 5 pm
Friday, Saturday 8 am - 4 pm
Sunday Closed
NOVEMBER - MARCH
Tues, Wed, Thurs, Fri, Sat 9 am - 3 pm
Sunday, Monday Closed

Recycling Basics



Tips for better recycling:

Flatten as many of your containers and boxes as possible to save space and make transporting recyclables more efficient.

Rinse containers and remove all caps from glass bottles.

Plastic bags don't belong in recycling bins! Use paper bags to collect recyclables since the bag can be recycled with your mixed paper.

Be a smart shopper - buy reusable, returnable and recyclable items.

Backyard Lasagna

and Other Winter Composting Tips

We're headed into winter. Whether you're in denial of that or not, it's time to talk about the final resting place for your wintertime kitchen scraps.

For those continuing backyard composting through the winter (good for you), mow over and collect two large bags of shredded dead leaves. Store these by your compost pile for easy access. With every "deposit" of kitchen scraps you make this winter, spread a layer of shredded leaves over the top – like making lasagna. This maintains the green/brown balance in your pile so when spring arrives, you can mix the layers for an early start on your 2015 compost supply.



Don't see yourself wading through the snow to your lonely compost pile, but hate the thought of sending those lovely kitchen scraps to a landfill? Bring your food scraps (everything including meat, bones and leftovers) to one of WLSSD's year-round drop sites. We turn them into Garden Green® compost at our organics composting facility.

Drop site locations are listed on page 2. Compostable bags are offered at WLSSD facilities and

all locations, most for free and others carry a nice assortment of compostable bags for purchase. Thanks to the wonderful neighborhood businesses that host drop sites: Chester Creek Café, Munger Inn, and Marshall Hardware, who has graciously partnered with us for 10 years. Residents drop off nearly a half ton of food waste every week at that location for composting.

Happy Anniversary, Marshall Hardware!

Reminder: Use compostable bags to contain food scraps. Do not use regular plastic bags for food scrap drop-off. These contaminate the compost and are very difficult to remove.

Questions about drop sites or composting? Email gardengreen@wlssd.com or call 218-722-3336.



WLSSD Yard Waste Compost Site



Closing for the season in mid to late November.

Woody brush can be brought to the Materials Recovery Center all year for \$8/yard.

Fall To Do List



Check the garage for pesticides, paints, solvents and old fuel. Bring the items you won't use anymore to the WLSSD Household Hazardous Waste Facility. Store the rest so they don't freeze.



Still got leaves to spare? Mow over them several times and use the shredded leaves to cover your garden beds and sensitive perennials. Or, bring them to the Yard Waste Compost Site.



Clear the leaves from your gutters and downspouts. Empty out and store the rain barrel so it doesn't freeze and crack over the winter.



Cruisin' for Reusin'

at the Materials Recovery Center

You may have brought “stuff” to the WLSSD Materials Recovery Center (MRC) for disposal, but did you know it is also home to a bustling Reuse Program? Customers can look over the items in the Reuse Area any time the MRC is open. It’s free to pick items and take them home for reuse (2 item limit per day). The selection is always changing! You can find furniture, lawn implements, bicycles and more.



The number of customers checking out the Reuse Area has tripled over

the past several years. There’s always lots of great “stuff” in the Reuse Area—free for the taking. Whether it’s an oak table to refinish for the kitchen or windows and screens to make a permanent screen house, each successful find means that much less waste going into a landfill.

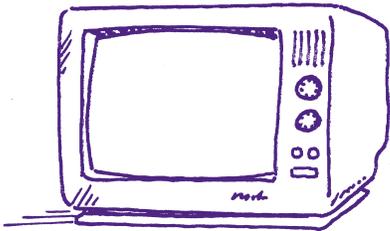
Now the MRC Reuse Area is getting a major facelift! Soon you’ll see two wide, open-access buildings that will replace the large shipping containers currently in use. Shelving will also be installed. With better storage space and improved organization, staff can rescue even more usable items from waste.



Q & A

Q I kept hoping to find a use for my older TV but need to clean out the storage area. What can I do with it?

A You can list it on Craigslist if it still works. But if your TV is an older model with a cathode ray tube, your best bet may be to recycle it.



Old electronics, including TVs, are accepted for recycling at the WLSSD Materials Recovery Center. WLSSD charges \$7 to recycle TVs over 19 inches and just \$5 for smaller ones.

Q Where can I pick up free paint?

A Stop in at the Product Reuse Center in the Household Hazardous Waste Facility at 27th Ave. W. and the waterfront. Park in the lot next to the building and come on in!

Shelves are stocked with usable products, including paints, stains, and assorted home improvement items, all free for the taking. Customers do need to “check-out” at the kiosk before leaving with their free items to help track inventory.

Have a question? Email your question to wastepaper@wlssd.com or ‘Contact Us’ at wlssd.com.

Making the MRC Reuse Area Work for You

- When packing your load to bring to the MRC, separate reusable items from those destined for disposal. This helps staff easily determine if your items can be reused and makes it easier for you to unload them. (MRC staff will make final determinations about whether items are appropriate for reuse).
- Reusable items are charged at a lower rate than waste! Just \$10 per cubic yard and they can be re-circulated in the community where they’re needed rather than ending up in the landfill.
- When shopping the Reuse Area, remember to park your vehicle out of the way of traffic.
- The MRC Reuse Area is open to the public during regular MRC business hours.

The Waste Paper

A newsletter about Solid Waste and Wastewater Treatment in the Western Lake Superior Sanitary District, published twice a year for residents of the WLSSD service area. Comments and questions are welcome at:

wastepaper@wlssd.com
218-722-0761

The WLSSD provides wastewater treatment and solid waste management for a 530 square mile service area in St. Louis and Carlton Counties.



Western Lake Superior Sanitary District
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