

Responsible Unit Recycling Ordinance 2026-01

Town of Princeton, Green Lake County

1.01 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.

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

1.03 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.

1.04 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.

1.05 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.

1.06 Applicability. The requirements of this ordinance apply to all persons within living within the town of Princeton, owners of businesses located within the town of Princeton, as well as employees that employed at businesses located within the Town of Princeton.

1.07 Administration. The provisions of this ordinance shall be administered by the Town of Princeton Board.

1.08 Effective Date. The provisions of this ordinance shall take effect on April 10, 2026.

1.09 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) "Magazines" means magazines and other materials printed on similar paper.
- 6) "Newspaper" means a newspaper and other materials printed on newsprint.
- 7) "Office paper" means a variety of high-grade printing and writing papers. This term does not include industrial process waste, newspaper or packaging.
- 8) "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.
- 9) "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.
- 10) "Recyclable materials" includes waste oil; aluminum containers; corrugated paper or other container board; glass containers; magazines; newspaper; office paper; rigid plastic containers, and bi-metal containers.

1.10 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) Aluminum containers
- 2) Bi-metal containers
- 3) Corrugated paper or other container board
- 4) Foam polystyrene packaging
- 5) Glass containers
- 6) Magazines
- 7) Newspaper
- 8) Office paper

1.11 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.

1.12 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.

1.13 Management of Waste Oil. Occupants of single family and 2-to-4-unit residences, multiple-family dwellings and non-residential facilities and properties shall manage waste oil: All waste oil is to be dropped off at the central drop-off center.

1.14 Preparation and Collection of Recyclable Materials. Except as otherwise directed by the Town of Princeton Board, 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): Please keep the following materials separate: newspaper, including magazines, office paper and junk mail. Flattened cardboard, including corrugated and plain boxes, ex. cereal boxes, 12 packs, etc. You may combine the following: cans, bottles, jars and plastic. All milk containers must be crushed. We do accept waste oil. Items not accepted: light bulbs, batteries, tires, oil or anti-freeze containers or bottle caps, furniture, tires, clothing, yard waste, garbage, etc.

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 Enforcement.

- 1) For the purpose of ascertaining compliance with the provisions of this ordinance, any authorized officer, employee or representative of the Town of Princeton or the St. John Lutheran Men's Club 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 Town of Princeton or St. John Lutheran Men’s Club or the DNR 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 Town of Princeton 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 \$2000 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 \$1000 for each violation.

This ordinance shall become effective upon passage and publication or posting.

Dated this _____ day of _____, 2026

Signed: _____
Allan Weckwerth, Town of Princeton Chairman

Jill Bartol, Town of Princeton Clerk