

Tribal and Local Government Collaboration in Solid Waste



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You can't call it a dump anymore....



We have come a long way
in managing waste.



Recycling on White Earth (WE) Reservation



Becker County Environmental Services Department Vision Statement

The Becker County Environmental Services Department Vision Statement is “To secure a stable, cost-effective, long-term solution for the disposal of all types of solid waste for all residents while educating and informing the public on critical environmental issues.”



White Earth Vision Statement

To collaborate with counties that share our land base to develop a streamlined waste management and recycling program that protects our natural resources and promotes culturally relevant education to increase public engagement in minimizing environmental impacts on White Earth Reservation.



Recycling Sites- Present & Future

 Current

 Future Bins?

Clearwater Co

1. Rice Lake Community Center

Mahnomen Co

2. Naytahwaush complex

3. Mahnomen Casino

4. Tribal College

5. Food Distribution Hwy 200

6. White Earth Transfer station

Becker Co

7. Pine Point Elderly Nutrition

8. Elbow Lake Community Center

9. White Earth Main Office

10. Ice Cracking

11. Maple Grove/Berry's Bar

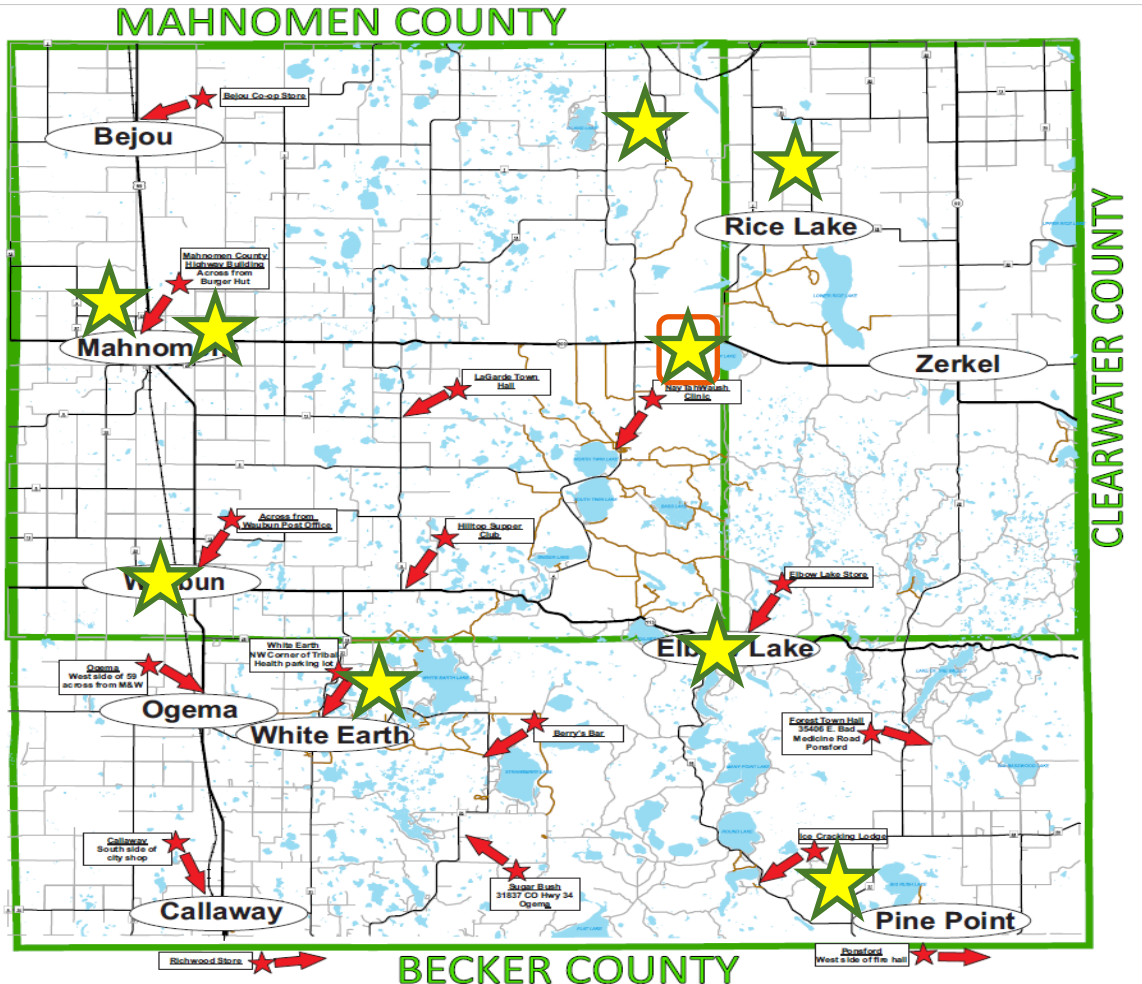
12. Forest Twp

13. Sugar Bush Twp

14. Callaway

15. Ogema

16. White Earth Twp/Cedar Crest



Strengths and Challenges of WE

What WE has

- Staff at Sanitation and Natural Resources who are passionate about recycling.
- Becker Co has multiple drop off sites on reservation.
- Cardboard Bailer & Bins

Where WE need improvements

- Staff numbers are low- which is a nation-wide problem.
- Difficult to implement new program- add duties to already strained staff.
- Need space for bailer & staff to run it.
- A truck (non CDL) will be needed to utilize recycling only bins & Bins need repair
- Mahnomen county is working to improve their recycle sites- as of now there are limited options & locations are long distance from tribal communities.



- **Support for White Earth Grants**

- White Earth received a Minnesota Pollution Control Grant for recycling trailers January 2023
- Plans are to place throughout Reservation and bring recyclables to Becker & Polk Counties (Map slide 4)



White Earth Goals

1. Increase access to recycling drop sites in tribal communities.
 - a. MPCA grant Pro-tilt trailers.
 - b. Collaboration with Mahnommen & Becker Counties.
2. Strengthen community participation in recycling.
3. Move towards a circular economy.
 - a. Maximize the reuse, recycling, and repurposing of resources in order to minimize waste and reduce the consumption of finite resources.



Becker County Recycling Program

- **Goals**
 - 1. Increase the recycling rate**
 - Increase public recycling opportunities by siting additional drop sites and increasing capacity at each site.
 - Allow more comingling of materials at drop off sites.
 - 2. Reduce operational costs**
 - Streamline collection and operational costs.
 - Create processing capacity.
 - 3. Job creation**



Recycling

- Recycling-
 - Grant for OCC dumpsters
 - (2016 MPCA EA grant)
 - Public sites within the WE reservation boundaries
 - Public education



Special Waste Collections Partnership with Becker County (BC)

E-waste

- Processing at WE & Shipment Through Becker County
- In 2023 WE partnership with the MPCA/ Becker & Mahnommen Counties

Hazardous waste mobile collections

- Regional sponsoring organization (BC)



Recycling Volumes on White Earth Reservation in Becker County

TONS COLLECTED THROUGH BECKER COUNTY RECYCLING PROGRAM PUBLIC SITES

COMMODITY	2019	2020	2021	2022	TOTAL TONS PER COMMODITY
GLASS	50	54	58	50	212
CARDBOARD	55	65	71	70	261
PAPER	36	28	31	27	122
PLASTIC/METAL	42	48	54	48	192
TOTAL TONS PER YEAR	183	195	214	195	787

Additional volumes collected through businesses on WE Reservation.



Future Ideas

- New Building at WE sanitation
 - Commodity Baler
 - E-Waste
 - Batteries
 - Household Hazardous Waste
 - Swap Shop



WHITE EARTH SANITATION

3278 US HWY 59. S, WAUBUN

Monday - Friday 8:00 AM to 4:30 PM

Saturday 8:00 AM to 12:00 PM

218-473-3222



Thank you!

- Questions?

