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Recycling Update: Caps on Plastic Bottles Now Accepted for Recycling

Waukesha (WI) – March 27, 2012 – The Waukesha County Recycling office announces an addition to what is accepted in the recycling bin for residents. Effective immediately, plastic caps on empty #1 and #2 plastic bottles, jars and jugs are accepted, however the containers must be free of any liquids. So residents can now leave the lids on all empty plastic soda, juice, water, milk, detergent, and cooking oil bottles when they put them into the recycling bin.

“This change to keep lids and caps on plastic bottles is an about-face from previous industry-based recycling requirements, due to market demand for plastics and technological advances that separate the types of plastic,” stated Karen Fiedler, Waukesha County Solid Waste Manager. ReCommunity Recycling, the company that operates the county-owned recycling facility and markets recyclables, anticipates no problems handling or marketing plastic bottles with caps as long as they are empty.

The new “Caps On” program promoted by the Closure and Container Manufacturers Association (CCMA) and the Association of Postconsumer Plastic Recyclers (APR) encourages communities to ask residents to include caps on plastic bottles in their recycling bins at home, at work, or at events. The groups are also working with Material Recovery Facilities (MRFs) and recycling haulers to ask for their partnership and support to increase the recycling rate of plastic lids and caps.

Ms. Fiedler added, “Whenever we can add more materials to the recycling bin, even if they are small items like caps, that is a positive thing. Companies are now able to recover and recycle the caps, which are typically a different type of plastic than the bottle.”

For more information on the new “**Caps on – Liquids out**” program visit www.waukeshacounty.gov/recycling.

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