



# Recycling News

\* Winter 2007 \*



Bureau of Waste and Materials Management

## State Budget Adds to Recycling Appropriation

Dan Fields, DNR

The 07-09 biennial budget for the State of Wisconsin, signed by Governor Doyle on October 26, 2007, includes several items impacting Wisconsin's recycling program and the recycling segregated fund.

1. Increase of \$6.5 million to the basic recycling grants program annual appropriation. This appropriation funds the basic grants to local government recycling programs. The change brings the basic recycling grants program total to \$31 million each year, up from the current \$24.5 million. Basic recycling grants, starting in 2008 calendar year, will reflect this increase. The formula used to determine the basic recycling grant award for each responsible unit remains unchanged by the 07-09 biennial budget.
2. Funding available for the Recycling Efficiency Incentive (REI) Program remains unchanged. The total available each year is \$1.9 M.
3. The increase in appropriation to the basic recycling grant was made possible in part by an increase in the recycling tip fee. The tipping fee for most municipal and industrial waste, other than high volume industrial waste, would rise from \$3.80 currently to \$5.90/ton. One dollar of the increase goes to the recycling fund; the remaining \$1.10 goes to the environmental repair fund.
4. A new annual \$1 million appropriation to fund the department's "business waste reduction and recycling assistance"

initiative under which the department can contract with nonprofit organizations to assist business recycling efforts. The objective is to assist businesses to reduce the amount of solid waste generated or to reuse or recycle solid waste. business waste reduction and recycling assistance may include a menu of efforts designed to improve and increase the recycling, reuse and waste reduction by businesses, such as: direct business recycling, reuse or waste reduction projects; best practices exchange between nonprofit organizations, businesses and local governments; and research and development to address environmental or market issues with specific technologies.



While the overall basic recycling grant increase is the most significant change to the program, a number of other measures in the legislation will impact recycling programs. These new programs are also possible as a result of the increased tipping fee:

	2007-2008	2008-2009
Municipal Grants increase	\$6,500,000	\$6,500,000
Commerce Renewable Energy Grants & Loans (new)	\$7,000,000	\$15,057,800
Business waste reduction and recycling assistance	\$1,000,000	\$1,000,000
DATCP Clean Sweep Grants increase	\$289,600	289,600
Compensation for PCB sediment transport (new)	\$1,500,000	\$3,000,000
Soybean crushing facility (new)	\$4,000,000	\$-0-

Please contact Sue Bangert, Director, Bureau of Waste and Materials Management, DNR, at (608) 266-0014, if you have any questions.

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# Sandra Chancellor New DNR Recycling Grants Manager

Mary Rose Teves, DNR

Sandra (Sandy) Chancellor is the new DNR Recycling Grants Manager. Sandy began her career at DNR in 1996 as an LTE at Blue Mounds State Park. She became a permanent employee in 2000 when she was hired as a Customer Service Representative for South Central Region (SCR). In 2004 Sandy was promoted to Customer Service Leader and SCR Service Center Manager.

Sandy lives in Mount Horeb and enjoys spending time with her three sons, extended family and friends. Other spare time activities include gardening and yard work, redecorating her house, walking and reading.

Sandy is replacing Candice Sovinsky, who transferred to a position as DNR's Urban Forestry Grants Manager. Sandy can be reached at: sandra.chancellor@wisconsin.gov or at 608-264-9702. 

# DNR Recycling Efficiency Incentive Grants

Sandra Chancellor, DNR

Wisconsin's Recycling Efficiency Incentive (REI) Grant Program continues to reward local responsible unit (RU) recycling programs for collaborative efforts to improve recycling programs and reduce program cost. RUs may qualify by undertaking any of the following efficiency measures:

- \* **Consolidation:** a merger of at least two responsible units into a single responsible unit.
- \* Entering into at least one **cooperative agreement** with at least one other RU where one or more of the following efficiencies have been achieved:
  - collection and transportation of recyclables;
  - sorting of recyclables at a material recovery facility (MRF);
  - comprehensive program planning; or
  - educational efforts about recycling.

RUs may collaborate and even subcontract on REI grants with other parties, including private for-profit entities, but the REI grant agreement must be between at least 2 RUs.

The deadline for calendar year 2008 applications was October 30, 2007. RUs will be notified about the amount of their 2008 REI grant award in June 2008.

Now is a good time for RUs to position themselves to be eligible to apply for an REI grant in calendar year 2009. Note the dates for cooperative agreements and application submittal in the table below.

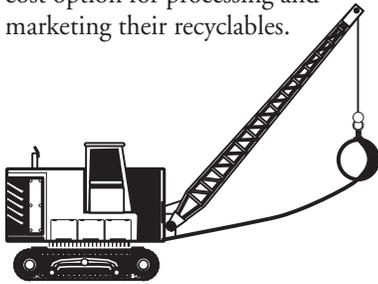
## Examples of REI Grant Projects from 2006 include:

**Dunn County** cooperated with the neighboring counties of **Eau Claire** and **St. Croix** during 2005. Dunn and Eau Claire counties jointly contracted with a printer to produce newsletters. This contract enabled Dunn County to lower printing costs and provided a template for Eau Claire County to start a newsletter. St. Croix and Dunn counties jointly contracted for staffing services to focus on recycling in multi-family buildings. The staff person hired was able to research, evaluate and market recycling options to residents, managers and owners of multi-family housing in the two counties.

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Recycling Efficiency Incentive Grant Eligibility Dates for Grant Year 2009					
To receive an REI grant in calendar year ...	The DNR must receive a completed application with postmark of no later than ...	If measure of efficiency is a merger of at least 2 RUs (also called a "consolidation") ...		If measure of efficiency is a cooperative agreement for shared recycling services or joint recycling contractor services ...	
		... then all participating RUs must agree, in writing ...	... and consolidation must be effective as of ...	... then all participating must agree, in writing ...	... and activities RUs must ...
2009	Oct. 30, 2008	Between Oct. 31, 2007 and Apr. 30, 2008	Apr. 30, 2008	Between Oct. 31, 2007 and Apr. 30, 2008	Have begun by Apr. 30, 2008 and be completed by Oct. 30, 2008

**Monroe County** agreed to accept recyclable materials for processing from the **Town of Glendale** and **Jackson County**. The additional volume has allowed Monroe County to reduce the cost per ton to process and market these materials. In addition to creating a more efficient system for Monroe County, Glendale and Jackson County provided a low cost option for processing and marketing their recyclables.



**Portage, Outagamie and Waupaca Counties** collaborated in an effort to produce a resource kit targeting recycling at construction and demolition (C&D) sites. The counties agreed to develop and implement an education and enforcement program for recycling at C&D sites. The goal of this effort was to increase awareness and compliance with recycling requirements and to eliminate burning of waste materials as well.

The **Village of Biron** and the **towns of Grand Rapids and Saratoga** entered a cooperative agreement with the **City of Wisconsin Rapids** to provide access to the Wisconsin Rapids compost facility for village and town residents. The village and towns will be able to avoid the cost of constructing their own compost facilities. Wisconsin Rapids benefits from sharing operating costs with its partners as well as reduced per ton costs gained through the economies of scale of the larger operation.

**Adams County and Oneida County** shared screening and bagging equipment in efforts to recycle and market compost material. Used pallets and old corrugated containers (OCC) were also used in the operation to provide ongoing uses for recovered OCC. Adams County owns a portable screening plane while Oneida County owns a portable bagging device. By sharing this equipment, both RUs are able to use grant and revenue funds more effectively. This project

has also added value to the compost products produced through screening and marketing bagged compost to retail customers. Oneida County also provides cooperative collection of yard waste for the **City of Rhinelander** and assists the **City of Merrill** by providing composting equipment to turn compost piles at the city's compost site.

Currently, \$1.9 million is available for the REI grant. All eligible RUs will receive a per capita portion of the available funds; however, the award

cannot exceed the difference between the RU's net eligible grant cost incurred two years previously and the amount of the current RU basic grant award.

For additional information about the REI Grant, please contact Sandy Chancellor, DNR Recycling Grant Manager at 608-264-9207 or by email at: [sandra.chancellor@wisconsin.gov](mailto:sandra.chancellor@wisconsin.gov)

or visit the grant webpage at: <http://dnr.wi.gov/org/caer/cfa/grants/Recycle/efficiency.html> 

## DNR Waste Reduction and Demonstration Grant

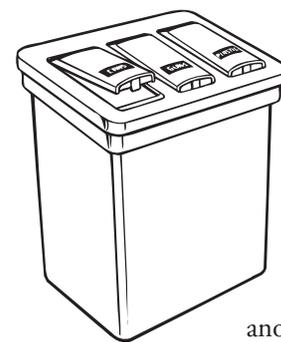
*Sandra Chancellor, DNR*

The DNR Waste Reduction and Demonstration Grant Program provides \$500,000 each year to fund waste reduction, reuse and recycling pilot projects. Financial support is provided to Wisconsin counties, municipalities, public entities, businesses, non-profit organizations and schools for demonstration of products and processes that could have an impact on the reduction of solid waste in Wisconsin.

The maximum grant award is \$150,000 or 50 percent of the total eligible costs of a project, whichever is less. A special category, community wide waste reduction projects, can now receive 75 percent of total eligible costs.

### What Makes a Project Eligible?

- \* The project must be conducted on a pilot or demonstration scale with the potential to be commercialized, expanded, shared or transferred for wider use.
- \* The project must contribute to reducing the amount of solid waste being landfilled or treated.
- \* The project must demonstrate a new idea for waste reduction, reuse or recycling or one not generally well known or used in Wisconsin. The project may also qualify if it demonstrates that a particular area of Wisconsin can be adapted to another with different characteristics, for example from urban use to rural.



Or the innovation may involve adopting a process used in one industrial sector to another.

- \* Under the request for proposal component of the program, projects may be funded that, although not innovative, target special and hard-to-recycle wastes or that may significantly impact the reduction or reuse of Wisconsin solid waste.

To date, DNR has funded 192 projects totaling more than \$13 million in awards.

Although the 2008 demonstration grants have been awarded, now is the time to consider projects for the 2009 grant cycle. Applications are due August 1, 2008. More information on the Demonstration Grant Program, including examples of past projects, is available at <http://dnr.wi.gov/org/caer/cfa/EF/RECYCLE/Index.htm>

If you have questions or would like to discuss a project proposal, please contact Sandy Chancellor, DNR Recycling Grant Manager, at (608)264-9207 or by email at [sandra.chancellor@wisconsin.gov](mailto:sandra.chancellor@wisconsin.gov) 

# Collection of Recyclable Materials by Wisconsin Responsible Units 2006 Update

Cynthia Moore, DNR

The amount of recyclable paper and food and beverage containers collected per person in Wisconsin increased in 2006 over that in 2005, while collection of yard materials and appliances decreased, according to information from local governments compiled by DNR.

Wisconsin statutes delegate responsibility for municipal recycling programs to local units of government, called recycling responsible units (RUs). Each RU must develop and implement a recycling program to manage banned recyclable materials. One of the requirements for a state-approved recycling program is to report annually to DNR on its recycling program operation, including the amounts of materials collected from residential units in the RU's geographic area. There are about 1,060 RUs in the state, although the exact number fluctuates.

The recyclable materials banned from Wisconsin landfills are paper products, food and beverage containers, yard waste, appliances, tires, oil and lead acid batteries. While residential collection of mixed waste paper and office paper is not mandatory, we have included it this year in the residential paper product collection total due to the increasing number of municipal collection programs collecting it (in addition to cardboard, newspapers and magazines).

Reporting is mandatory for collection of residential recyclable paper products and containers. Reporting is optional for other banned recyclable materials. Because only a limited number of RUs report on these materials each year, we use these results to indicate trends rather than statewide collection amounts.

Data from responsible unit collections are available on the DNR Web site <http://dnr.wi.gov/org/aw/wm/recycle/>.

## Results for 2006 Compared to 2005

**Paper and containers:** Table 1 shows a 1.9 percent increase in recycling tonnage of residential paper products and containers from 2005 to 2006. Not only did total tonnage increase but the per capita pounds increased by 1.6 percent, exceeding what might have occurred naturally from the 0.3 percent growth in Wisconsin's population. Most of the increase in tonnage can be attributed to increased collection of mixed paper products in a mixed paper and container collection system.

We believe this trend may be associated with the increase in "single stream" collection systems, in which all recyclables are combined in the same container for curbside pick-up. Due to confusion about the definition of single-stream systems, we don't have accurate information on the number of RUs

using this collection method, but are attempting to fix the problem for the 2007 RU annual report.

**Other banned materials:** The total collection amount of other banned materials, including yard waste, decreased in total tonnage and on a pounds per capita basis. Yard waste collection decreased by 5.7 percent and collection of appliances, tires, etc. decreased by 14.6 percent.



**Table 1. Collection of Recyclable Materials Banned from Wisconsin Landfills by Wisconsin Responsible Units 2005 and 2006 (in tons)**

Recyclable Materials	2005	2006	% Change in 2006 compared to 2005
Residential Paper and Containers	407,004	414,635	1.9%
Appliances, Tires, Oil, Lead Acid Batteries	15,867	13,558	-14.6%
Yard Waste	283,489	267,338	-5.7%
<b>Total Banned Materials</b>	<b>728,232</b>	<b>718,550</b>	<b>-1.3%</b>
WI population	5,601,136	5,617,744	0.3%
Pounds per person, paper and containers	145.3	147.6	1.6%
Pounds per person, all banned materials	260.0	255.8	-1.6%

### Trends in Collection of Recyclable Materials by Wisconsin Responsible Units

Figure 1 shows collection of all banned materials by RUs from 1999 through 2006, expressed in total tons. The data suggest a general increase in residential paper and container collection, but decreasing collection of other banned materials.

For more information, contact Cynthia Moore, DNR Recycling Program Coordinator, at 608-267-7550 or by email at [cynthia.moore@wisconsin.gov](mailto:cynthia.moore@wisconsin.gov) 

<sup>1</sup>Cardboard, newspaper, magazines and office paper

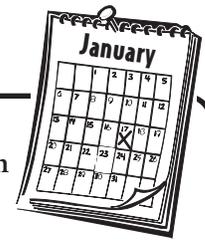
# EPA Educational Series Dates Set

*Percy Mather, DNR*

The EPA Resource Conservation Challenge Web Academy is holding 90-minute conference sessions. The sessions are held on the third Thursday of each month starting in January 2008 and continuing through September 2008. The sessions begin at noon.

The Recycling and Solid Waste Management Educational Series is hosted by EPA Regions 1, 4, 7 and 10 for staff in state and local government and not-for-profit organizations who work in waste management and recycling programs.

Participants use a phone line and an internet connection to view the slides. The schedule for topics is listed below. Register on-line at [www.epa.gov/region1/RCCedu](http://www.epa.gov/region1/RCCedu) 



December 20, 2007	Single vs. Dual Stream Reducing Contamination Contracting for Success Case Studies
January 17, 2008	Venue Recycling
February 21, 2008	Construction & Demolition Recycling
March 20, 2008	Managing Compact Fluorescent Lamps
April 17, 2008	Packaging and Recycling
May 15, 2008	Policies and Program that Work
June 19, 2008	Recycling in Schools/Curriculum
July 17, 2008	Financial Implications of Recycling
August 21, 2008	Green Purchasing
September 18, 2008	Using Incentives to Promote Recycling

## DNR Commends Milwaukee Mayor for Recycling at Summerfest Recycling Quadrupled with New Program

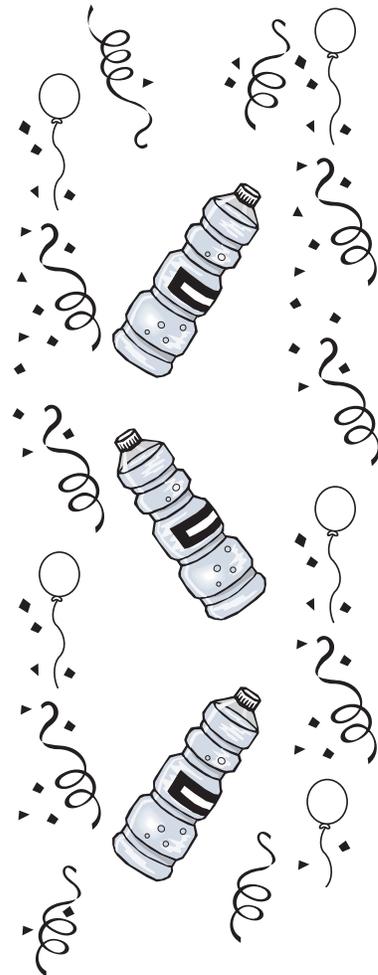
*Rick Meyers, City of Milwaukee Recycling Manager*

The Secretary of the Department of Natural Resources, Matthew Frank, recently sent a letter to Milwaukee Mayor Tom Barrett thanking the city for the leadership its Department of Public Works has shown by increasing recycling at Summerfest. The letter commends the city for its success implementing and improving recycling practices at Milwaukee's major festivals, an initiative born out of Mayor Barrett's Green Team recommendations. The 2007 efforts at Summerfest resulted in a four-fold increase in the amount of recycling over the prior year.

Much of the credit goes to the staff of Milwaukee World Festivals, Inc, also known as Summerfest. It was the commitment they made to recycling and to greening the largest music festival in the world that led to the successful results. Working with the staff, I was able to help them design, pilot and implement a new plastic bottle recycling program in 2006, with

the city providing hauling services. Summerfest facilities management staff dedicated themselves to the program's on-going success.

The pilot program was so successful in 2006 that it continued with other events and concerts on the Henry Maier Festival grounds and was expanded again in 2007 to still more events. The city also complemented existing corrugated cardboard recycling efforts by adding roll-off containers so the grounds crew would have more collection locations than their one cardboard compactor. The city collected 29.5 tons of total recyclables from all events on the lake front festival grounds in 2007. Plastic bottle recycling alone increased from four tons in 2006 to over 13 tons of plastic recovered in 2007, representing about 318,000 plastic bottles recycled and 415 cubic yards of plastic diverted from the landfill. The city looks forward to continuing the successful partnership with Summerfest in the years to come. 



# Minnesota Market for Agricultural Plastics

Percy Mather, DNR

Recycling agricultural plastic films and bags has been a challenge that seemed to elude a workable solution for a long time. Finally, it appears that the years of research and pilot testing are beginning to pay off, and the recycling future for these hard-to-recycle materials has never looked better. A case in point is a Twin Cities (MN) company that is looking to Wisconsin as a source of recyclable plastic feedstock. Operating out of Savage, Minnesota, Advanced Granulating Systems, Inc. (AGSI) will soon start recycling most grades of plastic from silage bags and other agricultural film to bale wrap, buckets, irrigation pipe and landscape edging.

AGSI has invested in specialized equipment that can remove the soil and silage contaminants from agricultural plastic. This is the first company we are aware of which provides these services on a commercial scale. We'll keep you apprised of others that come to our attention.

Owner John Schmitz is looking to Wisconsin as a nearby source of plastics that have typically not been recycled. He's interested in establishing a route in Wisconsin to pick up baled plastics. Schmitz has been talking to recycling and solid waste managers around the state about starting local collection programs for agricultural plastics.

Dairy and livestock operations in Wisconsin generate considerable volumes of agricultural plastic. An agricultural bag that is 10 feet wide runs about one pound per linear foot, so four 500-ft bags would weigh about a ton. Proper disposal of the used bags would be in a landfill, but many bags are illegally burned, generating toxics and irritating smoke.

The first pilot sites in Wisconsin are located in Adams, Columbia, Dane and Green counties and will focus on large dairy farms. Once the details of storage, processing and transportation are worked out,

and if the volume and quality are adequate, the collection network will be expanded. More information will be available at the February 2008 Annual Conference hosted jointly by the Associated Recyclers of Wisconsin (AROW), the Wisconsin Chapter of the Solid Waste Association of North America (SWANA) and the Wisconsin Counties Solid Waste Managers Association (WCSWMA).

The less contamination present, the more valuable the baled film becomes. Farmers can reduce contamination of the plastic by the way they cut open the bag to access the feed. Generally, the top two-thirds of the bag can be rolled back and kept off the soil, but the bottom third is likely to be the most contaminated.

AGSI does not pay for plastic film at this time, but does buy other grades of plastics. Although farmers are not receiving payment for silage bags, they will still come out ahead financially by saving landfill tipping fees. Burning plastics, including agricultural bags, is prohibited under state law unless the individual has the appropriate regulatory approvals.

AGSI Plastics has successfully recycled horticultural plastics too. This year, nurseries and landscapers in the Twin Cities area provided a million pounds of what would have become plastic waste. AGSI chipped and processed the materials into a feedstock for making a variety of plastic products.

Anyone interested in setting up a collection location for these plastics should contact John Schmitz at [agsiplastic@aol.com](mailto:agsiplastic@aol.com) or (952)890-9050 or (612)306-2975 to reach his cell phone.

If you know of, or hear of, other companies who offer these services, please contact Kate Cooper at (608) 267- 3133. 

# Recycling Managers Corner

Joe Van Rossum, UW Extension/SHWEC

A new resource for recycling program managers and local government officials is now available on the University of Wisconsin Extension Solid & Hazardous Waste Education Center's (SHWEC) Web site. The "Recycling Managers Corner" has been designed to serve as a clearinghouse for information related to regulations, grants, composting and other information sources related to recycling and solid waste.

The easy to use Web site is organized using drop down menus arranged by subject matter. Visitors to the site can select and follow links as they look for regulations, organizations, recycling market prices and other related content.

Joe Van Rossum, SHWEC Recycling Specialist, has accumulated a library of sample outreach materials that are available upon request. Brochures, newspaper ads and radio PSAs are among the examples included in the library. The Web page also contains a direct link to SHWEC's Brochure Creation tool, a Web-based application that enables the user to create a customized recycling brochure with information about their local recycling program. The Web site can be found at:

<http://www4.uwm.edu/shwec/e-courses/RecyclingManagersCorner.cfm> 



# Paper, Plastic or Neither?

## The new shopping bag dilemma and local government involvement

Sarah Murray, DNR

The question “paper or plastic?” has been a popular example of everyday environmental choices for years, but has taken on new life in recent months as a growing proportion of the public perceives plastic shopping bags as unsightly nuisances, environmental hazards and symbols of a throwaway society. However, the ongoing “paper or plastic?” debate has proved inconclusive.

Following the initiative of cities from San Francisco to Austin and New York, some Wisconsin communities may be considering taking policy action on this issue. The DNR is working to add resources on this topic to our recycling Web pages (<http://dnr.wi.gov/org/aw/wm/recycle/index.html>) so that consumers and officials can be informed in their decision-making. Below is a brief summary.

Paper bags are biodegradable and can be reused and recycled, but take much more energy and water to produce and more energy to transport than plastic, because they are heavier. They are also more expensive for retailers, and don't have some of the features (waterproof, strong) that make plastic bags appealing.

Plastic bags can be reused and recycled. Limited reuse is common, but most bags still end up in the landfill. So far only a small percentage is recycled, and not all recyclers accept them. Plastic bags are made from non-renewable materials (petroleum and natural gas) and can cause problems in the environment. Because of their light weight and durability, they are more likely to become a component of litter. When littered, plastic bags can be an eyesore, block storm drains and cause flooding problems, and harm wildlife when animals become entangled in the bags or ingest them.

New alternatives, such as biodegradable or compostable “bioplastics” made from corn starch, potato starch and other plant materials, are appealing to many environmentalists but still problematic. While the technology is improving, almost all bioplastics will only biodegrade under the controlled conditions of a large scale composting facility—generally not in a backyard bin or the landfill. In addition, there is concern that these alternative “plastic” bags will get mixed with traditional bags and cause problems at recycling facilities.

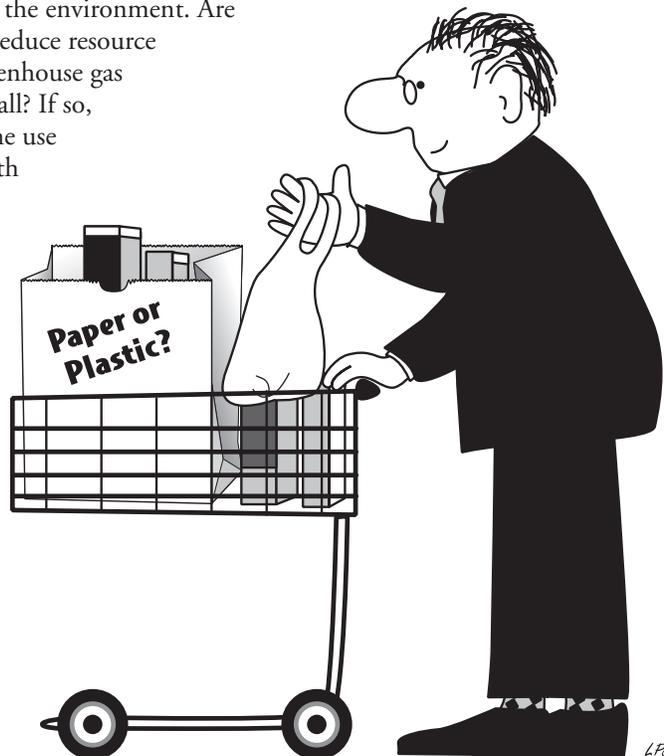
With all this in mind, there are a number of important considerations for communities looking to take action on this issue.

First, make sure the problems you are trying to address and any environmental goals are clear. Is plastic bag litter the primary concern? If so, an ordinance requiring the use of compostable bags may not be the answer, since they won't necessarily break down in the environment. Are you trying to reduce resource use and/or greenhouse gas emissions overall? If so, encouraging the use of reusable cloth bags over

both paper and plastic may be the best approach, along with mandating that stores offer recycling for bags.

It's also important to consider your current recycling infrastructure. Do you have a hauler that will accept plastic bags for recycling? Do you already have stores that recycle plastic bags? If you're considering requiring biodegradable/compostable bags, do you have a composting program or do your residents have access to a composting facility that can handle the bags?

The bottom line on shopping bags: there is no perfect answer, but individuals and communities do have a choice and can make informed decisions on the best option, environmentally, economically and personally. For more background and links to additional resources, visit our Web pages on the topic. ♻️



# Electronics Recycling a Success in City of Milwaukee

Rick Meyers, City of Milwaukee Recycling Manager

The city of Milwaukee has improved its computer recycling program offered to residents. Convenient collection at two permanent public drop-off sites located on the north and south sides of the city is now better than ever. They feature improved collection containers and a more responsive recycling contractor. These Self-Help Centers for recycling and safe disposal are operated by the Department of Public Works. They offer residents a place to bring materials banned from the landfill for recycling as well as a place to bring general solid waste for disposal. In January 2006 the city entered into an agreement with Cascade Asset Management to transport all electronics collected at the Self-Help sites to the company's Madison facility for recycling. Cascade recovers nearly 99 percent of the materials they process through a combination of resale and recycling. The city's revised electronics recycling program through Cascade has resulted in greater convenience and a more user-friendly drop-off experience for residents bringing in their outdated computer equipment. The result is that the City of Milwaukee recovered and recycled a record 230 tons of computer electronic scrap in 2006. Approaching the end of 2007, the city will again recycle over 200 tons of residential electronic scrap this year, and will exceed one million total pounds recycled through Cascade Asset Management by the spring of 2008.

Credit for the success of this program is due in part to the Wisconsin Be SMART Coalition ([www.besmart.org](http://www.besmart.org)), a regional waste reduction group of which the city of Milwaukee is a member. In an innovative approach to intergovernmental cooperation, Be SMART coordinated a computer recycling service bid in 2005 through a cooperative purchasing organization called V.A.L.U.E. A joint request for bids for municipal governments and schools was developed to make

sure computer and other electronic scrap generated in offices or from municipal drop-off sites were properly refurbished or recycled. Companies that bid were required to manage equipment according to the waste hierarchy, refurbishing equipment for reuse whenever possible and recycling the rest according to environmentally sound practices, all while employing appropriate procedures to ensure data security. Six bids were received and Cascade Asset Management of Madison was selected. The information was posted to Be SMART Coalition members and V.A.L.U.E. partners for all to take advantage of if they so chose. When the city of Milwaukee joined in 2006, its pounds of electronics quickly pushed the combined total past a threshold set in the bid that resulted in a 10 percent discount in the original bid pricing. In this way, the City of Milwaukee's success benefited all governments and schools that have contracted with Cascade through this joint V.A.L.U.E. bid process.

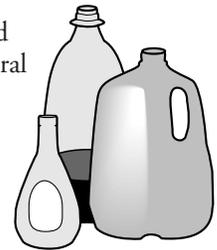
While the City of Milwaukee is proud of its electronics recycling program, it wishes funds were available (as they are in nine other states) to help its residents recycle televisions and other electronics in addition to the computer equipment now collected. The city supports formalizing a Midwest Product Stewardship Council, which will help Midwestern states work collaboratively towards the passage of unified product stewardship legislation in our respective states. Minnesota has taken the lead in the Midwest, and Milwaukee hopes that Wisconsin will shortly follow suit so that municipalities and residents do not have to bear the full cost burden of responsibly managing electronic products at the end of their useful lives. For information on the Midwest Regional Electronic Waste Recycling Policy Initiative, see <http://www.pca.state.mn.us/oea/stewardship/electronicmidwest.cfm>. 

# Recycling Market Update

Joe Van Rossum, UW-Extension/SHWEC

Wisconsin recyclers continue to receive good value for the most of the materials collected by local recycling programs. Plastic, paper and metals continue to fetch good prices from manufacturers and brokers for quality materials. The export market has continued to have a large impact upon the demand and price for these materials. Glass markets continue to remain stagnant, with sorting and transportation costs often exceeding material value.

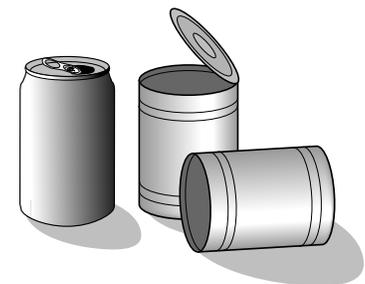
**Plastic** – Prices for baled truckload quantities of Natural HDPE have been in the \$600 to \$700/ton range for the duration of 2007.



Colored HDPE meanwhile has traded in the \$300 to \$400/ton range. Recyclers continue to see value in sorting HDPE into these two fractions. The market for PET can best be described as stable. Oversupply of virgin PET in the market place seems to have kept PET prices below that of HDPE.

**Metals** – Aluminum cans began the year with strong demand and some recyclers reported receiving \$1,900/ton for this valued commodity. The price has dropped a bit the past few months, but still remains strong. Steel can prices have remained consistent for the most part. Prices have been averaging in the \$140 to \$160/ton range for much of the year.

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# City of Madison Switches to Automated Refuse Collection

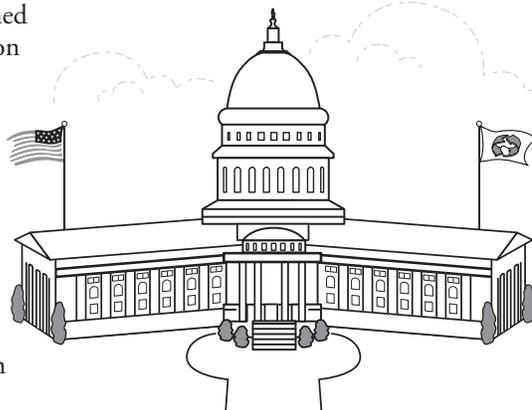
George Dreckmann, City of Madison Recycling Coordinator

The City of Madison switched to automated refuse collection on September 12, 2007. Madison spent over \$5 million on carts and new trucks for the program. Why take on this expensive new program? For Madison the answer lies in reducing operating costs and absorbing the continued growth in its service base.

The City of Madison, which collects refuse using city staff and city owned vehicles, had been collecting refuse using one person, side-loading refuse trucks. It took a fleet of 20 such trucks to cover the city each day. Each truck served between 350 and 450 households daily. With Madison adding over 800 households per year to its customer base due to the continued growth of the city, the old manual system for collecting refuse and recycling was bursting at the seams.

After an extensive study, Madison opted to switch to an automated collection system. The automated system allowed the city to reduce the number of trucks in its collection fleet by using the same trucks for refuse and recycling. This allowed Madison to reduce its total solid waste collection fleet by twelve trucks. Having fewer trucks on the street and in the garage reduced capital and maintenance costs. The bulk of Madison's automated collection trucks have LaBrie bodies.

Madison, being Madison, opted to give its customers a choice of three different cart sizes for both refuse and recycling. Residents could choose either a 35-gallon, 65-gallon or 95-gallon cart. Offering the choice of cart



size did increase the public's initial acceptance of the program. However, it has resulted in increased costs for carts due to the need to have three sizes in stock to accommodate switches. It has also resulted in a larger inventory of carts and parts.

If there were one thing that we would do differently, it would be not offering cart choice. Offering cart choice incurred added costs for the cart choice mailing. But the biggest problem has come from people wanting to exchange carts. This leads to increased cart inventory and lots of staff time doing the cart exchanges.

Another element of Madison's program is its roll out assistance program. This provides help for the frail elderly and disabled who are unable to get their carts to the curb for collection. Residents, who supply a form signed by their physician, can put their carts where the operator can see them from the road. The operator will then roll the cart to the truck, empty it and put it back. Despite some staff concerns about possible abuse of the program, Madison has only 235 customers sign up for the service out of a customer base of over 66,000.

Madison's automated recycling program is just over two years old, and the refuse program is just underway. Overall, automation has been a very positive experience for our staff and customers. We have seen a decline in our solid waste related injuries, our productivity has increased,

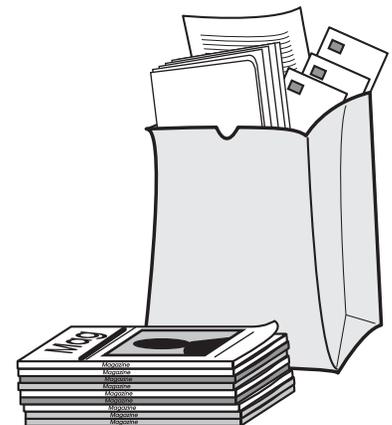
and our customers really like the convenience of the carts. It will be interesting to see more data from the program as we move further along.

I would be happy to discuss our experience. I can be reached at 608-267-2626 or [gdreckmann@cityofmadison.com](mailto:gdreckmann@cityofmadison.com). 

## Recycling Market Update Continued from Page 8

**Paper** – Paper accounts for over half of the material local programs collect by weight. Prices for this material have been good for most of the year. Cardboard began the year down a bit, but export pressures moved the pricing upward through the first half of the year. Prices for newspaper and mixed paper have followed this trend as well.

The Solid & Hazardous Waste Education Center (SHWEC) began collecting data in 1995 concerning the price paid for recovered materials to material recovery facilities. Prices are collected via a monthly survey of participating MRF and recycling program managers. Joe Van Rossum, SHWEC Recycling Specialist continues this project today. Market data is posted on a regular basis in the publication section of SHWEC's Web site: [www4.uwm.edu/shwec/](http://www4.uwm.edu/shwec/), enter keyword "market." Questions about this project can be directed to Joe Van Rossum at [vanrossum@epd.engr.wisc.edu](mailto:vanrossum@epd.engr.wisc.edu) or 608-262-0936 



# "Recycle That Wrap" to be Featured on DNR Web Site

Dan Fields, DNR

"Recycle That Wrap" a MediaSite video presentation with links to the Environmental Education for Kids (EEK!) Web site for recycling tips, will be the DNR Web site's Feature Button for the month of December. The one-minute, eight-second video will show a fun and innovative way to reuse old wrapping paper by shredding it and using it as colorful filler. Take a look at: <http://www.dnr.state.wi.us/> 



# Check for Outdated Numbers in Your Responsible Unit Recycling Ordinance

Percy Mather, DNR

We can all feel proud of the visible changes and improvements in the recycling program since 1994, when most responsible unit recycling ordinances were adopted. In 1995, the environmental chapters of the Wisconsin statutes were reorganized and renumbered to become effective on January 1, 1997. The content did not change substantially, but if your municipal ordinance has not been revised since it was originally passed, you may have the older numbering system.

More recently, the administrative codes covering hazardous waste were renumbered as NR 660 through 679, Wis. Stat. Replacing the outdated citations will make it easier to locate the current state law or administrative code that is referenced in your ordinance. Pull out a copy of your ordinance and check if you have the current numbering system.

## Here are the most common citations and their updated equivalent:

- \* Ch. 159, Wis. Stats. is now ch. 287.
  - s. 159.95 is now s. 297.95
  - s. 159.97 is now s. 297.97
- \* "Postconsumer waste" is now defined in s. 287.01(7), Wis. Stats.
  - s. 144.61(5) is now s. 291.01(7)
  - s. 144.44(7)(a)(1) is now s. 289.01(17)
- \* "Solid waste"
  - s. 144.01(15) is now s. 289.01(33)
- \* "Solid waste facility"
  - s. 144.43(5) is now s. 289.01(35)
- \* A recyclable material...for which a variance has been granted...
  - s. 159.11(2m) is now s. 287.11(2m)
- \* "Hazardous waste"

The definition was originally in ch. NR 181, but is now in s. NR 661.03, Wis. Adm. Code.

The household hazardous waste exemption, originally in NR 181.12(4)(a), is now in NR 661.04.

s. 144.62, is now in s. 291.05 (1) and (2) through 291.11 (3) and (4).

You can view current Wisconsin statutes online at: <http://www.legis.state.wi.us/rsb/stats.html>. 

*This article is being rerun because DNR staff have received numerous questions on the subject.*

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*Articles and descriptions of programs/activities by non-DNR staff included in this newsletter are for informational purposes only and should not be construed as DNR endorsements of other organizations' opinions or programs.*

*For further information on any information in the newsletter, contact Cynthia Moore at [Cynthia.Moore@Wisconsin.gov](mailto:Cynthia.Moore@Wisconsin.gov) or by phone 608/267-7550*

*Graphic Design by Linda Poblod*

# DNR Regional Recycling Contacts as of December 2007



Here is an updated list of DNR staff contacts for waste reduction and recycling along with the counties for which they are responsible. Please feel free to call with questions or to introduce yourself.

Regional Recycling Contact	Region Address	Counties Served
<b>NE Region</b>		
<b>Marcy McGrath - 920/662-5493</b> e-mail Marcy.Mcgrath@Wisconsin.gov FAX 920/662-5197	Northeast Region 2984 Shawano Ave. Green Bay, WI 54307-0448	Brown, Calumet, Door, Kewaunee, Manitowoc, Marinette, Menominee, Oconto, Shawano, Waupaca
<b>Dave Misterek - 920/424-2104</b> e-mail David.Misterek@Wisconsin.gov FAX 920/424-4404	Northeast Region Oshkosh Service Center 625 E. County Rd. Y Suite 700 Oshkosh, WI 54901-9731	Fond du Lac, Green Lake, Marquette, Outagamie, Waushara, Winnebago
<b>WC Region</b>		
<b>Paul Wiegner - 715/839-5171</b> e-mail Paul.Wiegner@Wisconsin.gov FAX 715/839-6076	West Central Region P.O. Box 4001 1300 Clairemont Ave. Eau Claire, WI 54701	Buffalo, Chippewa, Clark, Crawford, Dunn, Eau Claire, Jackson, Juneau, La Crosse, Monroe, Pepin, Pierce, St. Croix, Trempealeau, Vernon
<b>Vacant</b>	West Central Region 5301 Rib Mountain Dr. Wausau, WI 54401	Adams, Marathon, Portage, Wood
<b>NO Region</b>		
<b>Bob Germer - 715/635-4060</b> e-mail Robert.Germer@Wisconsin.gov FAX 715/635-4105	Northern Region 810 W. Maple St Spooner, WI 54801	Ashland, Barron, Bayfield, Burnett, Douglas, Polk, Rusk, Sawyer, Washburn
<b>Sherry Otto - 715/365-8982</b> e-mail SherylA.Otto@Wisconsin.gov FAX 715/365-8932	Northern Region 107 Sutliff Ave Rhineland, WI 54501	Florence, Forest, Iron, Langlade, Lincoln, Oneida, Price, Taylor, Vilas
<b>SE Region</b>		
<b>Nancy Gloe - 414/263-8369</b> e-mail Nancy.Gloe@Wisconsin.gov FAX 414/263-8483	Southeast Region 2300 N. Martin Luther King Dr. Milwaukee, WI 53212	Milwaukee, Walworth, Waukesha
<b>Liz Spaeth-Werner - 414/263-8677</b> e-mail Elizabeth.Spaethwerner@Wisconsin.gov FAX 414/263-8483	Southeast Region 2300 N. Martin Luther King Dr. Milwaukee, WI 53212	Ozaukee, Sheboygan, Washington
<b>Ken Hein - 262/574-2142</b> e-mail Kenneth.Hein@Wisconsin.gov FAX 262/574-2117	Southeast Region Waukesha Service Center 141 N.W. Bartow St., Rm. 180 Waukesha, WI 53188	Counties: Kenosha, Racine
<b>SC Region</b>		
<b>Percy Mather - 608/275-3298</b> e-mail Percy.Mather@Wisconsin.gov FAX 608/275-3338	South Central Region 3911 Fish Hatchery Rd. Fitchburg, WI 53711	Columbia, Dane, Dodge, Grant, Green, Iowa, Jefferson, Lafayette, Richland, Rock, Sauk