



## State of Wisconsin \ DEPARTMENT OF NATURAL RESOURCES

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Kenn Buelow  
Holsum Dairies LLC  
N6206 Elm Rd  
Hilbert, WI 54129

June 18, 2009

Subject: Green Tier Acceptance Letter for Tier 1

Dear Mr. Buelow:

Congratulations! The Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources (DNR) is pleased to approve your application and welcome Holsum Dairy's Elm Dairy into the Green Tier Program. This letter of acceptance recognizes the value of Holsum Dairy's environmental initiatives and your accomplishments to date. You have proposed future projects and goals in your application (see attached) which continue to demonstrate your commitment to superior environmental performance.

Holsum Dairy has committed to superior environmental performance both at the Irish Dairy and now at the Elm Dairy. Holsum Dairy has acted aggressively on several fronts to optimize their systems approach to milk production. You have made great strides in turning waste into resources, creating bedding material from the solids component of the manure and electricity from the gaseous component. In short, you have demonstrated environmental sensitivity and environmental leadership. If future circumstances impede your sustained commitment to these practices, please notify us.

In addition to your broader efforts described above, you have also agreed to implement the following measures toward superior environmental performance.

- Continue to set environmental objectives and targets
- Reduce energy consumption by extracting heat from the manure digesting process
- Reduce the need to harvest and transport straw
- Minimize transportation fuel use by keeping calves on site
- Replace the milk pasteurizer with acidified milk for calves, thereby saving the energy required to pasteurize milk
- Implement an additional manure separation process to further reduce the phosphorus concentrations in liquid manure applied to fields
- Purchase center pivot irrigation systems that will distribute low phosphorus liquid manure directly to growing crops.

I congratulate you on thinking about the dairy business as a system, and finding ways to reuse, or turn into raw materials, what others are treating as waste.

In addition, since you have documented your Environmental Management System as functionally equivalent to an ISO 14001 system, the DNR commits to inspect Holsum Dairy at the lowest frequency permitted by law, unless the DNR believes you to be out of compliance.

The Green Tier statute requires that you perform an annual audit of your EMS, with every third audit performed by an outside environmental auditor approved by the department. Should circumstances arise that delay the fulfillment of these commitments, please notify us.

As a part of your commitments, you have agreed to submit to the DNR an annual report about your participation in the program. These reports should provide an update of your current objectives and targets, as well as discuss any measured progress made toward the commitments you made in your application. You should also present the results of your annual EMS audit, describing any non-conformances discovered and identifying actions taken or proposed to correct them. Your first report should be submitted to ~~Mark McDermid~~ with a copy to your single point of contact by March 15, 2010, and annually thereafter [GreenTier@Wisconsin.gov](mailto:GreenTier@Wisconsin.gov)

We also ask that you address the attached list of generic environmental indicators in your annual report, especially those related to Holsum Dairy's identified objectives and targets. This additional reporting is completely voluntary, but it can help to quantify your successes beyond those explicitly outlined in your application or EMS. This information will also help document the overall successes of the Green Tier program.

As a participant in the Green Tier Program, you are entitled to Deferred Civil Enforcement, as described in 299.83(6m)(d). In brief, this means that if you discover a violation with an existing environmental requirement, and if you provide us notice of your discovery along with a corrective action plan and timeline that conforms to the requirements in the statute, and if you successfully and timely implement the corrective action plan, we will not seek to impose penalties on Holsum Dairy for the violation. You are reminded that nothing in this acceptance letter replaces any obligation that you have to report on, and correct, any violation of law or regulation.

This letter authorizes Holsum Dairy to use the Green Tier logo on written materials related to your facility. Please see the guidelines provided for further information regarding the use of the logo. The department has committed to annually celebrate your participation in the program through a press release, and will publicize Holsum Dairy as a Green Tier participant on the DNR website.

Our experiences have shown that organizations realize significant benefits from working regularly with an external group of interested stakeholders. As your participation in Green Tier matures, we would encourage you to use stakeholders in the development of objectives and targets. We also ask that you describe this and other communications with concerned entities in your annual report.

Finally, if you have any questions about your interaction as a Tier 1 participant with the DNR, [Amy Callis](#) has been assigned as your single point of contact. Please coordinate with Amy on an annual meeting that will be used to brief the DNR on your environmental performance, and the progress made on the objectives and targets. This meeting shall also be used for the DNR to provide input on the objectives and targets to be set for the coming year.

UPDATE: Ben Uvaas is Holsum's SPOC.  
Phone: 920-303-5433 Email: Benjamin.Uvaas@wisconsin.gov

I want to welcome you as a Tier 1 company and encourage you to work towards Tier 2 status in the future.

Sincerely,

/s/ Matt Frank

Matt Frank, Secretary  
WI Department of Natural Resources

Attachment: Tier 1 Application  
Generic Suite of Green Tier Indicators  
Green Tier Logo Files and Guidance CD

**The following Indicators are proposed for all Green Tier participants. In addition to this Generic List, it is expected that other indicators/metrics will come out of your Environmental Management System and would be used to document accomplishments. This Generic List is meant to help ABB and the DNR document the relative success of the program.**

## **Environmental Indicators**

Some of the environmental indicators are already provided to the DNR. You would not be asked to report this information again if you have already reported it.

### **1.1 Water**

- 1.1.1 Total water use
- 1.1.2 Total amount of phosphorous released into water
- 1.1.3 Total waste water produced

### **1.2 Air Emissions**

- 1.2.1 Total greenhouse gas emissions
- 1.2.2 Total emissions of ozone-depleting substances
- 1.2.3 Total air emissions

### **1.3 Waste**

- 1.3.1 Total solid waste produced
- 1.3.2 Total percentage of material ending up as waste
- 1.3.3 Amount/percentage of waste that is hazardous
- 1.3.4 Amount of mercury lost or released into the environment
- 1.3.5 Amount/percentage of waste recycled

### **1.4 Energy**

- 1.4.1 Total energy used, listed by source
- 1.4.2 Amount/percentage of energy from renewable resources

### **1.5 Transportation**

- 1.5.1 Total fuel consumption
- 1.5.2 Amount/percentage of vehicles using alternative fuels

### **1.6 Spills**

- 1.6.1 Number of spills
- 1.6.2 Total amount of hazardous substances released due to spills

### **1.7 Land Use**

- 1.7.1 Total amount of land owned and percentage that is permeable (not paved or covered)

### **1.8 TRI**

- 1.8.1 Total TRI emissions

## **Economic Metrics**

- 2.1 Total sales – revenue brought in from annual sales before subtracting any costs.
  - 2.2 Profit or loss – Quantify the profit or loss during the most recent fiscal year
  - 2.3 Workforce changes – number of people employed, and the change over the previous year (using Jan 31 as the baseline date)
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## **Social Metrics**

- 3.1 Amount provided to support alternative transportation options for employees
- 3.2 Income inequality – the multiple between lowest paid employee and highest paid employee
- 3.3 Percent of purchases made from companies in the state