

REI Grant Projects - 2006 Grant Recipients

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Wisconsin's Recycling Efficiency Incentive (REI) Grant program continues to reward local recycling programs for collaborative efforts to improve recycling programs and reduce program cost. To qualify for this Department of Natural Resources (DNR) Grant program a Responsible Units (RU) enters into a cooperative agreement with at least one other RU where efficiencies are achieved through:

- Collection and transportation of recyclables
- Sorting of recyclables at a materials recovery facility
- Comprehensive program planning
- Educational efforts about recycling

RUs may also qualify for the grant through the consolidation of two or more RUs into a single RU. For additional information about this program contact Candice Sovinski, DNR Financial Specialist, (608) 264-9207 or visit the grant webpage www.dnr.state.wi.us/org/caer/cfa/Grants/Recycle/efficiency.html.

Below are examples of some of the activities Responsible Units have undertaken to qualify for the REI grant. For more information about a specific example or contact information please contact Joe Van Rossum, (608)262-0936 or vanrossum@epd.engr.wisc.edu.

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) was also utilized in the operation in efforts to provide ongoing uses for recovered OCC. Adams County owns a portable screening plane while Oneida County owns a portable bagging device. By sharing these pieces of equipment RUs are able to utilize 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 yardwaste for the **City of Rhinelander** and assists the **City of Merrill** by providing composting equipment to turn compost piles at the cities compost site.

Contact - Bart Sexton - Oneida County

Sixteen Calumet County RUs and a Fond du Lac County town collaborated in educational efforts to address issues related to yard waste. The **cities of Brillion, Chilton, Kiel, New Holstein** and the **Villages of Hilbert, Sherwood, and Potter and ten rural and urban town governments** worked with private retail businesses to produce and distribute educational materials related to home compost bin use and the use of finished compost as a soil amendment. These communities encouraged residents to properly manage leaves, grass clippings and other yard materials through the use of back-yard compost bins and through the use of existing municipal compost facilities. The program increased citizen awareness of composting programs options and opportunities and will continue in future years with increase intergovernmental collaboration on composting efforts.

Contact - Mary Kohrell - Calumet County Ext

Columbia County worked cooperatively with two communities on separate projects to qualify for a REI grant. The County planned and held a tire recycling in the **Town of Lodi** with the Town and the County providing tire collection for a free or reduced price to local residents. The County also worked with the **City of Portage** on outreach regarding proper disposal of yard waste. Along with additional partners in the local UW

Extension office and Land and Water Conservation Department, two targeted areas of the city were targeted for meetings regarding the proper management of yard waste materials.

Contact – Bill Casey – Columbia County

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 multifamily buildings. The staff person was able to research, evaluate and market recycling options to residents, managers, and owners of multifamily housing in the two counties.

Contact – George Hayducsko – Dunn County

Through the Wisconsin BeSMART Coalition 11 Responsible Units in Southeastern Wisconsin were able to become REI grant eligible for 2006. The partnership works to improve participation in recycling and yard materials programs, promotes waste reduction to lower solid waste costs: responds to citizen concerns regarding recycling and helps distribute printed, electronic and media materials. Other activities of the SE Region of the WI BeSMART Coalition include outreach to school and community groups, scholarships, as well as maintaining and distributing up-to-date information on emerging solid waste issues. The BeSMART SE Region includes the Cities of **Milwaukee, Racine and Wauwatosa, the Villages of Brown Deer, Butler, Genoa City, Menomonee Falls, and Sussex, the Towns of Bloomfield and East Troy, and Waukesha County.**

Contact – Bill Tarrman Ramcheck – City of Wauwatosa

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 have been provide a low cost option for processing and marketing their recyclables.

Contact – Terry Schmidt – Jackson County

Portage, Outagamie and Waupaca Counties collaborated in an effort to produce a resource kit targeted toward 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 is to increase awareness and compliance with recycling requirements and to eliminate burning of waste materials as well.

Contact – Deb Krogwold – Waupaca County

The **Village of Biron** and the **Towns of Grand Rapids and Saratoga** have 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.

Contact – Mike Weiler – City of Wisconsin Rapids

Although **Manitowoc County** is not a Responsible Unit, it serves a vital role in organizing activities that allowed 21 communities to qualify for REI grants. The County's Public Works department provides processing services and coordinates educational efforts for participating RUs. In addition to benefiting from the cost savings of the joint activities the communities also see the benefit of the consistent message that results.

Contact – Jeff Beyer – Manitowoc County

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