

REI Grant Projects 2007

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 Unit (RU) enters into a cooperative agreement with one or more RU's to achieve at least one of the following efficiencies:

- **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 Recycling Grants Manager, (608) 264-9207 or visit the grant webpage at: 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, Vernon, Jackson, and Monroe Counties worked together to provide area wide educational program for school districts through a contract with Midwest Recycling Association. MRA provided educational programs to school districts and youth groups within these counties. This joint effort also resulted in the development of a business recycling tool-kit. Combining resources allowed these four counties to contract for professional services they ordinarily would not have been able to afford.

Contact: Myrna Diemert, Adams County

Burnett and Washburn County cooperated in the planning, design and implementation of a portable baling system to be used at various recycling drop-off locations for the baling of cardboard. This new system is expected to save \$23,000 per year in hauling costs, and the baled OCC can be now sold to generate revenue.

Contact: Rick Schneider, Northwest Regional Planning Commission

With staff in Green Bay, Madison, Milwaukee and Stevens Point, SHWEC has been providing quality environmental education and technical assistance throughout Wisconsin since 1990. To contact a SHWEC Specialist go to

www.shwec.uwm.edu

SHWEC -UW-Extension 610 Langdon Street, Room 528 Madison WI 53703 608.262.0385 tel 608.262.6250 fax



Recycling away from home was the focus of a project by **Chippewa County** and the **City of Cornell** to share recycling bins for use at community events. Chippewa County advertised local event recycling in local newspapers to educate the public of the "Recycle Away from Home" campaign. The agreement allows the City of Cornell to use the County's Xstream recycling bins rather than purchasing them.

Contact: Renee Yohnk, Chippewa County

Oneida County and the **City of Rhineland** worked cooperatively to provide mobile collection of universal wastes including computer components, CRTs, dry and wet cell batteries, PCB ballasts, and fluorescent light bulbs. This project also included an educational component comprised of press releases and a newspaper article informing residents about the importance of properly handling and recycling of these items.

Contact: Bart Sexton, Oneida County

The **City of Beloit** and the **Town of Beloit** hosted spring and fall compost bin sales to encourage residents to recycle yard waste on-site. The bins were also made available outside of the spring and fall drives. The residents from both communities have responded well to this effort.

Contact: Beatrix Lengjak, Town of Beloit

Fifteen communities in **Winnebago County** authorized the County's Solid Waste Department to purchase and distribute a DNR produced DVD featuring "Burn Barrels: A Tradition to Discard" and "Too Valuable to Waste." The videos are intended to raise awareness about the benefits of recycling and the harm burn barrels do to human health and the environment.

Contact: Jennifer Semrau, Winnebago County

Pepin County contracted with **Dunn County** for services of a Recycling Education Specialist to develop and distribute educational materials to the owners, managers and tenants of apartment buildings. Even though Pepin County has a limited number of these buildings, the County's recycling coordinator did not have time and resources to adequately reach out to these residents. The REI grant funds have enabled Pepin County to tap into the resources of neighboring Dunn County. This REI project builds upon a previous project by Dunn and St. Croix Counties.

Contact: Terry Mesch, Pepin County

Portage County along with the Towns of **Carson**, **Eau Pleine**, and **Linwood** worked together to educate citizens about the importance of proper tire management and conducted various tire collections to qualify for REI grant funding. This effort helped to reduce accumulated "tire piles" that could potentially have impacted public health and the environment. The grant funds enabled the participants to offer tire recycling at a reduced cost to ensure citizens would have an affordable outlet for waste tires.

Contact: Meleesa Johnson, Portage County