

## REI Grant Projects 2008

*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 Sandy Chancellor, 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](http://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](mailto:vanrossum@epd.engr.wisc.edu).

**Douglas County** along with the **City of Superior** created a County wide program to encourage and reward businesses for recycling and making buying decisions based upon "Green" criteria. Businesses may apply for certification if they meet mandatory and voluntary guidelines. The City and County will then recognize their work to become a green business.

*Contact: Mary Klun, Douglas County*

The **City of Beloit** and the Towns of **Beloit** and **Turtle** worked together on a business outreach program. An educational flyer was developed to provide businesses with information about local recycling requirements as well as options for complying with local recycling ordinances. The three municipalities mailed information packets to all businesses along with stickers stating "This Business Recycles." Businesses were also offered additional stickers ("Mixed Paper Only" and "Commingled Only") to place on waste containers in English and Spanish language.

*Contact: Beatrix Lengjak, Town of Beloit*

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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](http://www.shwec.uwm.edu)

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



**Oneida County** and the **City of Rhinelander** also worked cooperatively to educate business as well as inspect them to determine if the businesses were in compliance with local recycling requirements.

*Contact: Bart Sexton, Oneida County*

Twelve communities in **Kewaunee County** worked cooperatively to establish a waste recycling information and education program as an effort to increase the diversion of recyclable materials from the local landfill. The program sought to increase public awareness of the benefits of recycling, the materials that are acceptable to recycle and proper methods for preparing materials for recycling. This effort also included the development of a Kewaunee Recycles website to serve as a clearinghouse for all the responsible units in the county.

**Pepin County** contracted with **Dunn County** for services of a Recycling Education Specialist to audit recycling programs in Pepin County schools and to provide guidance in enhancing school recycling programs. The REI grant funds have again enabled Pepin County to tap into the resources of neighboring Dunn County.

*Contact: Terry Mesch, Pepin County*

Three towns in Clark County worked together to contract for curbside collection of recyclable materials. The **Towns of Grant, Lynn and Washburn** are now providing every household with curbside collection. The program has been well received and the towns are looking forward to an increase in collection volumes.

**Burnett, Washburn and Polk Counties** worked together in 2007 on an effort to collect and recycle plastic garden pots. The Counties worked together to identify locations that would serve as collection points for nursery businesses and the public for plastic garden posts bearing the #2 (High Density Polyethylene) and #5 (Polypropylene) recycling symbols. Collected pots were then taken to the Polk County recycling facility to be prepared for shipment to a recycler.

*Contact: Debbie Peterson, Polk County*

**Brown County** hosted a strategic planning session that was attended by 21 of the County's RUs as well as **Oconto County**. The meeting provided the opportunity to discuss the value of materials currently being recycled, market trends, and information regarding single stream recycling. The meeting also included a presentation by a DNR Waste Specialist about non-residential recycling, enforcement and Corrective Action Plans.

*Contact: Wess Damro, Brown County*