
March 2007

SHWEC Specialist Named Recycler of the Year

SHWEC recycling specialist Joe Van Rossum received the Christy Dixon Recycler of the Year award at the recent 2007 Associated Recyclers of Wisconsin (AROW) Winter Conference in Appleton. The award is presented to a person whose professional and personal life exemplifies AROW's mission of protecting the environment and preserving natural resources through waste reduction, reuse, recycling and composting.

Outstanding Achievement in Recycling awards went to Cascade Asset Management of Madison and to Polk County's Recycling Program. Dunn and St. Croix Counties were presented the Outstanding Achievement in Education Award for their joint effort to improve recycling at apartment buildings.

Council on Recycling Finalizes Sticky (PSA) Policy

John Reindl, Chair, Wisconsin Council on Recycling

Paper is the largest part of most municipal recycling programs on a weight basis. The financial value of the paper is determined, in part, by minimizing contamination in the loads. According to a survey of Wisconsin paper recycling mills by the Wisconsin Council on Recycling -- a state created advisory body -- the greatest concern of the mills for contamination is the presence of Pressure Sensitive Adhesives (PSAs) that are not compatible with the recycling of paper. Found on a broad range of labels, one paper mills executive estimates that they cost the paper recycling industry over \$2 billion a year in lost materials and production.

Building upon the successful work of the US Postal Service to develop a standard for a recycling compatible PSA s , the Council on Recycling worked with industry officials and the US Forest Products Laboratory to develop both a resolution to encourage the use of recycling compatible pressure sensitive adhesives as well as to modify USPS standards to fit a broader range of use of PSAs.

Standards for Recycling Compatible Adhesives (RCAs) are found on the Council's web page at <http://www.dnr.state.wi.us/org/aw/wm/recycle/council/index.htm> -- see the bottom four links on the page. We invite others to join us in reducing this serious contaminate for paper recycling.

Editors Note: A previous newsletter article on this subject can be found in the June 2006 edition, <http://www3.uwm.edu/Dept/shwec/publications/newsletters/pdf/June2006.pdf>

Task Force on Waste Materials Recovery & Disposal Issues Final Report

Joe Van Rossum



The Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources (DNR) announced, in early February, completion of the effort to develop a strategy for maximizing waste recycling and waste reduction and for ensuring safe disposal of waste in the state. The *Final Report* contains twenty recommendations to improve the management of waste materials in Wisconsin. In a February 6 press release DNR Secretary Scott Hassett stated "...the last three decades we've been leading the way in recycling and waste management. The recommendations of this Task Force continue that tradition by showing ways we can reduce waste, recover and reuse more waste materials as resources, and ensure that we manage the remainder in a fashion that is both economically and environmentally sound."

The *Final Report* (available online at: www.wasteresources.wi.gov) contains among its many recommendations a call to improve and expand the use of economic analysis in solid waste policy and management decisions. This economic analysis should not just include the out-of-pocket cost borne by the management system, but also the social costs and benefits of a particular waste management strategy.

Additional recommendations include:

- Enhance the collection and reuse of discarded electronic devices
- Promote producer responsibility and product stewardship
- Recover more construction and demolition debris (wood and shingles, among other materials)
- Recover more scrap paper
- Preserve funds generated by Recycling fee for recycling, beneficial reuse and waste reduction programs.

Appointees to the Task Force included representatives from manufacturers, builders, the waste management and recycling industry, the University of Wisconsin, local governments and the environmental community. For more information visit the website www.wasteresources.wi.gov or contact Sue Bangert, Waste and Materials Management Bureau Director, 608-266-0014

DNR Develops New Insurance Program For Brownfields Cleanup

Wisconsin has a new tool to promote the voluntary cleanup and redevelopment of abandoned or underused contaminated properties known as brownfields. The Wisconsin Brownfields Insurance Program (WBIP) will enable developers, businesses and local governments and other parties involved in cleaning up contaminated properties to obtain insurance, which will help manage risks for unplanned expenses related to brownfields redevelopment. For more information, please click on the following link: <http://dnr.wi.gov/org/aw/rr/rbrownfields/wbip.htm>.

Federal Brownfields Tax Deduction Extended Two Years

Wisconsin businesses may again obtain a federal income tax deduction for certain investigative and cleanup expenses incurred at brownfields. The deduction allows a taxpayer to deduct qualified expenditures at a brownfield property, and he/she may take this deduction in the year he/she incurred the expenditures. Wisconsin residents currently lead the nation in the use of this tax incentive. Please read more at http://dnr.wi.gov/org/aw/rr/financial/fed_tax.html.

For More Information on DNR's Brownfields Program: <http://dnr.wi.gov/org/aw/rr>

Bi-Annual Budget Impacts Waste Managers

Joe Van Rossum

The introduction of Senate Bill 40 marks the beginning of the biannual budget process for the State of Wisconsin. Governor Doyle presented his budget request to the legislature on February 13. In the coming weeks and months the legislature will likely hold hearings and amend and adopt legislation that will set state spending for the coming two fiscal years set to begin July 1, 2007. The budget includes many initiatives that may impact those who manage solid or hazardous waste. Here are a few of the introduced changes:

- Establish a grant program funded with \$1 million annually to assist businesses with recycling efforts (Waste Reduction/Recycling Demonstration program)
- Increase Clean Sweep Grants to local governments by \$289,600 per year to fund collection of Agricultural and Household hazardous wastes.
- Appropriate \$15 million dollars from the recycling fund in the form of loans and grants each year for renewable fuel or energy production or technology.
- Provide \$300,000 per year for agricultural chemical pollution prevention
- Increase the recycling tip-fee surcharge from \$3 per ton to \$6 per ton on certain landfilled wastes.
- Increase the environmental repair fee on certain solid and hazardous wastes from 50 cents per ton to \$1.60 per ton.

To learn more you can view the bill in its entirety online at:

<http://www.legis.state.wi.us/2007/data/SB-40.pdf>

EPA Website Enhances "Recycle on the Go" Campaign

Joe Van Rossum



The US Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) believes at least 40% of municipal solid waste is generated outside the home at public spaces such as parks, sports arenas, and shopping centers. In an effort to boost recycling at these locations the EPA has developed a website:

www.epa.gov/recycleonthego to provide guidance and assistance for

public space recycling. The website provides tools, information, model programs and success stories to support business and government agencies looking to start or improve public space recycling.

One of the valuable tools on the website is an eight step guide to setting up a recycling program. This tool outlines a strategy that can be applied to containers, newspapers, cardboard and even food scraps. The guide also contains numerous links to reference materials such as waste assessments, and dealing with concessionaires and volunteers.

Wisconsin's BeSmart Coalition has also developed a website devoted to this topic:

www.besmart.org/festival/index.html. Targeted at event planners, the BeSmart website also contains main tools, ideas and case studies that help you improve recycling efforts in public spaces.

Regulatory Updates and News

EPA Region 5 Announces Solid Waste Management Grants Opportunity

EPA Region 5 is soliciting solid waste management proposals that address the national Resource Conservation Challenge (RCC) priorities of increasing recycling of municipal solid waste; increasing industrial materials recycling; and greening electronics. Specific Region 5 priorities are listed in the full text under each RCC priority. Applicants are encouraged to partner and collaborate on projects with other organizations involved in similar efforts and proposals are due by April 11. Go to the region 5 web site to learn more about this grant program:

<http://www.epa.gov/region5/solidwaste/funding.htm>

EPA Announces \$2.7 Million Available for Communities to Reduce Toxic Exposure

EPA announced that \$2.7 million is available to support community-based partnerships in reducing risks from toxics in local communities under two types of agreements through the Community Action for a Renewed Environment (CARE) program.



Level I cooperative agreements will help establish community-based partnerships and set priorities for reducing risks from toxics in a community.

Level II cooperative agreements are for communities that already have undertaken a comprehensive process to assess risks from all sources of toxics, formed a broad-based collaborative, have identified risk reduction priorities and are ready to implement risk reduction strategies.

County and local governments, tribes, non-profit organizations and universities are eligible. Applications are due April 9, 2007 and additional information about the 2007 cooperative agreements, projects awarded in 2005 and 2006 and how to apply for the cooperative agreements is at:

<http://www.epa.gov/care/agreements.htm> Additional information about the CARE program:
<http://www.epa.gov/care/>

EPA Seeks Public Comment on U.S. Greenhouse Gas Inventory

EPA is seeking public comment on a draft report that analyzes sources of greenhouse gas emissions. The report, Inventory of U.S. Greenhouse Gas Emissions and Sinks: 1990-2005, will be open for public comment for 30 days after the Federal Register notice is published. After responding to public comments, EPA will submit, through the U.S. Department of State, the final inventory report to the Secretariat of the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change, fulfilling its annual requirement as a party to this international treaty on climate change. The UNFCCC treaty, ratified by the United States in 1992, sets an overall framework for intergovernmental efforts to tackle the challenge posed by climate change. Information on the draft 2007 report and how to submit public comments:

<http://epa.gov/climatechange/emissions/usinventoryreport07.html>

EPA Announces Top Energy Star Buildings



More than 3,200 top performing buildings have earned the Energy Star and saving an estimated \$600 million annually in lower energy bills, and preventing almost 11 billion pounds of greenhouse gas emissions, equal to emissions from almost 900,000 vehicles, according to a recent EPA news release. The top performing buildings that earned the Energy Star in 2006 include about 320 supermarkets, 320 office buildings, and 200 K-12 schools. Almost 90 banks, courthouses, financial centers, hospitals, hotels, and dormitories also earned the Energy Star. EPA started the Energy Star program in 1992 and last year alone, American consumers and businesses, with the help of Energy Star, saved \$12 billion and prevented greenhouse gas emissions equal to those from 23 million vehicles. For the complete list go to: <http://www.energystar.gov/labeledbuildings> and for more information on Energy Star go to: <http://www.energystar.gov>

Events, Training, Workshop and Tour Opportunities

March 12-14 2007 **Environment 2007 Conference and Exhibition** is sponsored by FET and held in Milwaukee. The conference is one of the oldest and largest environmental conferences held in the state and includes the recognition of companies or organizations for the Governors Award for Environmental Excellence. Go to www.fetinc.org or call 414-354-0070 for more information on exhibiting or to register.

March 12-14 2007 the **Great Lakes Regional Pollution Prevention Roundtable** meeting and seminar in Chicago Illinois at the US-EPA Region V Headquarters
<http://www.glrppr.org/meetings/Spring2007/>

March 27 – November 7, 2007. Four **Post-Construction Stormwater Management** WisLine Web Workshops are being offered by the DNR and UW Extension. These workshops are for municipal officials and staff, engineering consultants and agency staff who work with post-construction stormwater management. Each session costs \$20. Register at <http://go.communityseason.com/?goto=uwex>

April 19, 2007; **Wisconsin DNR Solid Waste Interested Parties Meeting** –10:00 am to 3:00 pm, Lussier Family Heritage Center at 3101 Lake Farm Road, Madison. The DNR will provide interested stakeholders information related to the Waste and Materials Management Program. Contact: Jack Connelly, Solid Waste Program Coordinator 608-267-7574.