



Press Release

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
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WAUKESHA COUNTY DISTRIBUTES NEARLY \$1.5 MILLION TO MUNICIPALITIES FOR RECYCLING

Waukesha, WI – Waukesha County Executive Paul Farrow announced that 25 municipalities will receive checks this spring totaling nearly \$1.5 million as partners in the Waukesha County Recycling Program and for delivering their recyclables to the County Materials Recycling Facility (MRF). The \$1.5 million in dividend payments to municipalities is intended to provide tax relief by helping to offset their residential recycling collection costs. The dividends vary for each participating municipality based on the individual program costs, tons of recyclables and recycling rate.

Since 2001, participating municipalities have received a return in investment of more than \$13.6 million. This year's dividend payment is about \$300,000 more than the last few years due to additional financial assistance the County is providing municipalities for new larger single sort recycling containers and for hauling recyclables to the new state-of-the-art single stream MRF in the Menomonee Valley, owned jointly by the Waukesha County and the City of Milwaukee ("Valley MRF"). "Waukesha County is proud to return nearly \$1.5 million in recycling dividends to our local government partners this year. Citizens in our participating municipalities understand the value of recyclable material. These dividends are an outstanding way to provide tax reduction back to those citizens for their recycling effort," Farrow said.

In 2014, the recycling rate was 18.3% as municipal partners delivered 18,790 tons of recyclables and disposed of 78,183 tons of waste at the landfill. The recyclable materials processed consisted of 9,594 tons of paper and cardboard, 1,630 tons of plastic bottles, 503 tons of steel cans, 256 tons of aluminum cans, and 4,794 tons of glass that were shipped mainly to domestic markets to be made into new products including paper tissue and towels, product packaging, steel appliances, aluminum cans, carpeting, polyester clothing, and glass bottles.

Waukesha County has experienced a 17% decline in per capita solid waste generated in the past ten years from 661 pounds per person in 2004 to 550 pounds per person in 2014. Recycling has declined about 20% from 190 pounds per capita to 152 pounds per capita during the same time period. Several factors contribute to the recycling decline including lighter weight containers, changes in packaging (i.e. glass to plastic), smaller newspapers and magazines, declining circulation numbers, transition from print to electronic media and the economy. With the new single sort recycling system (all bottles/cans and paper go in the same container), which began January 1, 2015, recycling rates are projected to increase 25 percent.

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Municipal Recycling Disbursement: Total= \$1,496,357

Municipality	Total 2015 County Recycling Dividend	Tons Recycled (2014)	Tons Landfilled (2014)	Recycling Rate (2014)
V. Big Bend	\$9,339	99	451	18%
V. Chenequa	\$3,611	45	313	13%
V. Dousman	\$13,673	178	569	24%
V. Eagle	\$12,050	152	700	18%
V. Elm Grove	\$41,391	364	2,208	14%
V. Hartland	\$65,066	726	1,947	27%
V. Lac La Belle	\$2,309	47	284	14%
V. Merton	\$24,875	286	742	28%
V. Nashotah	\$6,364	59	347	14%
V. Oconomowoc Lake	\$4,232	56	285	16%
V. Pewaukee	\$40,608	425	1,568	21%
V. Summit	\$30,931	329	1,719	16%
V. Wales	\$18,594	221	652	25%
T. Brookfield	\$26,547	318	1,995	14%
T. Delafield	\$40,984	556	2,889	16%
T. Lisbon	\$39,571	577	4,134	12%
T. Merton*	\$17,011	494	2,029	20%
T. Oconomowoc	\$30,959	565	2,853	17%
T. Waukesha	\$65,034	763	2,454	24%
C. Brookfield	\$199,899	2,566	11,840	18%
C. Delafield	\$27,074	312	2,309	12%
C. New Berlin	\$186,628	3,428	10,321	25%
C. Oconomowoc	\$112,766	940	4,785	16%
C. Pewaukee	\$80,165	809	4,815	14%
C. Waukesha	\$396,676	4,478	15,974	22%
TOTALS	\$1,496,357	18,790	78,183	18%

* Municipality does not have municipal contract

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