



Press Release

Contact: Rebecca Mattano
Phone: 262-896-8014

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
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WAUKESHA COUNTY DISTRIBUTES MORE THAN \$1.2 MILLION TO MUNICIPALITIES FOR RECYCLING

Waukesha, WI – Waukesha County Executive Dan Vrakas announced that 25 municipalities will receive checks this spring totaling \$1,217,172 for participating in the Waukesha County Recycling Program and delivering their recyclables to the Material Recycling Facility (MRF). Since 2001, participating municipalities have received a return in investment of more than \$10.9 million.

“The total amount returned to our local government partners this year is consistent with the last few years. Markets have remained strong,” said Vrakas. “Our highly successful recycling program is a cooperative endeavor among communities, the County and the private sector that reduces duplication of services and operates in a cost-effective manner. Through this successful partnership we are conserving natural resources, creating jobs, and meeting the demand by manufacturers for recycled materials. I would like to thank the residents for diligently recycling all items accepted in our program.”

The intergovernmental cooperative program uses state grant funds received on behalf of participating municipalities and revenue from the sale of recyclables to coordinate program education, as well as process and market recycled materials at the County recycling facility. The \$1.2 million in dividend payments to municipalities is intended to help offset their residential recycling collection costs.

Municipal disbursements range from \$2,465 to the Village of Lac LaBelle to \$292,703 to the City of Waukesha. The rebate incentive formula is based on the number of tons recycled in each community and the percent of waste recycled. Consequently, the more residents recycle and reduce waste, the larger the rebate is for their community.

The MRF processed 19,281 tons of recyclables from the communities in 2012 – a decrease of 4.9% compared to 2011. The amount of trash disposed by residents in those same communities was 73,453 tons which decreased by 3.2%, continuing a nine-year trend.

The 11,126 tons of paper, 1,721 tons of plastic bottles, 555 tons of steel cans, 276 tons of aluminum cans, and 4,958 tons of glass 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. This saved enough energy to serve 2,300 homes for a year. Total greenhouse gas emissions reduced from recycling all materials was equivalent to taking more than 6,400 cars off the road for one year. Total landfill space saved was over 50,000 cubic yards, the equivalent of a football field filled over 30 feet high.

“The more people recycle the more the County, participating municipalities, residents, businesses, and our environment benefit,” said Rebecca Mattano, Recycling and Solid Waste Supervisor. “By recycling and reducing waste, our residents

do what's right for the environment while generating tax dollar savings through reduced disposal costs and increased recycling rebates."

Waukesha County has experienced a 22% decline in per capita solid waste generated in the past nine years from 661 pounds per person in 2004 to 529.9 pounds per person in 2012. Recycling has declined 25% from 190 pounds per capita to 147.2 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.

Municipal Recycling Disbursement: Total= \$1,217,172

<u>Villages</u>	
Big Bend	\$7,353.40
Chenequa	\$4,203.12
Dousman	\$10,051.31
Eagle	\$9,237.53
Elm Grove	\$42,032.25
Hartland	\$47,552.30
Lac La Belle	\$2,465.34
Merton	\$17,668.97
Nashotah	\$6,611.73
Ocon Lake	\$4,383.60
Pewaukee	\$32,601.64
Summit	\$27,600.14
Wales	\$13,963.64
<u>Towns</u>	
Brookfield	\$28,058.12
Delafield	\$42,169.47
Lisbon	\$48,252.79
Merton*	\$14,471.01
Oconomowoc*	\$15,681.30
Waukesha	\$47,242.76
<u>Cities</u>	
Brookfield	\$222,753.33
Delafield	\$25,562.01
New Berlin*	\$103,505.59
Oconomowoc	\$89,130.30
Pewaukee	\$61,917.33
Waukesha	\$292,703.30
Total	\$1,217,172.27

For more information about the program or the recycling disbursement, please contact Rebecca Mattano in the Waukesha County Department of Parks and Land Use at (262) 896-8300.