



Press Release

Contact: Rebecca Mattano
Phone: 262-896-8014

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
Monday April 21, 2014

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 \$1,217,141 as partners in the Waukesha County Recycling Program and delivering their recyclables to the Material Recycling Facility (MRF). The \$1.2 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 solid waste and tons of recyclables.

Since 2001, participating municipalities have received a return in investment of more than \$12.1 million.

“The total amount returned to our local government partners this year is consistent with the last several years. 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,” Vrakas stated.

In 2013, the MRF processed 18,826 tons of recyclables from the municipalities in 2013 – a decrease of 7.7% compared to 2012. The amount of trash disposed by residents in those same municipalities was 73,301 tons which decreased by 0.2%, continuing an eleven-year trend. The materials processed consisted of 10,339 tons of paper and cardboard, 1,641 tons of plastic bottles, 500 tons of steel cans, 285 tons of aluminum cans, and 4,568 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. This saved enough energy to serve 3,000 homes for a year. Total greenhouse gas emissions reduced from recycling all materials was equivalent to taking more than 8,750 cars off the road for one year (derived from EPA WARM calculator). Total landfill space saved was almost 47,000 cubic yards, the equivalent of a football field filled over 22 feet high.

Waukesha County has experienced a 20% decline in per capita solid waste generated in the past nine years from 661 pounds per person in 2004 to 526.9 pounds per person in 2013. Recycling has declined almost 29% from 190 pounds per capita to 135.3 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= \$1,217,141

Villages	2014
Big Bend	\$7,225
Chenequa	\$4,579
Dousman	\$10,913
Eagle	\$9,089
Elm Grove	\$41,833
Hartland	\$45,743
Lac La Belle	\$2,737
Merton	\$17,654
Nashotah	\$6,325
Oconomowoc Lake	\$4,392
Pewaukee	\$31,412
Summit	\$28,076
Wales	\$12,556
Towns	
Brookfield	\$28,066
Delafield	\$43,341
Lisbon	\$49,383
Merton*	\$12,917
Oconomowoc*	\$13,426
Waukesha	\$48,718
Cities	
Brookfield	\$212,634
Delafield	\$26,370
New Berlin*	\$108,342
Oconomowoc	\$90,031
Pewaukee	\$63,864
Waukesha	\$297,518
Total	\$1,217,141

* Municipality does not have municipal contract

###