



State of Wisconsin \ DEPARTMENT OF NATURAL RESOURCES

Jim Doyle, Governor
Matthew J. Frank, Secretary
Ronald W. Kazmierczak, Regional Director

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APR 14 2010

April 13, 2010

Mr. Mark Radtke, Dir. Public Works
City of Menasha
140 Main St.
Menasha, WI 54952

Subject: Recycling Program Evaluation for the City of Menasha,
Winnebago County

Dear Mr. Radtke:

Thanks to Tim Jacobson and Jeff Nieland for meeting with us on March 11, 2010, as part of the Winnebago County Annual Group Recycling Meeting. I waited for the return of your completed recycling program questionnaire to send this reply. Jennifer Semrau, Winnebago County Recycling Director, Kurt Pernsteiner and I presented valuable information regarding Winnebago County waste and recycling operations, single stream recycling, administrative code updates, DNR recycling annual report updates and a home compost demonstration. As part of the workshop activities, Jennifer and Kurt provided updates on Winnebago County's recycling program. Following their presentations I was able to have a group discussion with all of the Responsible Unit (RU) representatives present to discuss recycling successes, problems and possible solutions. This letter will summarize our discussions and include a review of your recycling program. Please provide a copy of this letter to appropriate City staff and City Council for their information.

I received your completed individual recycling program questionnaire and an updated copy of your Compliance Assurance Plan. I used the questionnaire as well as your most recent Recycling Annual Report to the DNR to review the City of Menasha's recycling program. I noted that the City's overall recycling program appears to be well run. You continue to have a recyclables collection volume that is above the state standard. The latest annual report (2008) from the City showed the value of 112 .64 pounds of recyclables collected per person per year. This figure is above the collection standard for an urban community of 106.55 pounds per person in Table 1 of NR 544. I believe that the curbside collection of recyclables and single stream recycling is a contributing factor in this success. The added convenience of curbside and single stream collection, your coordination with Winnebago County, and your efforts to promote recycling appear to contribute to additional recycling activity by your residents. I commend you, the City staff and the City Council for making the effort to maintain a successful recycling program. The City of Menasha should continue to seek ways to increase recycling to reduce municipal waste disposal expenses and benefit the environment.

During the group discussion we briefly discussed the communities' continuing efforts at coordinating with Winnebago County on recycling education and outreach. Jennifer and I provided two information tables of recycling educational factsheets and publications regarding Winnebago County recycling and solid waste programs, open burning, recycling guidance, composting and other recycling topics for your use. As part of your recycling outreach activities, you continue to provide recycling educational materials to your residents by sending guidance to your residents, providing recycling guidance through your City's website and to those that inquire at City offices. I stress the importance of recycling education in promoting the continued increase in recycling efforts within the City. Continued reminders for long term residents, outreach to new residents and concentrated efforts at youth education are always needed to encourage more ways to "Reduce, Reuse and Recycle". We provided many examples of recycling publications to give you additional possible references for educational materials on recycling. The DNR recycling publications web address is

<http://www.dnr.state.wi.us/org/aw/wm/publications/>

Many of these publications may be downloaded directly from the web site. In addition, our recycling home web page address is noted at the end of this letter for added information.

In addition, I encourage the City to use the additional copies of the DVD on open burning and recycling that was available on the information table at the meeting. It may be loaned as an educational tool to interested groups, schools, etc. in the City. If you need additional copies, just contact me. Please feel free to also use our open burning fact sheets as part of your ongoing outreach efforts. In addition, our Open Burning Web Site may be found at

<http://dnr.wi.gov/environmentprotect/ob/>

Please consider posting open burning guidance or a link to the above website on your City website.

I discussed recent proposed changes to state statutes that may impact solid waste or recycling operations throughout the state. Among the proposed or final changes are:

- New electronics recycling legislation
- New oil filter/absorbents legislation
- Proposed open burning citation legislation
- Proposed increase in fines for littering
- Proposed repeal of single family disposal exemption
- Proposed elimination of lead wheel weights

And finally, I had a few minutes to discuss future efforts to increase the recycling of organics. I stressed the importance of reducing organics in landfills and thus reducing the input of methane gas into our atmosphere. Methane is 20 to 100 times more serious than CO₂ as a green house gas and landfills are the largest source of methane in the US. Recycling organics can decrease the financial burden of waste disposal for a community and produce an excellent soil amendment through composting of organics such as kitchen fruit and vegetable trimmings, coffee grounds and other non meat or nondairy food waste. I demonstrated the ease of recycling organics in the home by operating a home compost bin in your back yard. Please use the compost guidance

available on the information table or on the web at:
<http://dnr.wi.gov/org/aw/wm/recycle/issues/compost.htm>

Thanks again to Tim Jacobson and Jeff Nieland for their cooperation and time to attend the Winnebago County Annual Group Recycling Meeting and discuss and evaluate the City of Menasha's recycling program with us. I encourage you, City staff and the City Council to continue with your efforts. Additional recycling information is available for your reference. Please see our web page at <http://www.dnr.state.wi.us/org/aw/wm/recycle>. If you have any questions or if we can be of further assistance to you, please contact me at (920) 424- 2104 or email at David.Misterek@wisconsin.gov

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "David L. Misterek". The signature is written in black ink and includes a long horizontal flourish at the end.

David L. Misterek
Waste Management Specialist

cc: Jennifer Semrau, Winnebago County
Len Polczinski, NER
Jennie Easterly, OSH