

**SUBJECT:** Green Tier

**FOR:** MARCH BOARD MEETING

**TO BE PRESENTED BY:**

Mark McDermid, Margaret Krome, Art Harrington

**SUMMARY:**

First enacted as a pilot program law in 1996 and passed into law in 2004 with an accompanying sunset provision, Green tier is a program designed to enable and recognize superior environmental performance. The law was reauthorized by the legislature, removing the sunset provision and making other enhancements, and signed by the Governor in 2009. The Green Tier Program is built upon the use of environmental management systems, commitments to superior environmental performance and collaborative, transparent working relationships. It does not replace expectations for compliance.

Green Tier uses basic recognition (Tier 1), performance contracting (Tier 2) and collaborative environmental problem solving (Charters) to pursue superior environmental performance. Participants must meet basic entry requirements including compliance history, systematic environmental management, continually improving environmental performance, publicly sharing their results annually and auditing their systems' performance periodically.

Consistent results have been reported annually and range from elimination of all hazardous waste generation and wastewater discharge to serving as leaders for the development of sustainable community strategies. While broad scale metrics have proven especially challenging, we have been able to discern and present some performance trends in areas such as sulfur dioxide emissions and volatile organic compounds. Participants have used several of the incentives available as a part of the program with the most frequently used being publicity, recognition and publication of the program logo. Work over the course of the next year will focus on improving the single point of contact as a mechanism for strengthening the collaborative relationships, as well as finding ways to emphasize sustainability as a part of the program. An important part of Green Tier is the continual insight and advice that is provided by the Green Tier Advisors appointed by the Secretary to represent various interest to improve the program.

**RECOMMENDATION:** Information Item Only

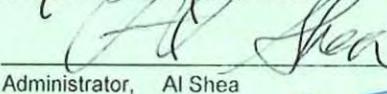
**LIST OF ATTACHED MATERIALS:**

- |  |   |                              |          |
|--|---|------------------------------|----------|
| No <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | Fiscal Estimate Required                              | Yes <input type="checkbox"/> | Attached |
| No <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | Environmental Assessment or Impact Statement Required | Yes <input type="checkbox"/> | Attached |
| No <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | Background Memo                                       | Yes <input type="checkbox"/> | Attached |

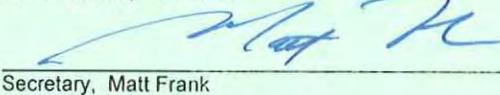
**APPROVED:**

  
Bureau Director, (Mark McDermid)

3.4.2010  
Date

  
Administrator, Al Shea

3/4/10  
Date

  
Secretary, Matt Frank

3-5-10  
Date