



NEWS RELEASE

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SUBJECT: Edgewood College first college accepted into Green Tier program

MADISON – Edgewood College of Madison is now the first college or university in Wisconsin to be accepted into the Department of Natural Resources' Green Tier program. Edgewood joins the statewide program that encourages institutions and businesses to go beyond current rules and regulations to reduce their impact on the environment.

"Edgewood College is setting a higher standard for educational institutions through its significant commitment to the environmental health of the campus and the surrounding community," said DNR Deputy Secretary Bill Smith. "By participating in Green Tier, the college has shown that environmental issues are central to Edgewood's philosophy and its approach to campus improvement."

"We're honored to be recognized by the Department in such a meaningful way," President Daniel Carey of Edgewood College said. "We are fortunate at Edgewood College to be stewards of a beautiful campus, one that enhances the educational experience for our students. This designation seals our partnership with our students, the Sinsinawa Dominican Sisters, and the people of the state of Wisconsin to ensure a healthy, sustainable environment at the College."

The "Green Campus Task Force" has engaged Edgewood's students, faculty and staff in creating an environmentally sustainable living and learning community. Through participation in Green Tier, Edgewood will develop an Environmental Management System and will augment its role as an environmental leader, thus enhancing the strong synergy between the College's academic credentials and environmental standards. They will focus on waste minimization, energy use, recycling and water conservation.

Recent environmental accomplishments at Edgewood include the renovation of the Mazzuchelli Biological Station, for which the contractor, J.H. Findorff & Son, was awarded the *2005 Environmental Excellence Award* given by the Association of General Contractors (AGC) for their work. A new residence hall, currently under construction on the Edgewood campus, has been designed to achieve LEED (Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design) certification as a Green Building. The campus

also has several rain gardens designed to capture large volumes of runoff from the campus, largely from campus parking lots, and is active in numerous other environmental and conservation activities.

Green Tier is the first program of its kind in the nation. Green Tier enables good environmental actors to perform even better and recognizes their work, Smith noted. This allows DNR to focus its resources on those facilities that need greater attention and assistance in meeting environmental requirements.

Institutions and companies participating in Green Tier can benefit through specific flexibilities outlined in statute, individual contracts and charters. Statutory incentives include, for example, a single point-of-contact within DNR to facilitate effective communications, and use of the Green Tier logo for marketing. The DNR will recognize participants for superior environmental performance with a numbered certificate. The Green Tier program also offers limited deferred civil enforcement. Most importantly, companies are recognized for environmental performance that goes beyond what the law requires them to do, and for systematically and continually improving on that performance.

For more information on Green Tier, visit the Green Tier page on the DNR website at <http://greentier.wi.gov/>.