



## NEWS RELEASE

### Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources Northeast Region

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**DATE:** September 8, 2009

**CONTACT:** Tom Eggert, DNR Cooperative Environmental Assistance, 608-267-2716

**SUBJECT:** Westfield School District seeks Green Tier Status  
*School district has a history of involving students in environmental activities*

**WESTFIELD, Wis.** – The Department of Natural Resources is seeking public comment on an application by Westfield School District for acceptance into Wisconsin’s innovative Green Tier Program.

In 2008, the district began producing bio-diesel fuel to help meet district transportation needs using oil donated by local restaurants and businesses. In addition to saving tens of thousand of dollars, the program has the added benefit of reducing emissions by seventy to ninety percent.

To further reduce waste, the district turns a by-product of the bio-diesel production process, glycerin, into earth-friendly hand and laundry soaps.

The district and students are currently exploring the feasibility of a wind turbine that would provide power to the schools and revenue by selling excess energy back to the grid. The Westfield School District has been a leader in integrating their environmental commitment into the school curriculum.

Future environmental efforts being considered include installing electric solar panels and replacing fluorescent lighting with LED strip lighting, which could reduce fluorescent energy consumption by approximately 66%.

Wisconsin’s Green Tier program encourages businesses to move beyond regulatory compliance in order to promote superior environmental performance. Participation in this program is strictly voluntary. The Westfield School District’s application is for Tier 1 of the program, which is designed to encourage new goal setting and innovation. In order to be accepted into the program an applicant must have a good environmental record, commit to superior environmental performance, and implement an Environmental Management System.

The Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources is taking written comments on this application for thirty days. Comments can be sent directly to Tom Eggert via e-mail at [thomas.eggert@wisconsin.gov](mailto:thomas.eggert@wisconsin.gov) Your participation is highly valued as community enhancement and open communication are important facets of Green Tier.

Additional information about the Westfield School District's Green Tier application and the Green Tier program can be found at <http://dnr.wi.gov/org/caer/cea/environmental/comment/index.htm> or by calling Tom Eggert at 608-267-2716.

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