



NEWS RELEASE

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SUBJECT: Fredman Bag Company to Participate in Green Tier Program

MILWAUKEE – Fredman Bag Company, a fifth generation, family-owned and operated manufacturer of flexible packaging materials was accepted into Wisconsin's innovative Green Tier program today.

Department of Natural Resources (DNR) Secretary Cathy Stepp extended congratulations, “We are thrilled that long-held family owned companies can continue to grow and thrive in Wisconsin today. It is an honor to have Fredman Bag Company in our family of Green Tier businesses committed to going beyond compliance to environmental excellence.”

DNR’s Southeast Region Director Eric Nitschke welcomed officials from the company at a special event Thursday. He said they should be proud of their environmental leadership and its benefits to the community.

What started as a burlap bag manufacturing and refurbishing business over 120 years ago has evolved with customer needs. While still valuing sustainability, Fredman Bag now manufactures colorful, custom, award winning flexible packaging products that include zipper bags, stand-up pouches, tote bags, rollstock, banners and more. You are likely to see the bags in grocery stores holding baked goods, frozen food and confections.

Fredman Bag is participating in Tier 1 of the program, which is designed to encourage new goal setting and innovation. Green Tier encourages businesses and other organizations to voluntarily collaborate with DNR to move beyond compliance with regulations and to achieve superior environmental performance. To participate, an applicant must have a good environmental record, commit to exceeding environmental minimums and implement an internationally accredited Environmental Management System.

This Environmental Management System, or EMS, is a “plan-do-check-act” tool that will help Fredman Bag understand its environmental impacts. It will also help define, implement, and

monitor its sustainability efforts. Fredman Bag's Environmental Statement highlights the company's desire to minimize its environmental footprint and to build on its commitment to sustainability through many different facets of the business:

- **In product design** – work with customers to downsize material thickness and package dimensions.
- **In manufacturing** – utilize regenerative thermal oxidizer to destroy VOCs.
- **In processing** – recapture and recycle unconsumed solvents. Reduce cooling water usage by recycling and reconditioning. Recycle industrial paper, cardboard, and spent oil.
- **In packaging** – ship product on recycled pallets and re-use roll cores.
- **In energy reduction** – Upgrade to variable speed motors versus single speed motors on equipment exhaust systems. Replace production and office lighting with high efficiency lighting. Utilize motion detectors and setback thermostats to help conserve energy.

“We value this opportunity to work with the DNR. The ability to partner with the DNR is greatly appreciated and we value the added help and resources a collaborative relationship brings,” said Tim Fredman, President and owner of Fredman Bag. “Our results show that being environmentally conscious does not have to be a burden to a business. These efforts make sense, not only from an environmental impact standpoint, but because they are also generally advantageous from both a safety and cost savings perspective.”

Fredman Bag's future plans include converting industrial cleaning agents to environmentally friendly water based systems, replacing the facility's hot water heater with a higher efficiency unit, continuing to improve lighting efficiency, recycling additional waste products, and continuing to significantly reduce solvent usage.

A unique program in the nation, Green Tier provides a range of tools to create a powerful, sustainable force for economic growth and environmental health. Green Tier participation has grown throughout Wisconsin's business community in recent years as more companies have found business value through greater environmental performance.

For more information on Green Tier and Fredman Bag's involvement, visit DNR's Green Tier web page at: <http://dnr.wi.gov/topic/GreenTier/Participants/FredmanBag.html>