



## NEWS RELEASE

**DATE:** September 21, 2011

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**RE: WS Packaging Group, Inc. applies for Wisconsin's Green Tier**

**ALGOMA** – A WS Packaging Group, Inc. Algoma facility has applied for Wisconsin's innovative Green Tier program seeking Tier 1 status. Green Tier, a program under the Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources (DNR), is designed to recognize and reward companies who stand out as the state's top environmental performers.

Formed in 2000 with the merger of Wisconsin Label Corporation and Superior Label Systems, Inc., WS Packaging Group, Inc. (WSPG) currently operates 18 facilities in the U.S. and Mexico, with corporate headquarters located in Green Bay, WI. Serving a range of companies from start-ups to Fortune 500 brands, WSPG has emerged as a leading provider of printing and packaging solutions in North America.

WSPG strives to incorporate their commitment to sustainability in the products and services they provide. Whether they're reducing a customer's packaging footprint or recycling over 1,200 tons of material each month, WSPG continually demonstrates their environmental stewardship and in 2009 was awarded the Business Friend of the Environment Award by the Wisconsin Environmental Working Group.

WSPG Algoma made significant progress toward sustainable operations and was awarded the LIFE: Label Initiative for the Environment certification in October 2010 by the Tag & Label Manufacturers Institute. The facility took many steps to achieve the award, including a 28% reduction in landfill waste from 2008 to 2009, purchasing 126,477 fewer pounds of nitrogen, and recycling 30 tons of corrugated containers and 36 tons of paper. Under Green Tier, WSPG Algoma will implement an Environmental Management System (EMS) to guide their environmental policy and help them achieve sustainability goals such as 90% of all waste (previously sent to the landfill) be recycled, 100% of all wastewater be treated and free of hazardous substances before being released into the sewer system, and continue to develop sustainable cost-effective packaging solutions for their customers.

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 tremendous value through greater environmental performance.

As Green Tier participants, WSPG Algoma will commit to superior environmental practices and in return receive recognition and a range of benefits including flexible permitting, reduced inspection frequency, limited civil immunity, a single point of contact at DNR, and more. Businesses that voluntarily audit their own environmental compliance and commit to correcting violations also face significantly less financial risk and limited liability.

The public has an opportunity to comment on WSPG Algoma's Green Tier application through Friday, October 21, 2011. Specific information on this application and on the Green Tier program can be accessed on the Internet at: <http://dnr.wi.gov/org/caer/cea/environmental/comment/index.htm>.

Comments may be directed to: Tom Eggert, Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources, 101 S. Webster Street - CO/5, Madison WI 53703 or at [Thomas.eggert@wisconsin.gov](mailto:Thomas.eggert@wisconsin.gov) or by calling (608) 267-2761.