



Small Business Advisor - March - 2015

Topics in this edition:

- National Groundwater Awareness Week was March 8-14, 2015
- Clean Air Awards Nominations Now Open
- Follow DNR on LinkedIn
- Wisconsin Manufacturers & Commerce Now Accepting Applications for the Business Friend of the Environment Awards

National Groundwater Awareness Week was March 8-14, 2015

From the Republican Journal, Thursday, March 12, 2015

MADISON--As part of National Groundwater Awareness Week (March 8-14), the Wisconsin Department of Health Services (DHS) and Department of Natural Resources (DNR) joined the National Ground Water Association in encouraging Wisconsin residents to promote public health and the health of the environment by taking steps to protect groundwater.

"Groundwater plays an important role in the health of many Wisconsin families and there are simple things people can do to protect this vital resource and promote a healthy Wisconsin," says Dr. Henry Anderson, Chief Medical Officer of the Bureau of Environmental and Occupational Health at DHS.

"Over half of Wisconsin residents rely on groundwater for their drinking water supply, getting water from individual household water wells or public water systems," notes Russell Rasmussen, DNR Water Division Administrator and chair of the state's Groundwater Coordinating Council. "Our health and our economy depend on adequate supplies of safe groundwater."

Private water well owners can make a difference in their water quality by how they manage their well systems. People whose household water comes from public water systems can also make a difference in groundwater quality by how they store, use, and dispose of hazardous household substances, or how well they maintain their septic systems.

Residents can learn about the quality of drinking water through Public Water Supply Consumer Confidence Reports, or by testing their private wells. Information on accessing Consumer Confidence Reports or submitting private well water samples to a laboratory can be found on the Department of Natural Resources (DNR) website.

Understanding your drinking water quality enables you to take action to protect groundwater against contamination. For those with private wells:



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- Have your well system professionally inspected annually.
- Have your water tested for bacteria and nitrates annually.
- Remove possible contamination sources away from your wellhead.
- Be current on the cleaning and inspection of your septic system.
- Properly decommission any abandoned wells using a licensed professional.
- Join DNR's March 24 Chat on Private Wells by going to dnr.wi.gov

For those using public water supplies: Be informed about your home's public water supply and that of facilities where you work or visit by regularly reading Consumer Confidence Reports.

Things everyone can do:

- Use hazardous home and yard chemicals according to manufacturer's recommendations, and properly dispose of them after use.
- Properly dispose of unused pharmaceuticals.
- Find out how much water your household uses, and then install a water-saving device.
- Modify your water use to conserve water.

You can learn more about current groundwater conditions in Wisconsin from the recently released annual report from the Wisconsin Groundwater Coordinating Council (GCC).

The GCC Report provides information on the current status of groundwater quality and quantity for the state, includes an assessment of groundwater management programs, lists current and anticipated groundwater problems, and recommends actions for addressing those problems.

If your business operates a well to provide water to your customers and/or employees, you may operate a public water system. Information on determining if your business is a public water system and the requirements that apply can be found on SBEAP's public drinking water systems page: <http://dnr.wi.gov/topic/SmallBusiness/DrinkingWater.html>.

Clean Air Awards Nominations Now Open

Clean Air Partners

By Jessica Lawent, DNR Southeast Region

Nominations are now open for the Wisconsin Partners for Clean Air Recognition Awards and the Commuter Champion Award, which recognize voluntary actions taken to improve Wisconsin's air quality in 2014. The Recognition Awards program was established in 1996 and is sponsored by the Wisconsin Partners for Clean Air, a coalition of over 250 businesses, community organizations, schools and government agencies committed to improving air quality through voluntary action. The Commuter Champion Award program was added in 2008 to recognize those organizations that provide exceptional transportation options for their employees.

The nomination deadline for both awards is March 20, 2015. This is an opportunity for you to nominate your organization, an organization that you work with, or to pass this information along to other organizations to recognize voluntary actions taken to improve air quality. The nomination guidelines and a list of all previous winners are located on the Partners website.

This year's winners will be announced at the annual Clean Air Extravaganza event to be held May 21 at the Metropolitan Milwaukee Association of Commerce; event details will be posted on the Partners website. For more information, contact Jessica Lawent at 414-263-8653 or jessica.lawent@wisconsin.gov.



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Follow DNR on LinkedIn

By Lindsay Haas, Natural Resources Educator, Bureau of Air Management

In a continuing effort to reach Wisconsin residents, businesses and groups, the Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources has launched a company LinkedIn page as well as three showcase pages.

LinkedIn is a social media platform targeting professionals and businesses. General department-wide information can be found on the company page. Specific air quality information can be found on the Environmental Quality showcase page, one of three showcase pages available.

If you are an environmental professional or interested in receiving news from the department, begin following DNR on LinkedIn. Log in to your LinkedIn account and search Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources. Once the page loads, click the “follow” button to receive general DNR stories in your LinkedIn feed. Continue on to the showcase pages, located on the right side of the screen, and click “follow” on those pages if you would like to receive those stories in your feed as well.

Wisconsin Manufacturers & Commerce Now Accepting Applications for the Business Friend of the Environment Awards

Applications Due Friday, March 27

Madison – Wisconsin Manufacturers & Commerce (WMC) is accepting applications for the 26th Annual Business Friend of the Environment Awards, honoring companies that have made significant improvements in the areas of sustainability, environmental innovation and environmental stewardship.

The Business Friend of the Environment Awards highlight what Wisconsin companies are doing in the areas of sustainability, innovative technology and environmental stewardship. The goal of this awards program is to demonstrate to state policymakers, businesses and the public that sound environmental practices are good for Wisconsin and its business environment.

The awards will be presented by Department of Natural Resources Secretary Cathy Stepp at the annual WMC Environmental Policy and Awards Conference at the Milwaukee Marriott West in Waukesha on Thursday, May 21, 2015. If you feel your company, or a company you may have worked with, strove for environmental excellence in 2014, recognize it by submitting an application. Winners will be selected by an independent panel of judges representing industry, the Department of Natural Resources, the University of Wisconsin and environmental groups.

Last year's winners in Sustainability include New Glarus Brewing Company, New Glarus; Milk Source, LLC, Kaukauna; Expera Specialty Solutions, Kaukauna. Badger Alloys, Milwaukee; Inpro, Muskego; and Madison Gas & Electric, Madison won in Environmental Stewardship. Badger Mining Corporation, Berlin; BRP US Inc./Evinrude, Sturtevant; and Mercury Marine, Fond du Lac won in Environmental Innovation.

Applications and additional information can be found online at www.wmc.org/bfoe or by contacting Eric Bott at 608.258.3400, ebott@wmc.org.

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