

Past winners of DNR Recycling Excellence Awards

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For more information, visit <https://dnr.wi.gov/topic/recycling/Awards.html>.

2020 winners

Category	Recognition	Winners
Projects and Initiatives	Recognizes a defined project or initiative that increases materials recycled or diverted, and/or improves the cost-effectiveness of a recycling/diversion program.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Central Wisconsin Recycling Collective City of Sheboygan Department of Public Works Iron River Recycle and Waste Transfer Center Yunker Industries, Inc.
Overall Program	Recognizes programs that are robust and constantly improving, demonstrating a commitment to advance the overall recycling/diversion program.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Calibre, Inc. City of Baraboo Public Works Fredman Bag Corporation Outlook Group, LLC Pierce Manufacturing Vernon County Solid Waste and Recycling
Special Events	Recognizes effective recycling at special events, offering participants an enhanced opportunity to recycle or reuse materials.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Good News Project Scenic Bluffs Community Health Centers
Innovation	Recognizes a program that demonstrates unique and innovative approaches to recycling.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Advanced Drainage Systems, Inc. Green Bay Packaging Waukesha County Department of Parks and Land Use

2019 winners

Category	Recognition	Winners
Projects and Initiatives	Recognizes a defined project or initiative that increases materials recycled or diverted, and/or improves the cost-effectiveness of a recycling/diversion program.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Aldo Leopold Elementary School Alliant Energy Digital Bridge Edgar School District
Overall Program	Recognizes programs that are robust and constantly improving, demonstrating a commitment to advance the overall recycling/diversion program.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 7 Rivers Recycling Purdy Elementary School Green Team City of New Richmond University of Wisconsin-Stevens Point
Innovation	Recognizes a program that demonstrates unique and innovative approaches to recycling.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Dynamic Lifecycle Innovations ERbin
Honorable Mention		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Town of Black Wolf Town of River Falls Town of White River

2018 winners

Category	Recognition	Winners
Projects and Initiatives	Recognizes a defined project or initiative that increases materials recycled or diverted, and/or improves the cost-effectiveness of a recycling/diversion program.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Associated Recyclers of Wisconsin • Eagle River Elementary School • Eau Claire County Recycling Division <p><i>Honorable mention</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Milwaukee Zoological Gardens
Overall Program	Recognizes outreach efforts that are robust and constantly improving, while demonstrating a commitment to improve the overall recycling program.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Badger Materials and Partners Wolf, MCC and Tri-County Paving • City of West Allis Department of Public Works • Village of Weston
Special Events	Recognizes effective recycling at a special event by offering recycling for the first time or expanding.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Hilltopper Refuse & Recycling Services, Inc. (Onalaska)
Innovation	Recognizes a program that demonstrates unique and innovative approaches to recycling.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Helfenstein Soup Council (Green Bay) • Waukesha County Department of Parks and Land Use

2017 winners

Category	Recognition	Winners
Projects and Initiatives	Recognizes a defined project or initiative that increases materials recycled or diverted, and/or improves the cost-effectiveness of a recycling/diversion program.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • McKinley Elementary School (Wauwatosa, Milwaukee County) • Outagamie County • Rick Schultz/City of Watertown (Jefferson County)
Overall Program	Recognizes outreach efforts that are robust and constantly improving, while demonstrating a commitment to improve the overall recycling program.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Jerry Martell/Modern Disposal Systems (Sparta, Monroe County) • Milwaukee House of Correction <p><i>Honorable Mention</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Preschool of the Arts (Madison, Dane County)
Innovation	Recognizes a program that demonstrates unique and innovative approaches to recycling.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Town of Auburn (Fond du Lac County) • Earthbound Environmental Solutions (Eau Claire County)

2016 winners

Category	Recognition	Winners
Projects and Initiatives	Recognizes a defined project or initiative that increases materials recycled or diverted, and/or improves the cost-effectiveness of a recycling/diversion program.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Sparta High School Earth Club (Monroe County)
Overall Program	Recognizes outreach efforts that are robust and constantly improving, while demonstrating a commitment to improve the overall recycling program.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Town of Rome and Choose to Reuse Program (Adams County) <p><i>Honorable Mention</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Village of Union Grove (Racine County)
Special Events	Recognizes effective recycling at a special event by offering recycling for the first time or expanding existing programs.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Eau Claire County Incourage (Wood County) Wisconsin State Fair (Milwaukee County)
Innovation	Recognizes a program that demonstrates unique and innovative approaches to recycling.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Town of Auburn (Fond du Lac County) Earthbound Environmental Solutions (Eau Claire County)

2015 winners

Category	Recognition	Winners
Projects and Initiatives	Recognizes a finite project in 2014 that demonstrated cost effectiveness or potential cost savings, while increasing the RU recycling rate.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Town of Cedarburg (Ozaukee) City of Thorp (Clark) <p><i>Honorable Mention</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Waukesha County
Overall Program	Recognizes outreach efforts that are robust and constantly improving, while demonstrating a commitment to improve the overall recycling program.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> City of La Crosse (La Crosse) City of Onalaska (La Crosse) City of Middleton (Dane) Village of Paddock Lake (Kenosha)
Special Events	Recognizes effective recycling at a special event by offering recycling for the first time or expanding existing programs.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Town of Metomen (Fond du Lac) City of Rice Lake (Barron)
Innovation	Recognizes a program that demonstrates unique and innovative approaches to recycling.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> City of Milwaukee (Milwaukee) Waukesha County Clean Green Action Organization (Wood, Portage and Adams counties)

2014 winners

Category	Recognition	Winners
Recycling Champion	Recognizes programs with consistently high recycling rates for the last three years.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Village of Suamico (Brown County)
Recycling Rate Leader	Recognizes the highest recycling rate in 2013.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> City of Prairie du Chien (Crawford County) Forest County Potawatomi (Forest County) Village of Stockbridge (Calumet County)
Most Improved Recycling Rate Over Three Years	Recognizes programs with consistent improvement in recycling rates for the last three years.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Town of West Kewaunee (Kewaunee County)
Most Improved Recycling Rate Over Previous Year	Recognizes programs with the most improved recycling rate from 2012 to 2013.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Village of Sturtevant (Racine County) Town of Mackford (Green Lake County) City of Two Rivers (Manitowoc County) Town of Sumpter (Sauk)
Excellence in Wisconsin Recycling- <i>Projects and Initiatives</i>	Recognizes a finite project in 2013 that demonstrated cost effectiveness or potential cost savings, while increasing the RU recycling rate.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> City of Janesville (Rock County) Village of Lake Delton (Sauk County) Eau Claire County
Excellence in Wisconsin Recycling- <i>Overall Program</i>	Recognizes outreach efforts that are robust and constantly improving, while demonstrating a commitment to improve the overall recycling program.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Outagamie County Dunn County Village of Bayside (Milwaukee County) <p><i>Honorable mention:</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Village of Burlington (Racine County) Town of Brooklyn (Green County)
Excellence in Wisconsin Recycling: <i>Special Events</i>	Recognizes effective recycling at a special event by offering recycling for the first time or expanding existing programs.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Midwest Renewable Energy Association (MREA) 2013 (Portage County) Chippewa County
Excellence in Wisconsin Recycling: <i>Innovation</i>	Recognizes a program that demonstrates unique and innovative approaches to recycling.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Town of Brooklyn (Green County) <p><i>Honorable mention:</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Town of Randall (Kenosha County)

2012-2013 winners

Category	Recognition	Winners
Program Efficiency Leader	Recognizes the most cost-effective recycling program per capita, based on cost of outreach and pounds collected.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • City of Madison (Dane) • Village of Belleville (Dane) • Town of Excelsior (Sauk) • City of Wisconsin Rapids (Wood) • Town of Thorp (Clark)
Recycling Champion	Recognizes programs with consistently high recycling collection for the past three years.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Village of Maple Bluff (Dane) • Village of Shorewood Hills (Dane) • Village of Neosho (Dodge) • Town of Grant (Portage County) • Village of Strum (Trempealeau)
Most Improved Recycling Rate Over Previous Year	Recognizes a program with the most improvement in pounds per capita collection over the 2011 calendar year.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • City of Brodhead (Green) • Village of Hustisford (Dodge) • Town of Aztalan (Jefferson) • Village of Weston (Marathon) • Town of Cranmoor (Wood)
Most Improved Recycling Rate Over Three Years	Recognizes a trend in most improvement in pounds per capita collection since 2009.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • City of Fennimore (Grant) • Village of Rock Springs (Sauk) • Town of Newport (Columbia) • Ho-Chunk Nation (Monroe) • Village of New Auburn (Chippewa)
Recycling Rate Leader	Recognizes the highest pounds per capita collection in 2012.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • City of Waterloo (Jefferson) • Village of Mazomanie (Dane) • Town of Palmyra (Jefferson) • Monroe County (Monroe) • Village of Union Center (Juneau)
Lowest Collection Cost Per Ton	Recognizes the lowest cost of recycling collection for each ton of material collected.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • City of Reedsburg (Sauk) • Village of Lomira (Dodge) • Town of Beloit (Rock) • Town of Stettin (Marathon) • Town of Mayville (Clark)
Lowest Collection Cost Per Capita	Recognizes the lowest cost of recycling collection per person living within the RU boundaries.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • City of Monona (Dane) • Village of Lowell (Dodge) • Town of Trenton • Town of Maine • Town of Bergen
Enforcement Leadership	Recognizes an RU that pursues and tracks enforcement action taken. Enforcement actions could include any of the following: citations, written warnings, verbal warnings, complaints, waste tagging and curbside inspections.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • City of Beaver Dam (Dodge) • City of Platteville (Grant) • Town of Merrimac (Sauk) • City of Monroe (Green) • City of Beloit (Rock) • City of Sun Prairie (Dane) • City of Onalaska (La Crosse)

		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • City of Mauston (Juneau) • City of La Crosse (La Crosse) • City of Fountain City (Buffalo)
Excellence in Wisconsin Recycling: Project	Based on the content of nomination describing a recycling project/initiative started in 2012 that goes above and beyond the minimum requirements of an effective recycling program.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • City of Fitchburg (Dane) • Dunn County (Dunn) • City of Mosinee (Marathon)
Excellence in Wisconsin Recycling: Program	Based on content of nomination describing the overall recycling program of an RU that exceeds DNR expectations and provides excellent service to its residents.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • City of Watertown (Jefferson) • City of Prairie du Chien (Crawford) • Town of River Falls (Pierce)