

SOLID WASTE/AIR QUALITY COMMITTEE
One Million Pound of Electronics Collected
June 12, 2012

Committee Members Present: Don Reese, Greg David, John Kannard, and Carlton Zentner

Committee Member Excused: Gregory Torres

Staff: Sharon Ehrhardt (Program Assistant)

Program:

Introductions by Donald Reese, Chair-Solid Waste/Air Quality Committee

Rep. Penny Bernard Schaber, 57th Assembly District

Jim Cornwell, President of Universal Recycling Technologies (URT)

Cynthia G. Moore, Recycling Program Coordinator-DNR

Jennifer Semrau, President of AROW & Recycling Specialist, Winnebago County

Rep. Stephen Nass, 31st Assembly District

Rep. Andy Jorgensen, 37th Assembly District - Greg David read Andy's message

New Clean Sweep Video was shown

Senator Mark Miller, 16th Senate District – Sent his regrets

Social Time

No meeting was called to order or business conducted on June 12, 2012 at 3:00 p.m. at the Jefferson County Fair Park, 503 N. Jackson Street, Jefferson, WI 53549.

We had 35 guests present at this event which included two past Committee members' wives: Mrs. Robert Rupnow and Mrs. Carl Jaeger Sr. The guest sign-in sheets are in the Solid Waste/Air Quality minutes book for the event. The Jefferson Daily Union (Chris Welch) and Watertown Daily Times (Steve Sharp) both covered the event. See the attached news reports.



Wednesday, June 13, 2012

County collects million pounds of e-waste; appliance recycling slated

By Chris Welch
Union staff writer

Wednesday, June 13, 2012

JEFFERSON - Jefferson County on Tuesday celebrated a major milestone in its Clean Sweep program: 1 million pounds of recycled electronic waste - e-waste - collected.

A special commemoration event at the Jefferson County Fair Park Activity Center included several speakers, the viewing of a new Jefferson County Clean Sweep video (soon to be available on the county website) and a new announcement regarding the next step in recyclable materials collected by the Clean Sweep program: appliances.

Speaking were Jefferson County Supervisor Don Reese, the county's Solid Waste/Air Quality Committee chairperson; Jim Cornwell, Universal Recycling Technologies (URT) president; Cynthia G. Moore, program coordinator for the state Department of Natural Resources; Jennifer Semrau, president of the Associated Recyclers of Wisconsin (AROW) and the recycling specialist for Winnebago County; and state Reps. Penny Bernard Schaber of Appleton and Steve Nass of Whitewater.

State Rep. Andy Jorgensen of Fort Atkinson was scheduled to speak as well, but he was unable to attend due Gov. Scott Walker's "brat summit" in Maple Bluff. However, Jorgensen did send prepared remarks that were read by Jefferson County Supervisor Greg David.

While celebrating the landmark achievement of collecting and recycling 1 million pounds of e-waste, there were two other items of note: the expansion of the program to collect appliances and the presentation of a special plaque by Cornwell to Reese and Sharon Ehrhardt, Jefferson County Zoning Department Clean Sweep program assistant, marking the occasion.

"On a personal note, it has truly been a great pleasure to work with Don and Sharon," he said. "We could not ask for better partners in this program."

Reese appeared a bit stunned by the presentation.

"I was not expecting this," he said. "I am accepting this on behalf of everyone in the county."

Later Tuesday evening, County Chairperson John Molinaro would announce the recognition and hold up the plaque up for the entire board of supervisors to see during their regular monthly meeting.

Cornwell commented on the new appliance program.

"We have been working with Jefferson County for the last few months on some trial programs, and it has been such a wonderful relationship that for URT to launch its first appliance recycling program, we thought we should do it with one of our best recycling partners in the state, which is Jefferson County," he said.

"After the trials worked out so well, we all decided it is a great thing for the residents, a great thing for the county and wonderful program to recycle items that in the past may have wound up in the landfill," he added.

The appliance program will begin immediately in Watertown, Ixonia, and Fort Atkinson.

"This marks Jefferson County as a leader when it comes to electronic recycling," Cornwell said.

While Reese made introductory and closing remarks, he also introduced the speakers; Schaber was the first.

"I have been involved with Clean Sweep for about 25 years," she said. "I am proud of the work counties have done to support Clean Sweep programs. When I first got elected in 2009, I worked with Sen. Mark Miller on this bill. He and I were the authors of this bill. We worked on this because it was near and dear to my heart, because I knew how e-waste was piling up in a number of places throughout our country, and throughout the world."

She recalled how they sat down with a number of other people and "worked out what I think is a very positive partnership program - a very awesome program," the Assemblyperson continued.

"Not only has Jefferson County gotten rid of 1 million pounds of waste, but we have saved resources, we have saved space in the landfills and we have saved dollars," she said. "In the Fox Valley area, the program has been the germ that led to the creation of several small business, which has created jobs in the area."

After her remarks, Schaber left to join the "brat summit" at the governor's mansion.



A CLEAN SWEEP — Jefferson County on Tuesday marked having collected 1 million pounds of recycled electronic waste through its Clean Sweep hazardous waste-recycling program. A special event at the Jefferson County Fair Park Activity Center included several speakers, the viewing of a new Jefferson County Clean Sweep video (soon to be available on the county website) and an announcement regarding the next step in recyclable materials collected by the Clean Sweep program: appliances. A special plaque was presented by Jim Cornwell, Universal Recycling Technologies president, to Don Reese, the county's Solid Waste/Air Quality Committee chairperson, and Sharon Ehrhardt, Jefferson County Zoning Department Clean Sweep program assistant, shown above.

Cornwell followed her at the podium, noting that the 1 million pounds of e-waste equates to 24 pounds per household in Jefferson County, enough to fill a football field 18 feet high. He cited all the hard work done for this program and thanked the various county and municipal public works departments that have partnered to make it such a success.

DNR representative Moore echoed those thanks.

"I want to congratulate Jefferson County and its partner communities for this significant achievement," she said. "This is an excellent example of what can be accomplished through this program.

"This program adopted a stewardship approach," she continued. "By creating a shared responsibility, state and local taxpayers no longer have to bear the full cost of managing electronics and their disposables; instead, those who produce and consume the majority of electronics pay the majority of the costs."

As an example of how well this works, she said that Jefferson County was, several years ago, paying about \$9,000 to recycle about 30,000 pounds of electronic waste.

"This past year, they paid zero dollars to recycle 100,000 pounds of e-waste. With the money saved, the program was able to be expanded to include the collection of pharmaceuticals, which is another worthy effort," Moore noted.

"We look forward to celebrating when Jefferson County achieves its 2 million pounds mark," she concluded.

Semrau, of the Associated Recyclers of Wisconsin, lauded Jefferson County on its efforts.

"AROW is an association that provides statewide, proactive leadership on waste reduction and recycling through education, advocacy, programs and services," she said. "AROW's members include local and state governments, businesses, nonprofits and individuals - and it includes Jefferson County, where we gather today to celebrate and honor."

She recalled the electronic recycling laws that came into being in Wisconsin in 2009, known as the "e-cycle laws"

"We really feel that disposal of electronic waste is a shared responsibility between governments, consumers, retailers, manufacturers and recyclers," she said. "AROW is proud to celebrate with Jefferson County."

Nass, who earlier announced he would not be attending the governor's "brat summit" in light of negative comments by Democrats, also addressed attendees.

"I enjoy recycling," Nass said. "My daughter and I use to find recyclable materials, like old radiators, and haul them to recycle center. We collected cans, and I have a rental property, and I am often seen sorting recyclable material from the trash. Every now and then, I find some copper cord, too. Recycling can be fun.

"The milestone being marked here shows what the government at the local level has done with the private sector, and all the partnerships involved, and how this benefits the public," Nass pointed out. "We are getting ahead of the curve now, and being able to recycle all these items, rather than put them in a landfill, is significant for future generations here in Wisconsin."

David then read Rep. Jorgensen's statement.

"Due to the tremendous efforts of Jefferson County, today we are celebrating the collection of 1 million pounds of e-waste," he read. "Congratulations to Jefferson County on this goal.

"It is remarkable this goal has been achieved in seven years. I am impressed with the program's organization and success. I am truly grateful to the Clean Sweep program for giving people yet another opportunity to recycle. This is the type of useful and successful program this state needs. Best wishes for many more years to come."

David extemporaneously added his own comments on the program's success.

"We get support for this program through many partnerships," he said. "We have great teamwork from the Legislature, the DNR, AROW and URT. You give us many opportunities to help our county's taxpayers."

The program concluded by showing a video of the Clean Sweep program that was taped in Jefferson County.

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County celebrates 'e-waste' milestone

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Posted: Wednesday, June 13, 2012 12:22 pm

By Steve Sharp of the Daily Times staff

Posted on June 13, 2012



by Steve Sharp

JEFFERSON — After years of hard work with little fanfare, those who have spearheaded the statewide recognized recycling movement in Jefferson County relaxed a bit Tuesday afternoon in the humble surroundings of the county's fair park Activity Center and took stock of their accomplishments.

In late May the Jefferson County Solid Waste and Air Quality Committee reached the one-million-pound mark in terms of its collection of recyclable electronics. The county reaching this milestone means it has spared landfills from being clogged with such material and properly recycled more than 1 million pounds of what is known in the recycling trade as "e-waste."

As part of its celebration Tuesday, the county was paid a visit by dignitaries including Jim Cornwell, president of the county's partnering Universal Recycling Technologies (URT) and State Rep. Steve Nass, R-Whitewater. Also attending were several members of the county's board of supervisors, as well as Jefferson County Administrator Gary Petre, Sheriff Paul Milbrath and Emergency Management Director Donna Haugom. State Rep. Andy Jorgenson, D-Fort Atkinson, had planned to attend but was in Madison Tuesday afternoon for Gov. Scott Walker's "Brat Summit."

Jorgenson did send a congratulatory message, however, and he was also featured prominently in a video created by the county to document its recycling efforts. State Rep. Penny Bernard Schaber, D-Appleton, was in attendance before also heading off to Madison for the Walker event.

Recycling advocate, solid waste/air quality committee member and Jefferson County Board Supervisor Don Reese was the event's master of ceremonies and reminded the audience gathered that the recycling effort in Jefferson County really began with the futuristic vision of late supervisor Carl Jaeger in the 1990s. Jaeger's wife and son were in attendance at Tuesday's ceremony.

Reese said it has been a great thing for the county to have its hazardous and other waste — including tons of electronics with its toxic lead, cadmium, mercury and chromium — brought into a controlled and proper disposal system away from the sensitive natural environment, especially the watershed.

Reese thanked everyone from Jefferson County Sheriff Paul Milbrath, to the cities of Fort Atkinson and Watertown, to the town of Ixonia, for their support of recycling in the region.

"We have a very positive combination of governments that make this all possible," Reese said. "We are very fortunate to have this response to get this waste out of the environment."

Schaber told the audience that recycling not only keeps waste from choking landfills, but the reclamation of valuable metals in e-waste creates jobs. She said she is, overall, very proud of the state's Clean Sweep programs that are the result of what she termed "positive partnerships" and bills she has supported.

"Clean Sweep shows how government can be positive and effective," she said, "and I am very excited for Jefferson County. I'm very happy to be here."

URT has been the county's recycling partner since 2009 and Cornwell said he also was honored to be present for Tuesday's salute to Jefferson County's recycling accomplishments.

"This is a momentous occasion," he said. "One million pounds of electronic waste collected means that there has been 12 pounds per person collected in Jefferson County."

Cornwell said it has especially been a pleasure working with Jefferson County Clean Sweep Program Assistant Sharon Ehrhardt, along with city of Watertown Street Department Superintendent Richard Schultz, Fort Atkinson Public Works Department past Superintendent Tim Kramp and current Superintendent Kent Smith, town of Ixonia Recycling Program chairman Vic Karaliunas, and chairman Don Reese, as well as the entire Jefferson County Solid Waste/Air Quality team.

Adhering to the strictest available industry standards, URT's Wisconsin, Texas and New Hampshire recycling campuses are certified to the e-Stewards Standard for Responsible Recycling and Reuse of Electronic Equipment. The e-Stewards Electronic Recycling Certification is the first fully accredited, independently audited certification program designed to ensure that e-waste will be responsibly and accountably recycled and not dumped in developing countries.

Cynthia Moore of the Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources congratulated Jefferson County and URT on what she called "this terrific achievement."

As did other speakers, Moore recognized that recycling creates jobs, accomplishes the act of reclamation of valuable materials and is good for the economy overall.

She said she is looking forward to the day she returns to Jefferson County to celebrate the collection of the two-millionth pound of e-waste.

Nass said the need for recycling will only become greater as technology marches on.

"Recycling is so significant for us and future generations in the great state of Wisconsin," Nass said.

Jefferson County Supervisors Greg David read a brief statement from Jorgensen.

"I am truly grateful to the Clean Sweep program," Nass said through David. "I congratulate Jefferson County and all who worked to put this together."

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