

SOLID WASTE/AIR QUALITY COMMITTEE
2012 Wisconsin Integrated Resource Management Conference
AROW/SWANAWCSWMA
Conference Summary – February 29 – March 1 & 2

Attendance: Don Reese-Chair, Sharon Ehrhardt-Program Assistant

Wednesday, February 29, 2012

Workshop: Education Outreach 10:00am to 4:00pm

Don and Sharon both attended the workshop. Meribeth Sullivan from Waukesha County explained the different programs that their county presents in their schools. One is the “Waste Less Challenge”. School children and their parents sign up for a month to reduce their trash and increase their recycling. They weigh their trash and recyclables each week and record the results. Waukesha County gives out flat screen TVs to the families who win the challenge. They also set up display booths at school events like parent teacher conferences, sporting events and festivals. Waukesha County uses funds from their recycling MURF to pay for their activities.

Lis Olson and Don Werner did a combination of presentation, hands-on activities, demonstration and discussion to provide ideas for conducting recycling activities in educational settings. Centered on the DNR's guides, “Keeping it in the Loop” & “Wee Recyclers”, they showed how to skillfully and confidently teach recycling and waste reduction. There were classroom exercises with the group and a display of all types of teaching aids and supplies the DNR has available to all teachers in Wisconsin. They also explained the Green and Healthy School Challenge. Lis offered to help Jefferson County with educational materials when we send out our video.

Jennifer Havens, St. Croix County talked about how they are getting the schools in St. Croix County involved in recycling and how they got the cleaning and maintenance staff to support their program. They hope to have all schools in St. Croix County on board within the next two years.

AROW Annual Meeting

Sharon and Don attended the annual meeting. They had election of officers and reported on annual activities and budget. The AROW Product Stewardship Committee thanked Jefferson County and Sharon for organizing the Wisconsin Counties Magazine articles. They plan to put those articles on the AROW website.

Dive! Film Screening

Don attended the film screening of “Dive”. This documentary is about dumpster diving for food. It is to make a point of how much good food is thrown out when it could be used. Examples: if one orange or apple in a bag is spoiled they throw out the whole bag and if one egg is cracked or broken the whole carton is thrown out. Don would like to get the video for the whole Committee to see.

Thursday, March 1

Welcome & Keynote: Dive! Living off America's Waste

Don and Sharon both attended the welcome session. This session was about our country's habit of sending food straight to landfills. Jeremy Seifer talked about how he and his friends as dumpster dive in back alleys and garbage receptacles of Los Angeles' supermarkets. In the process, they salvage thousands of dollars worth of good, edible food – resulting in an inspiring

documentary that is equal parts of entertainment, guerilla journalism and call to action. Don and Sharon both agreed this was very interesting and made you think about supermarket waste.

Crushed Glass in Landfill Operations & Road Construction

Don and Sharon attended this session. Beneficial for reuse on various Wisconsin landfill and road projects, crushed glass replaces stone aggregates and has been used to supplement and replace aggregate for base course drainage material, landfill sub-base, and as sub-base amendments thus reducing the need for virgin aggregate sources.

Managing Responsible Unit (RU) Program Costs

Don and Sharon attended this session. This was about actions RUs have implemented to successfully reduce program costs through individual program initiatives and/or cooperative efforts. The governor took part of the RUs grant money for the general fund and reduced the amount of money RUs receive. The RUs have to reduce costs and find partnerships with other communities to reduce cost.

Ways to Increase Recycling: Carpet Recycling, Increasing Commercial Recycling Efforts, and Carton Recycling – What's New & Happening

Don attended this session. City of Milwaukee became one of the first municipalities in the Midwest to promote carpet recovery & its diversion. Carpet recycling is now more viable because of high prices for virgin nylon pellets and an increasing demand for postconsumer plastics by the automotive industry. It is important for businesses and commercial entities to reach waste reduction and recycling goals. The Carton Council is trying to bring carton recycling to 50% of US households by 2015. The Carton Council paid for wine tasting Wednesday evening.

Sustainability & What It Means for You

Sharon attended this session. Sustainability has made a significant impact on La Crosse County's bottom line. Sustainability is used as a tool to create a better environment, improved working conditions for staff and to reduce the cost of the business services public employees provide. It was hard to compare Jefferson County to La Crosse County.

Friday, March 2

Organics Management: Large Scale Vermicomposting, Highest & Best Use of Residential Organics, and La Crosse Co. Gas to Energy Project with Gunderson Lutheran

Don attended this session. Vermicomposting is a process for managing organic wastes, which uses worms as the vehicle for organic matter decomposition. Another topic was the impact and evaluations to develop a possible food waste collection program

Benefits of Green Tier Certification

Sharon attended this session. Green Tier is tied in with sustainability initiatives to improve environmental performance, monitor their progress, reduce greenhouse gas emissions, and see the economic value of using locally-based supplies.

Product Stewardship Solutions

Sharon attended this session. They had a panel of speakers to discuss policy/program aspects of product stewardship. They also discussed some of results of the Wisconsin's 2009 electronic waste product stewardship law, and how this law could be a model for other types of waste.

Leaving No Stone Unturned Think: No resource unmanaged, No connection unmade

Don & Sharon attended this session. This session was about new & potential ways to manage our resources in the solid waste field, which for the group attending the conference includes Landfilling, recycling, composting, and policy development.

Don and Sharon discussed this conference with the Committee at the March 16 Solid Waste/Air Quality Meeting. Both agreed that this was one of the better conferences and information learned could be applied to our county programs.