

DCEC Newsletter

Environmental News for Door County



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Winter 2011

Wisconsin Residents Now Need To Recycle Used Oil Filters

"Each year, Wisconsinites throw away an estimated 187,000 gallons of oil in used oil filters and 1.6 million gallons of oil in oil absorbents," says Jack Connelly, solid waste program coordinator for the Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources waste and materials management program. "Oil is a valuable, reusable material. By recycling filters and absorbent material, used oil can be extracted and reused."

A new law bans the disposal of used automotive oil filters and oil absorbent materials in landfills in Wisconsin as of Jan. 1, 2011. The ban covers everyone in the state, including homeowners, farmers, businesses, industrial operations, and others.

The oil filters and absorbents ban is intended to keep these materials out of Wisconsin landfills and out of the landfill leachate that is collected from landfills and often treated at municipal wastewater treatment facilities. Filters also contain steel components that can be recycled. Recycling the approximately nine million filters that currently enter the landfill will save more than 4.5 million pounds of steel for reuse. Recycling options for oil filters and oil absorbent materials are available throughout the state. Many businesses that perform oil changes will accept used oil filters. Some communities allow used oil and oil filters to be collected at their waste transfer stations or at specific collection sites.

People should contact their local recycling program for more information. To find other recycling options in your community, see the Wisconsin Recycling Markets Directory, <http://www.uwm.edu/shwec/wrmd/search.cfm>;

then select the "Motor Vehicle Items" category and select oil filters or oil absorbents on the UW Cooperative Extension Solid and Hazardous Waste Education website.

Used filters may also be used as a fuel supplement in an **approved** municipal solid waste combustor. Oil absorbent materials may be taken to an approved biopile at a landfill, used as a fuel supplement in an **approved** municipal solid waste combustor, or recycled.

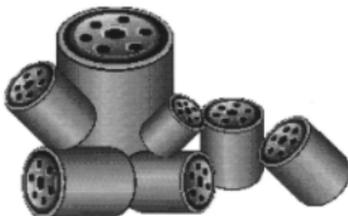
In Door County there presently are no recycling operations that take used oil filters but several of the processors are gearing up to accept the filters if they are drained of the oil residue and are made of metal.

Keep them in storage until processors are able to properly crush them and utilize the scrap metal. Make sure that you don't include these filters with your regular garbage pickup, as they would then go to a solid waste landfill and contaminate the other waste material.

Urge your recycling station to update to accept drained oil filters and properly dispose of them as hazardous waste as they do with hazardous compact and fluorescent light tubes.

(Adopted from Agri-View January 2011

JMV)



“Let It Burn” say the Haitians

“A fabulous Easter gift,” commented Monsanto Director of Development Initiatives Elizabeth Vancil. Nearly 60,000 seed sacks of hybrid corn seeds and other vegetable seeds were donated to post-earthquake Haiti by Monsanto. In observance of World Environment Day, June 4, 2010, roughly 10,000 rural Haitian farmers gathered in Papaye to march seven kilometers to Hinche in celebration of this gift. Upon arrival, these rewarded farmers took their collective Easter baskets of more than 400 tons of vegetable seeds and **burned** them “Long live the native maize seed!” they chanted in unison. “Monsanto’s GMO [genetically modified organism] & hybrid seed violate peasant agriculture!”

According to the coordinator of the Papay Peasant Movement (MPP), “there is presently a shortage of seed in Haiti because many rural families used their maize seed to feed refugees.” Like any benevolent disaster capitalist corporation, Monsanto extended a hand in a time of crisis to the 65 percent of the population that survives off of subsistence agriculture. But not just any hand was extended in this time of great need, rather: a fistful of seeds. The extended fist was full of corn seeds, one of Haiti’s staple crops, treated with the fungicide Maxim XO. With similar benevolence, not just any tomato seeds were donated to the agrarian peasants, but tomato seeds treated with Thiram, a chemical so toxic the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) has ruled it too toxic to sell for home garden use in United States, further mandating that any agricultural worker planting these seeds must wear special protective clothing.

Monsanto’s web site’s official explanation for this toxic donation is that “fungicidal seed treatments are often applied to seeds prior to planting to protect them from fungal diseases that arise in the soil and hamper the plant’s ability to germinate and grow. The treatments also provide protection against diseases the seed might pick up in transfer between countries.” However, according to the New Jersey Department of Health and Senior Services Hazardous Substance Fact Sheet, “repeated exposure [to Thiram] can affect the kidneys, liver and thyroid gland. High or repeated exposure may damage the nerves.” Why would Monsanto be so eager to donate seeds that could potentially compromise the health of so many famished people? “The Haitian government is using the earthquake to sell the country to the multinationals!” “It’s a very strong attack on small agriculture, on farmers, on biodiversity, on Creole seeds ... and on what is left of our environment in Haiti.” said Chavannes Jean-Baptiste, executive director of the Peasant Movement of Papay.

A Brief History of Violence

Monsanto is also responsible for other life-changing inventions, such as the crowd-pleasing Agent Orange. The Vietnamese government claims that it killed or disabled 400,000 Vietnamese people, and 500,000 children were born with birth defects due to exposure to this deadly chemical. Up until 2000, Monsanto was also the main manufacturer of aspartame, which researchers in Europe concluded, “could have carcinogenic effects.” In a rare demonstration of social justice, in 2005, Monsanto was found guilty by the US government of bribing high-level Indonesian officials to legalize genetically-modified cotton. A year earlier in Brazil, Monsanto sold a farm to a senator for one-third of its value in exchange for his work to legalize glyphosate, the world’s most widely used herbicide. In Colombia, Monsanto has received \$25 million from the US government for providing its trademark herbicide, Roundup Ultra, in the anti-drug fumigation efforts of Colombia. Roundup Ultra is a highly concentrated version of Monsanto’s glyphosate herbicide, with additional ingredients to increase its lethality. Colombian communities and human rights organizations have charged that the herbicide has destroyed food crops, water sources and protected areas and has led to increased incidents of birth defects and cancer.

With more than 11.7 billion dollars in sales in 2009 and more than 650 biotechnology patents - most of them for cotton, corn and soy - Monsanto is an economic powerhouse. Nine out of ten soybean seeds in the US are also linked to Monsanto. Together with Syngenta, Dupont and Bayer, Monsanto controls more than half the world’s seeds with no effective anti-trust oversight. One of the world’s most powerful corporations, Monsanto teamed up with United Parcel Service to have the 60,000 hybrid seed sacks transported to their intended destination for Easter 2010 in its drive to trickle down some good to the little guys. Distributing Monsanto’s seeds on this auspicious occasion was a \$127 million project funded by the US Agency for International Development (USAID), designed to promote “agricultural intensification.” According to Monsanto, the original decision to donate seeds was made at the World Economic Forum in Davos, Switzerland, unknown to Haiti.



Keeping Warm In Our Winter Wonderland

Our winters in Door County are peaceful and gorgeous but keeping warm can become energy wasting and expensive if we're not careful. There are lots of small things we can do to stay warm that can keep us from turning up the thermostat.

Flannel sheets and layers of blankets are always comfy and cozy.



Hot Water Bottle: truly a classic and I save the water in an old teakettle to re-use instead of dumping it out everyday.

Dressing in layers: thin layers of fabric trap air between the layers to keep you warm so wear your turtlenecks, sweaters and cuddleduds in the house. (I know this sounds basic but I'm always surprised when I hear somebody complaining about the cold and see that they aren't wearing a sweater or socks)!

Lap blankets, Snuggles and Muckluks retain your body heat while you are sedentary at the computer or TV.

Buckwheat – fill hot wrap: I found a shoulder wrap filled with buckwheat kernels that is microwaved for 3 mins. and can be used on shoulders, legs or lap under a blanket that retains heat for an hour or so. Toasty!

Flex-O-Pane: The local hardware store has this reusable alternative to the plastic shrink-wrap used on drafty windows in older homes. Flex-O-Pane sheeting is a 36-inch wide, semi-rigid, clear plastic that is cut to length from a large roll. I use removabl, temporary caulk on my ill-fitting windows first and then just thumb tack the plastic sheets to the window frame. It's not quite as airtight as the shrink-wrap but the trade off is that it is reusable (5yrs. and counting) and there's no tape to remove in spring that often peels the paint off with it.

Move furniture away from heating vents to better circulate heat around the room.

Exhaust fans: Minimize the use of bathroom and kitchen exhaust fans because while they may be useful in getting rid of stinky fish odors they also suck out warm air from inside the room.

Ceiling fans run in reverse will bring down the hot air that rises and accumulates near the ceiling.

Any of these ideas can help you use less energy and still keep you warm as you enjoy the beautiful winter season.

Eileen Andera DCEC President

Here is what you have always wanted to know about the RETF, and how to use us.

RETF stands for Renewable Energy Task Force

- Listen to Energy Matters our monthly Radio show on WDOR
- It happens the First Monday of each month at 9:05 am for 15 minutes
- Dial up WDOR at 910 AM or 93.9 FM
- You can listen to over 2 years of podcasts on the RETF Website
- Have FUN playing with our website which has many tips you can use
- Google "renewabledoorcounty"
- Or go to www.dcec-wi.org & click on the RETF logo (lower left hand side)
- Carry the Renewable Energy Resource Guide for Door County with you
- This handy purse size guide is one of the best secrets in Door County
- The Guide can also be downloaded from our website or sent to you via snail mail
- Sign up for our RE Alerts which contain many valuable ideas, which come to you via email every 3 or 4 weeks
- Or contact us at:
 - (email) infoRETF@dcec-wi.org
 - (phone) 920-839-1182
 - (snail mail) PO 26, Sister Bay, WI 54234



Wisconsin Town of Bradford has little say on Mega Dairy

Rock County — The Bradford Town Board is the group the public will watch to vote “yes” or “no” on what would become the largest livestock operation in southern Wisconsin. But the southern Wisconsin town didn’t make the rules.

In the next few months, the town will be charged with approving or denying Nebraska dairy farmer Todd Tuls’ application for a conditional-use permit to build a 160-acre dairy in Bradford Township. If it is built, the Rock Prairie Dairy will be home to 5,200 cows and will be the third such operation under Tuls’ management. Tuls has to apply for town, county and state permits to operate. He plans to break ground in March. The project has drawn a lot of attention around Rock County, and people have spoken passionately in favor of and against it. Town board Chairman Ron Duffy wants to make one thing clear: If you oppose or support Rock Prairie Dairy and other forms of large animal agriculture, your opinions are much better shared with state legislators than town officials. “The emphasis I would like to have, especially for the people that are against this proposal, is that it seems they don’t quite understand that local government doesn’t have a lot of control on this issue,” Duffy said. At a public hearing in December, 13 people spoke in opposition to the project. Nine are residents of the township. Others have contacted the Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources opposing the plan. Opponents cite the risk of manure spills or increased odors as the reasons they don’t support the project. Others cite social issues such as the use of antibiotics in livestock production or the practice of housing cattle indoors. Still others say they are concerned such a large business could negatively impact smaller local operations, all credible arguments.

While those issues are part of a community debate, they do not fall under the list of things the Bradford Town Board can control and residents are not aware of what little input the town has in this process. The town of Bradford in October 2006 adopted the state of Wisconsin’s livestock siting law as the town’s ordinance. When the state created the law, towns were mandated to adopt it in order to keep some control over permitting large livestock facilities. The state would assume all control in cases where towns did not adopt the ordinance. Bradford is one of nine Rock County towns that have adopted the law, according to state data. Rock County is unique in that its zoning is handled at the town level rather than the county level. The state requires local governments to use the law “if they choose to require conditional-use or other permits for siting new and expanded livestock operations,” according to the Wisconsin Department of Agriculture, Trade and Consumer Protection website.

The law takes the guesswork out of siting livestock facilities and ensures producers are treated equally no



matter where they want to build or expand, said Cheryl Daniels, the attorney for the Wisconsin Livestock Siting Board. “You can’t just say, ‘No,’ because there are lots of houses near the facility,” Daniels said. The applicant will provide documents that state, “These are the practices we’re going to use to meet the odor standard, they may get approval even if it does smell sometimes” according to Daniels. The law regulates buildings, waste storage, waste application, feed storage and animal concentration, among other things and if a farmer’s application states that all the state’s regulations will be met, the town has no choice but to approve it. “If they satisfy the mandates of that siting law, this project will go through,” Town Chairman Duffy said. The town’s responsibility is to make sure the application meets state standards. Because Tuls hired attorneys and engineers to create the application, the town must do the same thing to review it, regardless of the cost to the town.

That leads to one thing that frustrates Duffy about the law: the cost the town bears. The state allows a municipality to charge an applicant up to \$1,000 to apply for permits. The town will spend between \$5,000 and \$10,000 to review the applications. Duffy testified about that discrepancy at a recent technical review of the law. The town’s contact with Rock Prairie Dairy won’t end when the permit is approved. The town board must advocate for town roads and infrastructure and will be the entity that oversees odor regulation from the facility. “The board does not want to be placed in an adversarial position,” Duffy said. “If indeed this facility is established wherein we need to protect the infrastructure of the town, we want a cooperative relationship in the future.” Duffy doesn’t expect to make everyone happy, but he does think the town will be able to ensure the Rock Prairie Dairy application meets state requirements. “I can’t speak for 1,030 people,” Duffy said. “The board is dealing with the situation under the guidance of the town attorney to stay in compliance to the best of our ability with the law as it comes to us from the state.” To learn more about Wisconsin’s new livestock siting law which effectively diminishes local control, visit: <http://datcat.wi.gov>

*(Adopted from Janesville Gazette Extra
January 20 2011 JMV)*



Is Wisconsin no longer open for wind-power business?

Republican Gov. Scott Walker's proposal to create more restrictive rules for windmills in Wisconsin could eventually lead to a loss of business for the Port of Milwaukee and the Spanish company Ingeteam, which is building a Menomonee Valley plant to produce wind power generators and converters. The Illinois Wind Energy Association has sent out a press release inviting wind developers in Wisconsin to relocate in Illinois. The new Governor has previously declared Wisconsin "open for business" and invited Illinois businesses to locate here. Mocking this stance, the Illinois Wind Energy Association has issued a "call for wind developers to Escape to Illinois. You are welcome here ... Illinois is open for business." The group's executive director, Kevin Borgia, stated, "even the strictest county setbacks in Illinois are nowhere near as extreme as what Wisconsin would have if this bill passes. Illinois has no minimum setbacks."

The former Democratic governor Jim Doyle had made wind power a priority, and the Democratic-controlled legislature had passed a 2009 bill creating a Wind Siting committee to clarify state procedures in granting wind farm permits, and to limit powers of local governments to interfere with the proposals through zoning or other actions. The bill, Doyle declared at its signing, "signals to the world that Wisconsin is in the wind business, and that we intend to be one of the leading states in production of wind energy." The issue of windmill farm sitings was not on the radar screen during the election, and as late as December 9, 2010 – a month after Walker had been elected governor, Renew Wisconsin issued a press release praising the Public Service Commission's ruling that day (as guided by the 2009 state law) to create a maximum setback distance of 1,250 feet.

But by January, Walker had proposed to restrict windmill farms, or "large wind energy systems," to a minimum setback of 1,800 feet from adjoining properties. Walker has never offered a rationale for the new distance but told the Milwaukee Journal Sentinel editorial board "there is a fair amount of concern from individual residents in these areas where you see an abundance of wind farms being put up. This is about giving them more control in the process – something they felt was lacking by the previous legislation and by the PSC's regulations."

Denise Bode, chief executive of the American Wind Energy Association, declared, "This will be the biggest regulatory barrier in terms of setbacks in the country. You're adding a new regulatory barrier and putting a 'closed for business' sign on Wisconsin for wind development." The new Governor's reversals of Doyle administration policy have had a particularly negative impact on Spanish companies doing business in Milwaukee. The decision to kill high-speed rail was bad news for Talgo, the firm which had located a plant in Milwaukee to build rail cars. His latest proposal is equally bad news for another Spanish company, Ingeteam, which announced last February it would invest more than \$10 million in a production plant in Milwaukee specializing in the production of wind power generators and converters. Ingeteam was targeting the North American market, with a projected employment of 275 people by 2015.

According to a news release by the company announcing the plant, now under construction in the Menomonee Valley, "Milwaukee's geographic location facilitates the distribution of the equipment to be supplied throughout the country and a proper industrial network to develop the necessary supply chain locally." Milwaukee's potential as a geographic hub for wind power-related production has been heightened by improvements to the Port of Milwaukee. The Port has invested in improvements to its dock and widened its ramps to the freeways to help accommodate the trucks that haul the giant propellers and other equipment needed for wind turbines. These improvements are in place and will be ready when the Port's 2011 shipping season begins in April. But the proposed changes in state rules may cast a shadow on the port's investment, which was based, in part, on the creation of a significant wind power industry in Wisconsin

(Michael Home in MilwaukeeNewsBuzz January 2011 Condensed JMV)

Western Aspen's Newest Enemy

Western Aspen which is commonly used now in new construction and cabinetwork is undergoing a new threat that is decimating established areas of Aspen growth. The use of Aspen has developed as an alternative to more expensive conventional lumber because it is plentiful and growth is rapid. Traditionally, Aspen was not regarded as a viable construction lumber source because of the low water resistance, but demand for increased lumber has created the new market for Aspen. Around 2004, large numbers of Aspen in the West began dying off, and with no immediately identifiable cause, scientists dubbed the phenomenon "sudden Aspen decline." Ultimately the dieback was pinned on a severe 2002 drought and heat wave that left Aspen vulnerable to pests, cankers and fungi. Now, a new study suggests that the decline of the West's Aspen is not just marring the landscape, but also helping to spread a strain of hantavirus fatal to humans. The sin nombre virus— Spanish for "nameless virus" — is carried primarily by deer mice, whose numbers have surged in areas hit hard by the aspen die-backs, researchers from Fort Lewis College in Durango, Colo., reported at a scientific conference this month. Mice in areas of severe diebacks were three times as likely to carry the virus than those in less affected areas, the researchers found.

The sin nombre virus was unknown to science before an early 1990s outbreak in the Four Corners region, where

the borders of Utah, Colorado, Arizona and New Mexico meet. Humans, who inhale virus particles, typically through dust mixed with mouse urine, droppings or saliva, can develop hantavirus pulmonary syndrome. The virus has a fatality rate of around 40 percent, but infections are still rare, with between 20 to 40 cases reported annually in the United States.

Hantavirus infections remain concentrated in the Southwest, particularly in areas where sudden Aspen decline is common. Scientists reported last year that the Aspen dieback in the West had slowed after a series of cooler, wetter years. But research also suggests that the Aspen remain vulnerable to sudden shifts in climate and that further forest declines are highly likely in coming decades because of climate change.

The spread of Hantavirus among mice in the wake of the Aspen die-offs should already be considered an "unintended consequence of climate change and a direct result of warmer climate experienced," according to Dr. Erin Lehmer, biologist at Fort Lewis College, who has studied this virus since it's discovery and the link to the Aspen. "The bottom line is that climate change is tending to introduce diseases where they haven't been before, because it's changing the entire dynamics of plant and animal ecosystems," she said.

(Condensed from New York Times, January 2011 JMV)

World Agriculture Threatened by Water Gluttony

World agriculture employs more than one billion people but is in trouble because it's the biggest consumer of ever-scarcer water and a huge producer of greenhouse gas emissions, a new report said recently. Worldwatch Institute, the international research group on climate, energy, agriculture and the green economy, said there had to be a revolution in investment in food and water to reverse a "frightening" long-term depletion of existing water stocks. "Agriculture as we know it today is in trouble," said the Institute's "State of the World 2011" report. The industry accounts for one trillion dollars of the global economy but also 70 percent of water withdrawals and 15 percent of greenhouse gas emissions, much of that from developing countries.

The Institute said small farmers who dominate the industry would be the key to maintaining long-term food supplies for the world's estimated one billion hungry people. Studies have shown that increasing food production is not making a dent in reducing hunger in the world.

"From 1980 to 2009, the production of barley, corn, millet, oats, rice, rye, sorghum and wheat increased by nearly 55 percent," said the report. But at the same time "hunger also increased and countries' food self-sufficiency declined in that same period." Developing countries need more investment to make them less dependent on food imports and international markets. They should put more emphasis on small scale and less intensive farming, the report said. "The remarkable news is that after years of neglect, most world governments are reinvesting in agriculture and giving priority to small-scale producers," said the report. "They are recognizing the important role of women, infrastructure, safety nets, and local markets," it added. "All this holds great potential for eradicating hunger." Worldwatch Institute warned that with nearly seven billion people now in the world, and an increase of up to 40 percent expected by 2050, governments still need to take urgent action. "This additional population, and further economic growth, will add up to sharply higher global demand for food, feed, and fiber and to higher meat consumption," said the report.

(Condensed from Agence France-Presse January 2011 JMV)

DCEC Endowment Fund

The DCEC ENDOWMENT FUND exists so that the future of Door County's wild spaces and family farms can be ensured far into the future.

Every year, the fund grows. Every year that it grows, is one year sooner that DCEC can devote our efforts exclusively to protecting our county's beautiful environment.

You can help this important fund grow even faster by remembering DCEC in your estate. Each bequest, through your wills and estate plans, helps to bring us one step closer to financial independence, allowing us to take tough, sometimes unpopular positions that protect our county for our future generations.

So, whether you can contribute now or later, please make a point of supporting DCEC ENDOWMENT FUND.

Legacies, memorials and direct gifts are all deeply appreciated. Please call or have your advisor call, Jerry Viste at (920) 743-6003 for further information.

door county environmental council

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Annual Memberships Are Due!

REMINDER: Your membership in DCEC runs with the calendar year with renewals starting each November. You can **renew now** using the above coupon.

We appreciate your generosity!

Thank you for your support. You are DCEC!

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• **New Residential Well Testing Program**

New Residential Well Testing Program

The Liberty Grove Town Board is taking the lead, with some encouragement by DCEC, by implementing a homeowner well water testing program in their town. This is a voluntary program that enables individual well owners to do a complete water analysis of their water supply under a cooperative program with University of Wisconsin, Stevens Point. The program planned for spring is limited to 150 participants to have a complete water analysis for \$107. The results of the test will remain confidential and will enable the town to identify possible problem areas.

Town residents can get more detailed information by contacting the town office at (920) 854-2934 or visiting the town website or emailing: libertygrove@dcwis.com.

You can also use this link to contact UW/SP:
www.uwsp.edu/cnr/watersheds/programs_outreach/materials/dwpmanual.pdf

This is an outstanding program available to all towns wishing to take advantage of the water analysis at a reasonable cost.

(February 2011 JMV)



...and, after you read this newsletter, please pass it along to a friend.



DCEC Incorporated in 1970 under the laws of Wisconsin as a nonprofit, tax-exempt corporation