

Clean Water Action Council

OF NORTHEAST WISCONSIN

CELEBRATING 26 YEARS OF WORKING TO PROTECT PUBLIC HEALTH AND THE ENVIRONMENT IN NORTHEAST WISCONSIN

SUMMER 2012



MOVING TOWARD ZERO WASTE: A Goal for Northeast Wisconsin to Embrace

By Dean Hoegger

During the past nine months, while providing support to citizens opposing a gasification incinerator in Green Bay, CWAC has been telling city and county leaders that we should be looking at ways to reduce, reuse, and recycle waste rather than incinerating it. So what does that look like and how do we get there? This issue of the CWAC newsletter contains several articles that will help answer those questions.

Defining Zero Waste

Zero Waste is a philosophy and design principal for the 21st century. It is a shift from traditional waste management, where the focus was keeping recyclables out of the trash, to materials management, where trash is what remains once we reduce, reuse, recycle, and compost. The new design takes a “whole system” approach to the vast flow of resources. It aims to eliminate, rather than manage waste. Zero Waste maximizes recycling, minimizes waste, reduces consumption and ensures that products are made to be reused, repaired, or recycled back into nature or the marketplace. The use of landfills is greatly reduced and incineration is avoided.

Benefits of Zero Waste

Moving toward Zero Waste immediately begins to reduce the release of methane gas, the most serious green house gas emission released by landfills. Methane is considered to be 21-75 times more potent than carbon dioxide, and is created by placing organic materials into landfills. Further reduction in amounts of methane and carbon dioxide released to the atmosphere is obtained as reuse and recycling create a regional source of raw materials that reduce transportation, mining, and processing impacts.

The benefits of reduced methane releases from landfills through Zero Waste principals further weaken arguments for incineration of trash. The incineration industry has lobbied to have their facilities considered “green energy” and claim processes such as pyrolysis and gasification will decrease the amount of methane gas created by land filling trash. While this may be true, eliminating organics from the landfills would reduce methane releases, as well as many other toxins, far more successfully than incineration.

Zero Waste programs and strategies help develop green jobs. According to the Institute for Local Self Reliance's report *Wasting and Recycling in the United States 2000*, “On a per-ton basis, sorting and processing recyclables alone sustains ten times more jobs than land filling or incineration.” When local or state government create a timeline for materials that must be recycle or reused, it encourages entrepreneurship and the creation of businesses that can profit from using discarded materials in their manufacturing process. With each step a community takes toward Zero Waste, it creates more jobs, more business expenditures on supplies, services, and taxes, and keeps more money circulating in the local economy.

The Path to Zero Waste

Communities on the road to Zero Waste usually begin by educating businesses and citizens about the need for change. Master plans are developed with input from stakeholders. Austin, Texas reports their plan was driven by an extensive 18 month-long stakeholder input process.

Community leaders must also understand that the role of local government changes when discarded materials are treated as

Zero Waste Definition

“Zero Waste is a goal that is ethical, economical, efficient and visionary, to guide people in changing their lifestyles and practices to emulate sustainable natural cycles, where all discarded materials are designed to become resources for others to use.

Zero Waste means designing and managing products and processes to systematically avoid and eliminate the volume and toxicity of waste and materials, conserve and recover all resources, and not burn or bury them. Implementing Zero Waste will eliminate all discharges to land, water or air that are a threat to planetary, human, animal or plant health.”

— *Internationally accepted, peer-reviewed definition adopted by the Zero Waste International Alliance 29 November 2004*

community enhancing assets rather than as waste liabilities. With this in mind, tax dollars and tax incentives are shifted to investment in recycling and reuse infrastructure rather than for landfills and incinerators. Requirements need to be placed on producers to create both product and packaging that facilitate reuse, recovery, recycling, or composting. When the end of use burden shifts from consumer to manufacturer, design changes will favor the environment rather than the dump.

Successful communities and businesses benefit from having a target year to reach a Zero Waste goal, which is often around 90% of diversion from landfills and incineration. A master plan is created which includes policies, programs, and implementation steps. Communities often begin with such actions as curbside single stream recycling and trash cart rates based on the size of the cart. Banning key items from landfills, both publicly and privately owned, is often an early step as well. These items usually include all compostables that can be safely returned to the land, all recyclables, and toxic materials that would go to collection centers. Placing a surcharge on material that is land filled further encourages diversion.

When a Zero Waste master plan timetable is published, it gives time for businesses to develop services around upcoming changes. For instance, when a date for institutional food waste to be prohibited in landfills in the distant future is published, it encourages the creation of businesses that would provide collection and recycling or composting of the material at a profit. When fast food restaurants are put on notice that food packaging must be made of compostable paper, manufacturers develop a new product to meet the changing demand. As landfill tipping fees become consistent with the true cost of land filling, the profitability of these new services and products greatly increases.

Examples of Communities Already on the Path to Zero Waste

Austin, Texas, population 790,390, adopted the Zero Waste Strategic Plan in 2009.

Dubuque, Iowa, population 57,637, developed the Dubuque Model for sustainability in 2006 and it is revised each year. Of its 11 sustainability principles, Smart Resource Use includes a multi-decade plan with target dates to reach a Zero Waste goal.

Santa Cruz County, California population 230,000, adopted Zero Waste as a long-term goal in 1999.

Seattle, Washington, population 534,700, adopted Zero Waste as a “guiding principle” in 1998. The plan emphasizes managing resources instead of waste, and conserving natural resources through waste prevention and recycling.

San Francisco, California, population 905,235, leads the nation with its current level of 72% diversion of materials

from landfills using both a combination of state laws, city ordinances, and a long term partnership with Recology, its material hauler. It appears to be on track to make its 90% diversion rate by 2020.

Encouraging Zero Waste Goals in Northeast Wisconsin
Clean Water Action Council will sponsor a Zero Waste presentation at the Brown County Library on September, date/time to be announced. Check out the details later this summer on our website or Facebook page. If you email us, we will put you on our reminder email list. Let us know if you would like to start a Zero Waste Committee.

CWAC will also be promoting attendance at the 5th Annual Growing Sustainable Communities Conference - Midwestern Region, to be held in Dubuque, IA. This is a one or two day educational opportunity for municipal professionals, elected officials, business leaders, and citizens who have a common interest in sustainability. The general conference held on October 3, 2012 will be preceded by several optional half-day workshops, tours and networking opportunities on October 2. The cost is \$100 for both days, \$75 for one day, and \$15 for students. Again, check our website or Facebook page for car pooling and possible registration fee scholarships. Be sure to read the additional related articles that follow:

Resources:

For San Francisco: http://www.spur.org/publications/library/article/toward_zero_waste

For Dubuque: <http://www.cityofdubuque.org/index.aspx?NID=606>

For Austin: <http://www.austinrecycles.com>

For Grass Roots Recycling Network: <http://www.grrn.org/>

Compost = Black Gold

By Charlie Frisk

Why compost?

1. It reduces the amount of organic garbage a household contributes to their local landfill, thereby reducing methane emissions.
2. It is a natural way of recycling.
3. Compost is a great soil conditioner; everything grows better in soil that has compost added to it.

As I begin this article I am issuing a bit of a disclaimer. Although I am an enthusiastic composter I am far from an expert on the different techniques. If I get you convinced on the value of composting you will need to do some additional research on your chosen composting technique.

If you live in the city of Green Bay or in one of the surrounding communities your community probably

already picks up your yard waste and converts it into compost. Some people keep their own leaves and compost them themselves but I am very content to let the City do the composting for me. They have a shredding machine to speed up the process and large equipment to turn the



compost on a regular basis. I don't think I could make compost of the quality that the City of Green Bay cranks out. For one thing, they get it composting at high enough temperatures to destroy almost all of the weed seeds. People that use the Green Bay compost just once become major fans of the product. It is interesting to listen to the conversations as people load their compost. One guy said he puts it

everywhere; he'd even coat the living room floor with it if his wife would let him!

Occasionally we hear that some misguided politician wants to reduce funding for urban composting programs. This is a classic example of being "penny-wise, pound foolish." Yard waste makes up anywhere from 25-50% of the total volume going into landfills in those communities that don't separate out their yard waste from the main garbage stream. The reduced lifespan of the landfills would more than cancel out any savings along with the fact that we would be just wasting a valuable product.

However we can't depend on our community to deal with our kitchen waste so every household produces a ready supply of compostable material. There are several different ways to deal with it.

I personally have one of the large black drums that you can spin to mix the compost. These systems have their pluses and their minuses. On the negative side there is no way to separate the new material from the highly aged material unless you purchase two drums. You don't get the nice layers that allow for the best composting activity. On the plus side the containers are pretty rodent and odor proof and they require no mechanical skills to set up the system. I have never been able to finish out the compost to the point where you have the true "black gold" type compost. It is more like what one would call really aged garbage. I usually empty mine in the early spring before the gardening season and in the fall after the garden is harvested. I bury the compost about six inches deep in the garden, and within a few weeks the natural decomposers in my garden have converted the material into rich, black soil.

More serious composters build a set of 2 or 3 large wooden bins. They set up layers of dry and moist material and water and turn it on a regular basis. The highly aged stuff that is almost compost is kept in a different bin than

the new material. You can make much better compost this way and you can deal with a lot more volume, but it requires building skills and a lot more "putzing" around. You will have to do some of your own research on this if you decide to take it on.

Another way to deal with kitchen waste is worm vermicomposting. This produces the best compost of all; a rich black soil like the material that some people buy as a soil conditioner. It is easy to find everything you need to know on the Internet to get started with vermicomposting. If I just had flowerbeds and needed a truly finished product, this is the route that I would go. If the system is set up properly, it produces very little odor so it can be kept inside through the winter.

Now that many communities allow the ownership of chickens, they could do your composting for you. There is almost no form of organic material that a chicken won't eat. They then convert your kitchen scraps into the ultimate compost; chicken manure. It can't get much easier than that.

I hope I have convinced some of you to get started on composting. Not only will you feel good about your reduced garbage production, but everything in your garden will grow better because of the compost.

Food Waste Primer and the Food Waste Task Force

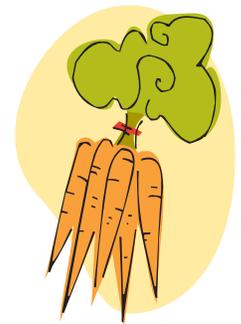
By John Hermanson

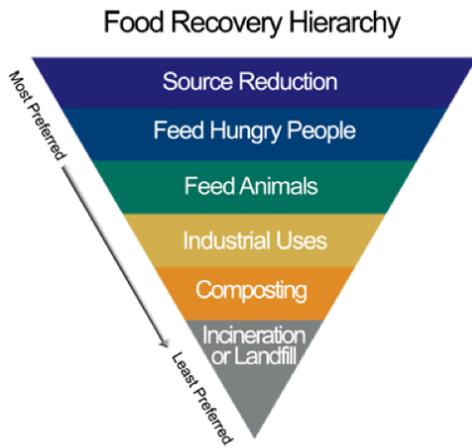
Almost half of the food in the U. S. goes to waste. Food waste makes up almost 14% of all municipal solid waste with less than 3% of this food waste being recovered according to the EPA.

This 'resource' along with compostable paper (food contaminated - 5% according to 2009 State-Wide Characterization Study) is landfilled or incinerated. When landfilled, it produces 45-55% methane, CO₂ and propels hundreds of toxic contaminants into the environment. According to *the energyjustice.net Fact Sheet on Landfill Gas* this is not the solution for the problem when only 10% of the country's landfill gas emitted gets captured. Also considering our country's soil health decline, we need to reconnect the loop by putting our food scraps back into the soil.

A regional attempt to do something about this problem is the Food Waste Task Force with the vision of "Providing a forum for collaboration for seeking to divert food residual from landfills." in the Greater Fox Cities and Oshkosh (Food Waste Task Force, June 18, 2012).

The Energy/Compost and Job Production through Food





Waste survey study was completed in April 2011 for the Fox Valley and Waupaca County region. The interest in this survey was generated by the opportunity of UW-Oshkosh's first-of-a-kind in the U. S. dry anaerobic digester; which converts food waste into energy and compost. The feedstock requirements of the digester is forecast to be 6,000 tons annually, being

New compost production rules in effect starting June 1

MADISON – Across Wisconsin, backyard compost bins turn grass clippings, leaves, vegetable peels, apple cores and other everyday materials into nutrient-rich compost and mulch. But backyard bins can't handle the volumes of scraps and trimmings generated by stores, restaurants, landscaping companies and municipal leaf collection programs.

That's where the professional and municipal compost producers come into the picture. The Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources has new regulations just out that focus on boosting opportunities for large-scale composting throughout the state.

To read the press release in its entirety, please visit: http://dnr.wi.gov/news/DNRNews_Lookup.asp?id=331#art4

significantly more than the university can produce itself. Another option is to divert food waste to potential or existing compost facilities. The ultimate goal is to benefit the environment and to create jobs.

A major conceptual tool used for guidance for the Food Recovery Taskforce is a version of EPA's Food Recovery Pyramid. This food recovery model is based on the Reduce-Reuse-Recycle mantra as applied to food 'waste'.

While it appears that we have more immediate control of our food 'waste' in our households with home composting (see composting article in this issue) along with wise food preparation and purchasing, the next step for our communities' businesses and institutions is to do what Lawrence University in Appleton has done by composting their food waste and using it on their gardens.

One idea specific to the Green Bay area would be to encourage Community Supported Agriculture (CSAs) to bring produce to their subscribers and then to return with their food scraps. The same might happen at the various farmer's markets where a community collection container would be provided or individual vendors might collect food scraps. New Leaf Market is a promising enterprise to support such efforts in Northeast Wisconsin. Sustainable Green Bay, Oneida Integrated Food Systems, Community Food Systems - UWEX and the Farm Fresh Atlas series are other entities that can help move us along the Path to Zero Waste in the food arena.

Resource contact: Kathy Thunes at kthunes@eastcentralrpc.org for Food Waste Task Force. John Hermanson can be reached to share a copy of the summary of the survey mentioned in this article tug3@centurytel.net or other ideas/questions related to this topic.



Landfill Reduction and Recycling, Inc. Provides Green Alternative for Construction and Demolition Materials

By Dean Hoegger

In order for communities to move toward Zero Waste, it will require opportunities for entrepreneurs to play a significant role in the reduction, reuse, recycling and composting of materials that would otherwise go into our landfills. The business of diverting materials bound for landfills must be economically viable, if diversion goals are to be achieved. Since January 2012, one such business, Landfill Reduction and Recycling, Inc. of Appleton, has found its niche in the processing of construction and demolition materials while providing employment for ten entry level employees and seven higher skilled equipment operators and office staff.

Working without any federal or state tax credits specific to the recycling industry, Landfill Reduction and Recycling operates on a slim margin of the difference between landfill tipping fees and the rate the company charges its customers. Without the \$13 per ton state environmental fee added to the landfill fee, company President, Jason Salisbury, reports that his company would not be in business. Businesses such as his have a tougher time in the Midwest than on the east and west coasts because the cost of land filling is far greater there. The higher the cost of land filling, the greater the incentive is to pay recycling companies to take the materials.

Salisbury explained that profitable recycling is driven by three main factors. As previously mentioned, it all begins with the cost of landfill tipping fees. If fees represent the true cost to society and the environment, they must be at a rate that encourages diversion practices. A second factor

is the mindset of the waste generator as to whether there is a desire to be “green.” Through the United States Building Council, companies can earn Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design points to achieve a green rating. Companies with a large community presence will often seek the prestige that comes with the rating. However, many large contractors and building owners in northeast Wisconsin are not driving the process here. They are not thinking as green as their associates in other parts of the country. A third profitability factor is the market for recycled and reused products, which tends to be quite variable.

Landfill Reduction and Recycling has found markets for many of the construction materials it receives which brings a cash return and reduces its landfill costs. Some of the materials reduce the need for mining virgin materials and shipping them over great distances. Gypsum, in the form of used drywall, is ground and made into a soil additive. The drywall paper is sold as animal bedding. Bricks and concrete blocks are crushed and used for fill for driveways and under basement floors. Non-treated lumber is chipped and used locally as a replacement fuel for coal fired boilers. Metals, which help pay for the cost of handling other material, are separated from other



Sorting materials received from a demolition site.



Bricks and concrete block waiting processing in the crusher.

construction debris, sorted, and sold in local markets which are more stable than the markets for plastic.

Until local companies are created, some materials must be shipped out of the area for processing. Vinyl siding is sorted and sent out of state where it is ground and used in the manufacture of PVC piping. Carpet and carpet padding is separated and sent to a processing plant in Michigan.

While reuse is a goal for the company, current trends in demolition make it somewhat challenging. Contractors generally do not want to pay laborers for the careful removal of items like ceiling tile, which can go back to the manufacturer for reprocessing. So too are they less inclined to remove windows and woodwork in a way that allows them to be reused. However, at times items do come in that can be salvaged and are often offered for free on Craig’s list according to Salisbury.

One of the most troublesome materials is non-food grade plastic because so many different kinds are found in demolition and construction waste. There are ten different types of plastic, each requiring separation and a high degree of cleanness. A further challenge is that buyers often reject material rather than offering a lower purchase price when the market



Collecting vinyl siding for use in PVC pipe manufacturing.



Chipped lumber.

is down. Due to these challenges, plastics are often shipped to China for processing, further adding to the carbon footprint of this material.

Another recycling product Landfill Reduction and Recycling is proposing is the use fines, material less than 2½ inches and mostly composed of wood and aggregates, in landfill applications. By using the fines as the temporary daily cover over the waste, virgin soil would not be lost in landfill construction. Fines could also be used to build roadbeds within the landfill once the fines have the nails and other metals removed through exposure to powerful magnets.

Landfill Reduction and Recycling is a company that is helping their community to move along the path to Zero Waste. CWAC commends their success in keeping materials, including methane-producing organics, out of the landfill. We believe more should be done to encourage the creation of companies that will help reduce, reuse, recycle, and compost the materials headed for our landfills.

The Action in CWAC

By Dean Hoegger

Clean Water Action Council board members took a variety of actions on behalf of the membership and the community of northeast Wisconsin since the last newsletter. Our organization has no paid staff members. The board of directors and member volunteers are carrying out the work of the organization. Membership dues, our annual meeting fundraiser, and donations are paying the expenses for this work, including printing, mailing, annual fees, phone and internet fees, posters, media campaigns, fees associated with legal actions, and limited travel to hearings and action events. This is why your participation is so important.

Your 2012 paid membership will help us continue to take these actions and to keep you informed. **If your address label has a '12 after your**

name, we have received your 2012 membership dues. Your volunteer check-off will help CWAC connect you to volunteer opportunities. Please call or email us when issues arise that are of special concern for you. Listing your e-mail address in the Action Alerts box will keep you informed of environmental concerns, actions we have planned, and ways you can participate.

Read below about how you can be active in CWAC activities. Be sure to contact us if environmental issues arise in your community. CWAC is here to support citizen action. The following are our most significant activities since March.

Providing Support to Citizens Opposing Oneida Tribe's Gasification Incinerator with a Legal Challenge to the C.U.P.

CWAC helped promote attendance at the Green Bay City Council meeting on April 10, 2012, and encouraged citizens who would potentially be affected by the Oneida Tribe's gasification incinerator to speak at the meeting. Working with its legal council, Midwest Environmental Advocates (MEA), CWAC presented a legal opinion that supported our previous claim that the City was within its legal authority to rescind the tribe's conditional use permit (C.U.P.) that was obtained through misrepresentations during the permitting process. The Council agreed that a public hearing should be held to consider rescinding the permit obtained by Broadway Manufacturing. They voted 9-2 in favor of the motion brought by Councilman Guy Zima.

Since the April 10 meeting, five new city council members took office and citizens lost councilman Guy Zima, an outspoken opponent of the gasification incinerator. Councilman Andy Nicholson reports that he has made several requests for the hearing to be scheduled, and our partner organization IFBC has also made a formal request. CWAC requested MEA to do the same on our behalf. Nicholson stated he was frustrated with Mayor Jim Schmitt's failure to schedule the meeting and with the lack of pressure put on the mayor from the new council members to do so.

On May 18, the Green Bay Press Gazette reported that the tribe had turned in a revised plan in which the emission stacks would be limited to 35 feet. While previously stating that there would be no emissions, now Oneida Seven Generation Corporation President Kevin Cornelius claims that due to this change "there would be a slight improvement to air quality impacts." The company states that by combining exhaust stacks they can reduce ground level pollution by making the emissions hotter, causing them to rise faster.

Of concern from an historical perspective is what was done at GranTech's Green Bay paper sludge dryer in the 1990s. When tests showed that emissions greatly exceeded

their air pollution permits, rather than require the company to shut down or add more pollution control devices, the DNR allowed them to build a taller smoke stack to provide greater dispersion of emissions, which did not reduce toxic air emissions. That dryer is still in operation and continues to be a significant source of toxic air emissions in the Green Bay area. Will history repeat itself if the gasification incinerator is allowed to be built with the lower stacks?

CWAC's position still remains unchanged. The C.U.P. for this project was obtained through misrepresentation and should be rescinded. The major misrepresentations are as follows:

CLAIMS MADE TO THE GREEN BAY PLANNING COMMISSION ON FEBRUARY 21, 2012 (taken as written in the minutes):

1. **Claim:** Mr. Cornelius stated there is no hazardous material. The system is closed so there is no oxygen. Once it is baked all the gas is taken off by a "cherry scrubber" so it takes away any kind of harmful toxins that might be in the gas and the rest is burned as natural gas. Anything that is left over will run back through the system. The ash that comes out can be dumped in a landfill or mixed with cement as a road base.

Fact: The DNR has stated that emissions will include: arsenic, cadmium, chromium, fluoride, lead, mercury, copper, nickel, iron, tin, selenium, antimony, zinc, phosphorus, siloxanes, potassium, sodium, chlorides, hydrogen sulfide, dioxin/furans, and formaldehyde.

2. **Claim:** When asked if what was left in the ash, Mr. Cornelius stated this is all taken out in the process. It's all scrubbed out. A lot of this stuff is destroyed when it goes through the energy process at the end.

Fact: Mercury is one of the heavy metals expected to be left in the char, which makes "It's all taken out in the process" a false statement. Mercury, as with other metals, is not destroyed in the process, or by any combustion process, making "A lot of this stuff is destroyed..." a misleading statement.

3. **Claim:** Council member Bremer stated in the materials provided there is reference to some stake holder challenges and she wondered who would be the stake holders challenging this process. She asked for information on who is objecting and why. Mr. Cornelius stated there are some people who are just opposed to the Oneida Tribe and obviously they are a corporation of the tribe.

Fact: Opposition to the gasification incinerator began when Oneida Tribal members and area residents opposed construction in the Town of Oneida. Citizens continued to oppose construction when Hobart and Ashwaubenon were proposed locations. There is no evidence of opposition due to the Oneida Tribe's participation. Opposition has been based on the technology to be proven not to work elsewhere.

4. **Claim:** Mr. Cornelius stated the heat is generated from a natural gas burner that runs on product gas. The system does have to be started up by propane or natural gas. Once you get rolling, you're on your syngas. He added there are no smoke stacks, no oxygen, and no ash. There is carbon and ash which actually could have been tested and go right into organic farming. There are no fallout zones. There are some diosons but no PCB's. This all goes into slag in here.

Fact: The original DNR permit shows 10 emission stacks. 3 stacks, 60 feet tall, make "no stacks" a false claim. Oxygen is present in the MSW (municipal solid waste) making "no oxygen" a false claim. The remaining material is commonly called char and amounts to 1/5 to 1/3 of the original MSW. It is expected to contain heavy metals and dioxins, which makes "...it could go right into organic gardening" a false claim.

FROM CONDITIONAL USE PERMIT APPLICATION
GIVEN TO CITY COUNCIL MEMBERS for MARCH 1,
2011 MEETING

5. **Claim:** Stacks are absent from the image rendering submitted to the City of Green Bay in the *Conditional Use Permit Application*. This reaffirms previous public statements made during presentations in Ashwaubenon in which OSGC stated it was a closed-looped system. Some members of the City Council attended that meeting including Jerry Wiezbiskie.

Fact: The DNR permit showed 10 emission stacks in OSGC's first application. Three stacks were 60 feet tall, making "no stacks" a false claim. The emission stacks shown in the plan indicate that it is not a "closed-looped" system and there will be emissions.

GREEN BAY CITY COUNCIL MEETING
SEPTEMBER 1, 2011

6. **Claim:** Mr. Cornelius affirmatively represented to the Green Bay City Council, "...there are no smokestacks..." This is the same claim he repeatedly made to the media including the Green Bay Press Gazette in which he was quoted saying there are no smokestacks and no emissions. "It's a closed looped system."

Fact: The original DNR permit showed 10 emission stacks in OSGC's first application. Three stacks were 60 feet tall, making "no stacks" and no emissions a false claim.

We believe the city cannot allow the Oneida Seven Generations Corporation, LLC, or any other applicant, to build a facility after making false statements during the application process that clearly misrepresent the environmental impact of the project. To do so would set a very bad precedent. The Green Bay City Council must rescind the conditional use permit to preserve the integrity of the permitting process and to protect the public from falsely represented projects in the future.

To become involved in this environmental justice

concern, contact board member Dean Hoegger. Members are needed to make calls to Green Bay residents who signed the petition against building the incinerator to ask them to contact their council member and urge them to vote to rescind the permit. Calling volunteers will also be needed to inform signers when the hearing is scheduled. These are not "cold calls" but rather calls to petition signers who will thank you for your efforts.

CWAC Asked to Participate in Methane Digester Meetings in Maribel

At the request of residents in the Maribel area, CWAC board member, John Hermanson attended informational, governmental, and oppositional meetings regarding a methane digester proposed for an area just off I-43 on state highway 164 near the Village of Maribel. Our partner organization in incineration education, Incinerator Free Brown County, also had a significant presence at some the meetings, one of which had more than 200 people in attendance. Residents have become alarmed at the secrecy they believe has surrounded the project proposed by Green Energy Partners. Answers to questions regarding the feedstock for the digester have ranged from medical and yard waste to food scraps, and more recently to waste from meat processing facilities.

Opposition to the project includes concerns over the amount of ground water used, the amount of wastewater generated, the increased traffic of 10-20 trucks coming and going, treatment of out-of-state and county waste, and the potential to contaminate groundwater by spreading the remaining solid waste on farm fields. The Maribel area has some karst topography, which further increases the risk for groundwater contamination (see Spring Newsletter, "Karst Topography...")

We will continue to monitor this proposed project, provide support to residents, and send action alerts as needed.

If you live in the Maribel area, your participation is needed to attend future meetings about this digester. Contact John Hermanson for meeting notifications. Be sure to contact us about environmental issues in your community.



CWAC Participates in Earth Week Activities

Dean Hoegger reported excellent attendance of the Manitowoc Earth Day activities held at Silver Lake College. CWAC contributed to the theme of improving the local environment by giving away 75 white fir trees. Newsletters were also distributed and Dean was able to meet several Manitowoc members.

Jane Blameuser, John Hermanson, and Dean Hoegger represented CWAC at the Greater Green Bay Earth Week Coalition event on May 5. After the parade, another 75 trees were distributed, information about composting and the gasification incinerator was shared, newsletters were distributed, and new members were welcomed.

Charlie Frisk represented CWAC at Aldo Leopold School's event on May 19 with the CWAC activities and history exhibit and the gasification incinerator exhibit.

As a member of CWAC, we invite you to represent our organization at community events and celebrations. An exhibit, organization sign, table, and literature is available to you. Contact us about upcoming events in your community.



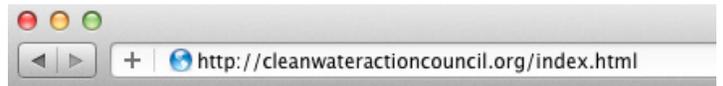
CWAC Office to Open Soon

CWAC was offered office space in the building that houses Eve's Supper Club at 2020 Riverside Drive in Green Bay. One of the building's owners, Jack Summerville, attended our May 19 banquet where goals for the next year were shared. These included locating an affordable office where we can provide meeting and workspace for the Board to share with community members. The building's road sign will provide high visibility for us as Riverside Drive is heavily traveled. It has plenty of parking, access to the Fox River Trail, and most inspiring, a view of the Fox River and Georgia Pacific Paper Mill on the opposite shore. The founding of CWAC was inspired by the arrival of Green Peace who brought attention to the need to clean up the river and to demand Fort Howard Paper Company (now GP) stop dumping toxins into the river.

The Board has accepted Summerville's generous offer and is awaiting some renovations to occur prior to moving into the space in July. We hope to be fully operational there by August. All of our contact information will remain the same.

Assistance from members will be appreciated with painting and locating donated furniture including folding tables and chairs. Please contact Dean Hoegger to assist.

Our New Website is Up and Running!



A big THANK YOU goes to CWAC member Audrey Thompson for taking on the enormous task of recreating our website. Audrey completed our new online home through an E-Business Technology Specialist Internship at NWTC.

Members now have access to current environmental issues and events in our community and the surrounding area. We will continue to update our site as we become involved in efforts to protect public health and the environment in Northeast Wisconsin.



Our new website: www.cleanwateractioncouncil.org

Two new members elected to CWAC's Board of Directors

We would like to welcome Drew Hoegger and Tom Neuser to our Board of Directors this year. A big thank you to outgoing board members Curt Andersen and Audrey Thompson for their many years of service. Curt will continue to represent us on the Brown Co. Conservation Alliance. Here's a little bit about our new board members:



Drew Hoegger Board Member

I am a retired Correctional Sergeant with the State of Wisconsin. I work part-time as a work release specialist at Sanger Powers Correction Center. I have a Bachelor of Science Degree in Parks and

Recreation from Winona State University. I participated in F.F.A. and Conservation Club while attending Southwest High School in Green Bay. Growing up in Green Bay I have been a long time sportsman. I have also seen the Green Bay area go from an industrial dumping ground to having bald eagles, musky, pelicans, and walleye, right here in town. Now living in the country in Oconto County and being semi-retired, I have increased my desire for the outdoors and preserving it for the future. I believe organizations like this are our future.



Tom Neuser Vice President

I have been a long time supporter of CWAC and what it stands for. My wife Linda and I live on the Bay of Green Bay and still are amazed every day by its wonder. We care about the water and air quality. I have been a life long resident in the Green Bay area.

CWAC Banquet and Dance for the Environment Raises Funds for Legal Fees

By Dean Hoegger

Thanks to a great effort by the Events Committee, the Board, and several members, the event held on May 19 at the Riverside Ballroom was a great success. 105 people were seated for dinner and another 20 attended the dance portion of the event, making this the most attended social event in recent history. At least 30 members were present



CWAC President, Dean Hoegger, center, presents the Environmental Citizen Award to IFBC leaders John Filcher, left, and Joanne Chaudoir and Greg Kujawa, right.



John Hermanson is recognized for his assistance with creating an urban garden and is presented a batik by artist Margaret Mary Gerhard.

after dinner for a brief business meeting and election of board members.

The event featured a silent auction, which was the main money raiser for the event, netting nearly \$800 which help cover a portion of the legal fees we will owe Midwest Environmental Advocates for case preparation work and representation at the gasification incinerator hearing. Special thanks to member Joyce Fritz who organized the auction and completed post event sales for us. While there were many donors, too numerous to mention who were individually thanked; we do want to thank the owners of the Riverside Ballroom for providing us with a great facility at a reduced rate and the Spark Plugz band for their great music at a special price.

Recognition for environmental volunteer work was awarded at the banquet. CWAC recognized the leadership of Incinerator Free Brown County with an Environmental

Citizenship Award and a check for \$200 to help continue their efforts. IFBC was the first group to educate the public on the threat of toxic air emissions from the Oneida Seven Generations Corporation's gasification incinerator, despite the tribe's efforts to sell the project as a safe, closed-loop system with no emissions.

The Helfenstein Soup Council of Green Bay recognized CWAC Treasurer, John Hermanson, for helping to assist with the creation of a community urban garden on the corner of Cherry Street and Webster Avenue in Green Bay. Environmental artist Margaret Mary Gerhard presented him with a beautiful batik of twin trees and a full moon. There is an interest in having a second social event this year.

Please contact Events Chairperson, Bev Watkins, if you would like to be on the events committee to plan the next event. Although Green Bay is in the center of northeast Wisconsin, an event can be held in other communities as well. Being on the committee would give you a vote on the location of an event.



YOUR ELECTED OFFICIALS

When communicating with these officials, you can use their website "Contact" link below, which includes your name, address and ZIP code so the staff can verify you are a constituent of that Member of Congress. Be sure to reference the bill number and talk about the impact of the bill on the district or state, and your own reason(s) for opposing it.

Your District's Congressman

Tom Petri - District 6
<https://petri.house.gov/>
 2462 Rayburn HOB
 Washington, DC 20515
 Phone: (202) 225-2476
 Fax: (202) 225-2356

Sean Duffy - District 7
<https://duffy.house.gov/>
 1208 Longworth HOB
 Washington, DC 20515
 Phone: (202) 225-3365 or
 Toll Free: (855) 585-4251
 Fax: (202) 225-3240

Reid Ribble - District 8
<https://ribble.house.gov/>
 1513 Longworth HOB
 Washington, DC 20515
 Phone: (202) 225-5665
 Fax: (202) 225-5729

Your U.S. Senators

Ron Johnson
<http://ronjohnson.senate.gov/>
 386 Russell Senate Office
 Building
 Washinton, DC 20510
 (202) 224-5323

Herb Kohl
<http://kohl.senate.gov/>
 330 Hart Senate Office
 Building
 Washington, DC 20510
 (202) 224-5653
 Fax: (202) 224-9787



To contact your State
 Assembly person or Senator,
 go to: <http://legis.wisconsin.gov>
 Click on:
Who Represents Me?

MARK YOUR CALENDAR!

Meetings

~ **July 2012 – The Lower Green Bay and Fox River Area of Concern Citizen Advisory Committee** will meet at a 'to be determined' date in Green Bay. The Department of Natural Resources (DNR) has created an advisory group of local governments, nonprofits, residents, outreach/education, and private business representatives to make recommendations regarding actions to restore impairments in the Area of Concern. For more information regarding this committee contact the coordinator Laurel Last at the DNR. 920-662-5103 or at laurel.last@wi.gov

~ **CWAC Board of Directors** meets the last Wednesday of every month. Contact us by phone or e-mail regarding the location.

Events

~ **July 5 - Permaculture Teaching Circles** at the House of Tawet at 601 North Broadway, Green Bay, WI. Earth care, People care, Fair Share.

~ **Saturday, July 7, 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. - Wild Ones' Native Plant Sale and Celebration of Wild Things.** Speakers and exhibits celebrate "wild" things at Stone Silo Prairie Nursery, 2325 Oak Ridge Circle, De Pere.

~ **July 12 - Transitions Gathering** - House of Tawet - Creative Collective support circle for learning how to build a resilient community without oil dependency.

~ **July 26 - Food Film Series** - House of Tawet will present films about the food industry and it's effect on health issues in America

~ **August 2 - Permaculture Teaching Circle** - Urban Chickens - House of Tawet

~ **August 9 - Transtions Gathering** - House of Tawet

~ **Wednesday, August 22 at 7 PM –**
 Author David Kirby will discuss the health and environmental risks of mega dairy farms as featured in his book "Animal Factory." Held at Bailey's Harbor Town Hall at the junction of Hwy 42 and County EE in Bailey's Harbor. For more information: www.kewaunee-cares.wordpress.com

~ **August 23 - Food Film Series** - House of Tawet - Hosted by Helfenstein Soup Council

~ **September (TBA): CWAC will sponsor a mini-conference on Zero Waste.** Check our website and Facebook page for details.

Join Clean Water Action Council in 2012!

Date _____

- () \$20 Individual () \$30 Family (**this amount would really help**)
() \$50 Sustaining () \$100 Donor () Other \$ _____

Provide your e-mail address below for an eco-friendly version sent privacy protected, but please include your street address also:

E-Mail _____

Name(s) _____

Address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____

Phone _____

Please send me, privacy protected, occasional action alert e-mails to this e-mail address:

E-Mail _____

PLEASE VOLUNTEER!
(BE SURE TO NOTE PHONE NUMBER ABOVE)

- the newsletter events website maintenance mailings
 joining or leading one of the committees other _____

Send check or money order to: **Clean Water Action Council**
P.O. Box 9144
Green Bay, WI 54308

Legacies, memorials, and direct gifts are deeply appreciated.
Please contact our treasurer, John Hermanson at
tug3@centurytel.net for more information.

COMMITTEES

Non-Point Pollution: Charles Frisk

Special Events: Bev Watkins

Public Health: Dean Hoegger

Membership, Finance and Fundraising: John Hermanson

Renard Island: Tom Neuser

Phone numbers are listed under 2012 Leaders



Find us on Facebook for updates on hearings such as the Oneida Trash to Energy Project and current or upcoming events.

www.cleanwateractioncouncil.org

2012 LEADERS

Officers

Dean Hoegger, President
920-495-5127

Tom Neuser, Vice-President
920-468-4105

John Hermanson, Treasurer
920-845-5479

Jane Blameuser, Secretary
920-468-1509

Board Members

Charlie Frisk
920-406-6572

Drew Hoegger
920-606-9388

Bev Watkins, Newsletter
920-866-3648

CONTACT US

By phone:

920-421-8885

If you leave us a message, we will try to get back to you within 24 hours.

By mail:

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P.O. Box 9144
Green Bay, WI 54308

By e-mail:

contact@cleanwateractioncouncil.org



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**Clean Water Action Council
of Northeast Wisconsin**

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of Northeast Wisconsin

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