

## **Invasive Species Impacts Composting Industry in Wisconsin**

*Joe Van Rossum*



Emerald Ash Borer infestation is beginning to have an economic impact on composting operations in southern Wisconsin. Emerald Ash Borer is an exotic species native to Asia which currently threatens Ash trees in the Great Lakes region. The state of Illinois has implemented a quarantine that prohibits moving of Ash products outside the state as a measure to control the spread of this insect. In addition to ash products, the quarantine includes ash limbs and branches, bark and wood chips larger than one inch from ash and any cut, non-coniferous firewood. These materials are a major component of yard waste -- a key material used in compost production.

Due to Illinois restrictions on the transport of certain yard debris materials composters some composters in southern Wisconsin have lost access to raw materials vital to their operations. One composter in Kenosha County is nearly shut down due the quarantine as 90% of his feedstocks are now unable to be transported to his facility. Another composter stated he has lost access to four to five truckloads of materials per week due to the quarantine.

Additional information about this issue can be found online at: <http://www.emeraldashborer.info/>. For Wisconsin specific information please visit: <http://emeraldashborer.wi.gov/>

## **Specialist Receives Chancellor's Award**

The Award for Excellence in Civic Engagement was presented to Sherrie Gruder, sustainable design specialist, by Chancellor David Wilson at the UW-Extension Chancellor's Award banquet on September 20. The award recognizes outstanding performance that advances UW-Extension's commitment to civic engagement and/or service learning.



*Photo by Jim Gill/Wisconsin Public Television*

## **Travel Green Wisconsin Certifies 100<sup>th</sup> Business**

*Joe Van Rossum*



The Aldo Leopold Legacy Center in Baraboo became the 100<sup>th</sup> organization to earn the "Travel Green Wisconsin" designation. Sponsored by the Wisconsin Department of Tourism, Travel Green Wisconsin is a voluntary program that reviews, certifies and recognizes tourism businesses that make a commitment to improve operations that reduce environmental and social impacts.

The Travel Green Wisconsin program requires businesses to evaluate their impact in the areas of energy, waster usage, waste, transportation, air quality, and local impacts. The Aldo Leopold Legacy Center implemented numerous initiatives to achieve certification. Among the initiatives are use of solar and geothermal heating systems, waterless urinals, dual flush toilets and rain gardens. "It's a thrill to have such a fitting Wisconsin destination achieve 'Travel Green Wisconsin' certification," said Wisconsin Department of Tourism Secretary Kelli A. Trumble. "The stewardship legacy of Aldo Leopold is alive and well for Wisconsin's visitors and residents to enjoy."

The Center also serves as the primary advocate and interpreter of the Leopold legacy by sharing the philosophies of Aldo Leopold and by seeking to awaken an ecological conscience in the people of our nation through educational outreach programs, stewardship initiatives, and research programs. "We are extremely proud to be the 100<sup>th</sup> member of Travel Green Wisconsin," said Aldo Leopold Foundation Executive Director Buddy Huffaker. "With our new Legacy Center -- one of the greenest buildings in the nation -- and our programs, the Aldo Leopold Foundation is reinforcing Wisconsin's reputation as a sustainable destination."

Information about becoming a Travel Green Wisconsin business can be found online at: [www.travelgreenwisconsin.com](http://www.travelgreenwisconsin.com) or by contacting Ashley Ellingson, Program Coordinator at 608-280-0360.

*Direct quotes are from Travel Green Wisconsin press release dated 9/21/2007*

## **Midwesterners Target E-waste for Product Stewardship**

*Steve Brachman*

Representatives of Midwestern states met in Chicago in September to continue to explore product stewardship opportunities for electronic waste. With a goal of both recycling more e-waste and reducing its toxicity, state leaders assessed the current state of e-waste legislation. Below are some highlights:

- Nine states have passed E-waste legislation, with California being the largest and Minnesota the most comprehensive, since it includes not only computers and televisions, but also peripherals and cell phones.
- Minnesota legislation was passed in May, 2007 and is deemed a "full" producer responsibility law (as is Oregon and Washington). Minnesota's is also the first market share law -- it charges fees based upon their market share rather than recycling rate and establishes enforceable goals for manufacturers. This provision is thought to significantly reduce overall administration and to minimize the impact of "orphan" waste from manufacturers that have gone out of business.
- Washington state leaders spotlighted key challenges and tips to pass e-waste legislation.
  - It is important to work with retailers.
  - Provisions to assist and incentivize rural recycling are significant.
  - Television manufacturers are likely to oppose all legislation.
  - It is vital to have entire community support, with the retail sector and local government key.
  - Expect a fair amount of confusion regarding the legislation.
  - Email communication works well with local government.
  - Environmental organizations can be a significant PR and media asset.
- A number of hurdles to passage of legislation in the other Midwestern states remain. Each is facing such issues as:
  - Financing: using return share vs. market share.
  - Scope of products: only video display devices or broader universal display equipment.
  - Establishing a collection infrastructure.
  - Geographic disparities.
  - Including performance metrics in the statute.

Wisconsin representatives hope to revise the current Senate bill for re-consideration by the end of the year.

## Sustainable Green Bay Task Force Issues CFL Challenge

Crystal Osman, UW-Green Bay



October is Energy Awareness Month. In observance, the Sustainable Greater Green Bay Task Force is joining with Focus on Energy to challenge the Top 100 businesses in Brown County to participate in a compact fluorescent light bulb (CFL) sale. The goal is to increase energy awareness of residents in Green Bay and Brown County by promoting use of CFLs which last up to 10 times longer than incandescent light bulbs and greatly reduce energy use.

Competition is divided into tiers based on the number of employees: 250 or fewer; 251 to 1,000, and 1,001 or more. Within each category there will be three "CFL Community Champion" awards: most bulbs sold; greatest number of employees participating; and highest percentage of employees participating.

A press conference kicked off the event on September 12. The competition concludes with an awards ceremony on Friday, October 26 during Energy Savings Days at Bay Park Square Mall. Throughout this event, employees and residents of Brown County may purchase bulbs, talk with vendors and learn more about energy efficiency and what they can do in their own homes.

For more information see the Sustainable Greater Green Bay Task Force website:  
<http://www.ci.green-bay.wi.us/SGB/index.html>.

## Incentives and Opportunities to Save Energy, Money and Make a Difference

Sherrie Gruder

Businesses and residents can save money and energy while helping the environment and improving community health. There's a range of actions to choose from at home and at work. These include changing light bulbs and holiday lights to fluorescent and LED lights, upgrading the energy efficiency of appliances and of the building, purchasing green power from renewable energy sources, and installing solar or wind. And, by doing any of these actions, each person can help to reduce harmful greenhouse gas emissions and reduce our dependence on fossil fuels for the health of our economy and future generations. Just like recycling, when each person does his part, it all adds up. To jump start your efforts to save energy and money, state promotions and rebates are available starting in October .

The Change a Light, Change Wisconsin compact fluorescent light (CFL) promotion begins October 1<sup>st</sup> and runs through March 31<sup>st</sup> or while supplies last. Participating retailers will offer a \$2 instant Cash-Back Reward on qualifying compact fluorescent bulbs so customers can purchase bulbs for as little as 99 cents each. Participating retailers are listed at the Focus on Energy website: [www.focusonenergy.com](http://www.focusonenergy.com).

Along with Change a Light, the ENERGY STAR Lighting program is also launching a new initiative to assist customers with recycling their used compact fluorescent lights (CFLs). Participating retailers have been provided with a cardboard recycling box that will be on display in their stores. Once the box is full of used CFLs, it will be shipped to a recycling center at no cost to the consumer or retailer.

You can enjoy a brighter holiday season for less too. Beginning October 15<sup>th</sup>, participating retailers will partner with the ENERGY STAR program to offer a \$3 instant Cash-Back Reward on strings of LED holiday lights. The offer is valid through December 30<sup>th</sup>, or while supplies last, though stores have typically sold out well ahead of the deadline in the past. Participating retailers will include Menards, Mills Fleet Farm, Reinders, Milaegers and select Ace Hardware and True Value stores. LED holiday lights are sturdier, safer because they stay cooler, more convenient because if one light burns out the rest of the string stays lit, they last much longer than standard holiday lights, and use up to **93 percent less energy** than standard mini lights.

Assistance with installing renewable energy on your home or office is available through Focus on Energy, the state public benefits partnership offering energy information and services to energy utility customers statewide. Visit [www.focusonenergy.com](http://www.focusonenergy.com), then click on renewables, or call 1 800 762-7077. For those located in the Focus territory, there is assistance with site assessments to determine whether your property is well suited for solar or wind, or biomass if you have a farm; and, there are cash back rewards for installation. The site also contains many educational fact sheets and lists of certified assessors and installers.

There are also upcoming educational programs on energy saving and renewable energy approaches. October 5 and 6th is the Tour of Solar Businesses and Homes across Wisconsin. To sign up for a bus tour or to get list of locations and maps go to the Midwest Renewable Energy Association's web site at [www.the-mrea.org](http://www.the-mrea.org). The Solar Decade Conference is a good opportunity for businesses and homeowners interested in learning about and installing solar energy systems. It will be held in Milwaukee on October 18th. For more information and to register visit: <http://www.solardecade.com/>

## **The Great Lakes Watershed Restoration Grant Program**

*Proposals due Nov. 15, 2007*

The National Fish and Wildlife Foundation, U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, U.S.D.A. Forest Service, and Natural Resources Conservation Service announce the third year of funding for [The Great Lakes Watershed Restoration Grant Program](#).

The Program provides grants to community organizations, state and local governments and others working at the local level to protect and improve watersheds in the Great Lakes. The purpose of the program is to support habitat restoration, water quality improvement, watershed planning and management, and applied research. Projects that include education, training or community outreach are encouraged.

This Program is designed to support the implementation of the Great Lakes Regional Collaboration, a unique partnership of federal, state, and local governments, tribes, and other stakeholders who worked together to develop a strategic action plan for the protection and restoration of the Great Lakes ecosystem.

Applications must be postmarked no later than November 15, 2007, and sent to:

National Fish and Wildlife Foundation  
Attn: Great Lakes Watershed Restoration Grants Program  
1 Federal Drive  
Ft. Snelling, MN 55111

Please see the RFP at <http://www.nfwf.org> for details.

## **DNR Allows Air Permit Exemptions**

New permit exemptions are now available under the Department of Natural Resources (DNR) air pollution regulations, chapters NR 406 and 407 in the Wisconsin Administrative Code.

**Construction Projects** Facilities that already have an operation permit and want to start a construction project with low actual emissions may be able to use the exemption. A construction project includes construction, modification, replacement, relocation and reconstruction. This is only intended for those with the traditional operation permits, because general and registration permits have built-in exemptions. Anyone wanting to use this exemption must meet the following conditions:

1. Actual emissions from the construction project must be less than:
  - a. 1,666 pounds in any month, when averaged over a consecutive 12-month period, of the pollutants: particulate matter, PM<sub>10</sub>, nitrogen oxides, sulfur dioxide, carbon monoxide, and volatile organic compounds, and
  - b. 10 pounds of lead in any month, when averaged over a consecutive 12-month period;
2. The construction project will not trigger any new requirements under:
  - a. the state hazardous air pollutant rule control determinations
  - b. the major and non-attainment area new source review rules
  - c. the New Source Performance Standards (NSPS), or
  - d. the National Emissions Standards for Hazardous Air Pollutants (NESHAP)
3. The facility must submit two documents to describe the construction project in detail, including descriptions of all activities and emissions units involved:
  - a. an application to revise the current operation permit, and
  - b. a claim that they intend to use the actual emissions based exemption. In the event a control device is used to maintain emissions below the exemption thresholds, the facility must propose and follow monitoring and records that will demonstrate compliance with any other requirements that may apply.

### ***Operation Permit Exemption***

There is an exemption available for a whole facility whose actual emissions can stay below the thresholds:

- a. 10 tons per year (TPY) of each of the pollutants: particulate matter, PM<sub>10</sub>, nitrogen oxides, sulfur dioxide, carbon monoxide, and volatile organic compounds,
- b. 0.5 TPY lead
- c. any stack height based thresholds in the state hazardous air pollutant rule.

Facilities wishing to use this exemption must meet the following conditions:

1. Not affected by NSPS or NESHAP;
2. If required to submit the annual emissions inventory report, notify DNR of the intent to use this exemption;
3. Request revocation or withdrawal of existing or pending permits (satisfied by #2 if required). Again, records and monitoring are required if any control devices are used to meet the exemption thresholds. Records to demonstrate the actual emissions meet the exemption thresholds must include calculations performed at least once every year and must be maintained on-site for at least five years.

### ***Benefits***

These new exemptions will help those businesses that did not previously fit into the specific categories of exempt sources. This will reduce the regulatory burden for many businesses whose emissions are as low or lower than others that are currently exempt. - Reprinted from Summer 2007 issue of the *Small Business Clean Air Advisor*.

### **Clean Air Advisor Going Electronic**

The Department of Commerce, Small Business Clean Air Assistance Program (SBCAAP) is now using a list serve to provide the electronic version of the *Clean Air Advisor* Newsletter. The Clean Air Advisor and the SBCAAP staff provide extensive information and resources that can help a company understand current and future air compliance issues in Wisconsin. For example this edition provides information and guidance to companies concerning new air permit exemptions available from the state. The link to the summer edition of the Advisor is at: <http://commerce.wi.gov/BDdocs/BD-CA-Summer2007.pdf> In the near future the Clean Air Advisor will only be available electronically. The Advisor web page now includes the ability to sign up for the list serve at <http://commerce.wi.gov/bd/BD-CA-Advisor.html> If there are any questions please contact Renee Lesjak Bashel at 608.264.615 or visit [www.commerce.wi.gov/sbcaap](http://www.commerce.wi.gov/sbcaap).

**New Fuel Economy Stickers to Help Consumers Make More Informed Decisions**

All new cars, light trucks, and SUVs produced after Sept. 1, 2007 will feature a newly re-designed window sticker that displays the new fuel economy standards. The new label will include the estimated annual cost for fueling the vehicle, how the vehicle's fuel economy compares to others within its class, and a Web site to go to for more information. The changes coincide with the adoption of new methods to determine the miles per gallon (MPG) estimates that appear on the stickers. The new methods, which took effect for model year 2008 vehicles, will bring MPG estimates closer to a vehicles actual fuel use by including factors such as driving at high speeds, accelerating aggressively, air conditioning use and driving in cold temperatures. For more information on the new label: <http://www.epa.gov/fueleconomy/label.htm>



**U.S. EPA Amends the National Environmental Policy Rule**

The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency has modified procedures implementing the National Environmental Policy Act, which established the U.S. government's policy for environmental protection in 1969. The revisions were necessary because EPA's current NEPA regulations do not cover a number of actions that have been put in place since the rule was originally written. NEPA requires EPA to solicit and consider public input as part of the environmental review process. To view the rule in the federal register: <http://a257.g.akamaitech.net/7/257/2422/01jan20071800/edocket.access.gpo.gov/2007/E7-18053.htm> and for more information on NEPA: <http://www.epa.gov/compliance/nepa/>

**EPA Strengthens Lead in Drinking Water Rule**

EPA is issuing a final rule that will improve requirements in the areas of monitoring, customer awareness and lead service line replacement. The rule will require water suppliers to provide consumers with information to help them make decisions about how to limit their exposure to lead in drinking water. The final rule is one outcome of EPA's March 2005 Drinking Water Lead Reduction Plan. Since release of the plan, the agency has released guidance to help public water systems better understand the potential impacts of treatment changes on their ability to control lead and asked the National Drinking Water Advisory Council to provide recommendations on public education requirements. The agency has also provided new or updated guidance and tools to help schools and child care facilities to monitor for lead in drinking water. A copy of the rule and more information on lead in drinking water is available at: <http://www.epa.gov/safewater/lcrmr/index.html>

**EPA Releases List of High-Volume Chemicals**

The EPA has released the first set of Hazard Characterizations on 101 High Production Volume (HPV) chemicals based on EPA's scientific review of the screening-level hazard, or toxicity, data that was submitted by the U.S. chemical industry through the EPA HPV Challenge Program or other information previously collected by the agency.

The hazard characterizations include a summary of the data submitted, EPA's evaluation of the quality and completeness of the data, and an assessment of the potential hazards that a chemical or chemical category may pose. EPA will combine this information with human and environmental exposure information collected from EPA's Inventory Update Reporting to develop a risk characterization and, based on that review, determine if additional action is needed.

The agency intends to use this approach to assess risks and identify and take needed action on 3000 HPV chemicals by 2012. For additional information visit the HPV Challenge Program Web site at [www.epa.gov/hpv](http://www.epa.gov/hpv) or review the first set of hazard characterizations: [http://iaspub.epa.gov/opthpv/hpv\\_hc\\_characterization.get\\_report](http://iaspub.epa.gov/opthpv/hpv_hc_characterization.get_report)

## **Understanding the Effects of "Oxides of Nitrogen" on Human Health**

EPA released for public comment and independent expert peer review the first external review draft of a document entitled, *Integrated Science Assessment for Oxides of Nitrogen-Health Criteria*. This is EPA's latest evaluation of the scientific literature on the potential adverse health effects resulting from exposures to oxides of nitrogen, particularly nitrogen dioxide or NO<sub>2</sub>. According to EPA there are significant new data, particularly epidemiological studies, that strengthen the evidence for these effects since the last scientific review document was released in 1993. The first draft ISA will be reviewed by the Clean Air Scientific Advisory Committee at a public meeting later this year. A second draft ISA will be released in 2008, which will address CASAC and public comments received on the first draft ISA. Once final, the complete ISA will provide the scientific bases for EPA's periodic review and possible revision of the primary NAAQS for oxides of nitrogen. Technical Contact: Dr. Mary Ross, NCEA/ORD; 919-541-5170; [ross.mary@epa.gov](mailto:ross.mary@epa.gov)  
View the first external review draft of the report at  
<http://cfpub.epa.gov/ncea/cfm/recordisplay.cfm?deid=181712>

## **EPA Pushes Procurement of Materials from Recovered Waste**

EPA is revising the list of items designated in the Comprehensive Procurement Guidelines, landscaping products category, to promote the use of materials recovered from solid waste. The description of "compost" from yard trimmings and food waste will include compost from bio-solids and manure, but does not limit the designation to specific types of organic materials. In addition, EPA has added fertilizer made from recovered materials as a designated landscaping item. RCRA requires procurement officials to buy products containing recovered materials when the agencies spend more than \$10,000 a year on that item. Procuring agencies are federal, state, and local agencies, and their contractors that use appropriated federal funds. For example, if a county agency spends more than \$10,000 a year on an EPA-designated item and part of that money is from appropriated federal funds, then the agency must purchase that item made from recovered materials. More on the Recovered Materials Advisory Notice (RMAN) that outlines changes to the list of items designated in the CPG landscaping products category:  
<http://www.epa.gov/epaoswer/non-hw/procure/rman5.htm> and for information on the EPA Comprehensive Procurement Guidelines go to: <http://www.epa.gov/cpg>

## ***Events, Training, Workshop and Tour Opportunities .....***

**Solar Decade Conference**, Midwest Airline Center, Milwaukee, 8:00 AM - 5:00 PM. The conference lays a solid foundation for Wisconsin's Solar Decade by demonstrating how to incorporate solar energy into your business, career and home. To register go to: <http://www.solardecade.com/node/13> Early registration by September 14. For inquiries about exhibiting. phone 414.224.9422 (voice), 414.224.1458 (fax), email [connielindholm@wgba.org](mailto:connielindholm@wgba.org)

Nov. 7-9, 2007 Greenbuild Chicago. Annual U.S. Green Building Council's Conference and Expo. This year's theme is Accelerating Green Communities. For information and to register go to <http://www.greenbuildexpo.org>.

## **Conducting a Business Waste Assessment**

November 12, 2007 – UW Barron County – Rice Lake, WI  
November 15, 2007 – UW Fond du Lac – Fond du Lac, WI

SHWEC will conduct workshops in which participants learn how to conduct business waste assessments and strategies to improve their management of solid and hazardous wastes. This one day program will provide information about waste identification and classification, management strategies, and waste prevention. The workshop will also give participants the opportunity to do a trial waste assessment under the guidance of course instructors.

**Registration** includes lunch and is \$30 per participant.

Contact Joseph Van Rossum, 608-262-0936, [vanrossum@epd.engr.wisc.edu](mailto:vanrossum@epd.engr.wisc.edu).