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## **FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

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### **Interagency cooperation leads to recycling on State of Wisconsin projects**

*Recycling required on state construction projects over \$5 million and state demolition projects as of January 1, 2010*

MADISON – Wisconsin should see less construction and demolition (C&D) debris in its landfills come the first of the year. A unique partnership among two state agencies and a nonprofit organization has shown that C&D projects throughout Wisconsin can successfully recycle. Based on these results, the Division of State Facilities will be requiring C&D waste to be recycled rather than put in landfills. This will apply to State of Wisconsin construction projects over \$5 million and demolition projects advertised for bid after January 1, 2010. The efforts will reduce waste disposal costs, conserve landfill space and reduce greenhouse gas emissions.

The encouraging results come from a pilot project in which the nonprofit WasteCap Resource Solutions (formerly WasteCap Wisconsin) worked with the Department of Administration Division of State Facilities (DSF) under a contract with the Department of Natural Resources (DNR). The goal of the project, which began in 2007, was to develop methods, standards and trained staff to result in successful, measured C&D debris recycling on state projects.

#### **Impact of C&D Waste**

Nationally, the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency estimates more than 170 million tons of C&D debris are generated each year. In Wisconsin, C&D debris – much of which is recyclable – represents a huge proportion of the municipal solid waste (MSW) stream. A 2002 DNR study found that C&D debris made up nearly 30 percent of the MSW stream, with five of the top 10 largest single components of the MSW being materials found in C&D debris, including untreated wood and shingles as the first and third largest components, respectively.

When the new recycling requirements are underway, much of the annual construction and demolition debris from state projects will be recycled rather than dumped in landfills.

“We recognized this was a significant effort, not only because of the potential to reuse and recycle C&D debris from state projects,” said Jenna Kunde, executive director of WasteCap. “We knew if we could give contractors experience with C&D reuse and recycling and make it a part of the way they do business with the state, it would have the potential to allow them to implement successful C&D recycling on projects throughout Wisconsin and beyond. It’s a result we’re already seeing realized.”

#### **Commitment to Recycling**

The inspiration for the project came from Gov. Jim Doyle’s 2005 Conserve Wisconsin Agenda in which he committed to following green building standards for state buildings and set a 50 percent recycling goal for all state projects. In response, the DSF developed a Sustainable Facilities Policy and Guidelines, including C&D debris management guidelines.

At the same time, the DNR contracted with WasteCap, a nonprofit organization that provides waste reduction and recycling assistance for the benefit of business and the environment, to work with the DSF on the implementation of C&D debris recycling on state projects.

“By any measure, this effort has been a success,” said Dave Haley, State Chief Architect and Deputy Director of the Bureau of Architecture and Engineering for the Department of Administration. “Every pilot project exceeded the 50 percent goal and many of the contractors that recycled on these projects are now recycling on other projects where they are not required to recycle. These projects have an average 84.8 percent recycling rate and have diverted 41,771 tons of material to date—the equivalent of removing 1,500 cars from the road for one year.”

## Results

### **UW Madison Biochemistry Phase II (Demolition and Construction)**

Division of State Facilities Project Manager: Russ VanGilder  
Lead Contractor: JH Findorff & Son, Inc.  
Recycling rate: 99.12%  
Tons diverted to date: 25,592

### **UW Parkside New Residence Hall Construction**

Division of State Facilities Project Manager: Bob Kilgust  
Lead Contractor: JP Cullen  
Recycling rate: 60%  
Tons diverted: 334

### **UW Stevens Point – Balwin Hall Renovation**

Division of State Facilities Project Manager: Larry Earll  
Lead Contractor: Ellis Stone  
Recycling rate: 90.65%  
Tons diverted: 231

### **UW Superior-Rothwell Student Center Replacement (Demolition and Construction)**

Division of State Facilities Project Manager: Angela Zar  
Lead Contractor: Immel Construction  
Recycling rate: 95.75%  
Tons diverted to date: 1,339

### **UW Whitewater Hyland Hall, Demolition Phase**

Division of State Facilities Project Manager: Rex Loker  
Lead Contractor: Miron Construction  
Demolition Contractor: Zenith Industrial Services  
Recycling rate: 97.65%  
Tons diverted: 13,694

### **UW Whitewater Hyland Hall, Construction Phase**

Division of State Facilities Project Manager: Rex Loker  
Lead Contractor: Miron Construction  
Recycling rate: 65.65%  
Tons diverted: 581

## A New Vision in Wisconsin

“I’ve led recycling efforts on a few of my sites now. The specifications and internal practices that we developed in this program were very important to making the recycling work well,” said DSF Project Manager Rex Loker. “I’m glad the state is leading the way in recycling.”

Tim Andrew, senior project manager of Miron Construction Co., Inc., one of the contractors involved in the pilot projects, said the experience has helped to change the way his company operates. “Miron is now recycling on all of our construction projects, regardless of project-specific recycling requirements” he said. “The costs of implementing a construction waste management (CWM) plan are offset with the savings in avoiding landfill disposal fees. Change is always difficult at first, but once the field personal and subcontractors are aware of the benefits and CWM expectations, it’s not difficult to implement, and actually becomes a positive experience. We have no problem complying with the state’s requirements or implementing our standard CWM plan on our projects.”

“I’m proud to have been a part of this effort of inter-agency cooperation and leadership,” said Kunde. “The governor provided the vision. The DNR provided the funding and their support. The DOA DSF provided the commitment and the time to make these efforts happen. They all provided leadership – producing a change in how construction and demolition debris will be handled in Wisconsin. It’s significant, and I’m so pleased for both what is being done and the way it was done.”

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### FOR MORE INFORMATION CONTACT:

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### Resources

Governor Doyle’s Conserve Wisconsin agenda: [http://www.wisgov.state.wi.us/journal\\_media\\_detail.asp?prid=1280](http://www.wisgov.state.wi.us/journal_media_detail.asp?prid=1280)

Division 1 Construction Waste Management specifications:  
[http://www.doa.state.wi.us/dsf/masterspec\\_view\\_new.asp?catid=6&locid=4](http://www.doa.state.wi.us/dsf/masterspec_view_new.asp?catid=6&locid=4)