

**WINNEBAGO COUNTY SOLID WASTE MANAGEMENT BOARD RESOLUTION
SUPPORTING THE RESTORATION OF RECYCLING GRANT FUNDING:**

1 **WHEREAS**, recycling provides a whole host of environmental benefits, including
2 preserving natural resources, less air pollution, energy savings, reduced greenhouse gas
3 emissions, reducing mining wastes and conserving landfill space; and
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5 **WHEREAS**, recycling also provides extensive economic benefits, providing material
6 feedstock for manufacturing, business development, state and local tax revenue and four times
7 more jobs than the disposal industry; and
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9 **WHEREAS**, the State of Wisconsin mandated recycling in 1990 under 1989 Wisconsin
10 Act 335 and Administrative Code NR 544; and
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12 **WHEREAS**, Towns, Villages, Cities and Counties, hereafter Municipalities, responded
13 by becoming Responsible Units (RUs) for Recycling and as such, invested millions of dollars in
14 education, collection and processing infrastructure for Effective Recycling Programs; and
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16 **WHEREAS**, Brown, Outagamie and Winnebago Counties invested in Material Recovery
17 Facilities (MRFs) and constructed a MRF in each County to serve the recycling processing
18 needs of its residents in anticipation of the 1995 landfill bans; and
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20 **WHEREAS**, to improve the efficiencies and cost effectiveness of the three Counties'
21 programs, Brown, Outagamie and Winnebago Counties developed and signed a Cooperative
22 Agreement in 2002 which consolidated recycling processing operations and eliminated one
23 MRF; and
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25 **WHEREAS**, in 2009 to further enhance operational efficiencies and to invest in needed
26 technological improvements, Brown, Outagamie and Winnebago Counties consolidated all
27 processing operations into a new, jointly-owned \$9.8 million-dollar single stream recycling MRF;
28 and
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30 **WHEREAS**, since 2009 to further enhance operational efficiencies, expand recyclable
31 material acceptance, and make needed technological updates, Brown, Outagamie and
32 Winnebago Counties invested additional funding of nearly \$3.5 million dollars in the single
33 stream recycling MRF; and
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35 **WHEREAS**, in 2021, Brown, Outagamie and Winnebago Counties contracted with
36 Green Bay Packaging, Inc. to provide a dedicated supply of recycled fiber feedstocks to the
37 Green Bay Mill Division, located in Brown County over the next three years; and
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39 **WHEREAS**, Brown, Outagamie and Winnebago Counties sell the recycled commodities
40 collected, sorted, and processed to other buyers, a majority of which are located in Wisconsin
41 and throughout the Midwest to support domestic recycling infrastructure; and
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43 **WHEREAS**, because the legislature recognized that implementing effective recycling
44 programs would require financial assistance it approved the Basic Grants for RUs, the funding
45 for which comes from a Recycling Fee, a \$7.00/ton fee charged on each ton of municipal solid
46 waste disposed of at Wisconsin landfills. Annually \$30-\$40 million is collected as the Recycling
47 Fee; and
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49 **WHEREAS**, while the Recycling Fee dollars collected by landfills has remained
50 consistent or increased, the money available to RUs has diminished from \$29.5 million in 2009
51 to \$19 million in 2020; and

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53 **WHEREAS**, the State of Wisconsin originally proposed to cost share 66% of the
54 Municipalities' costs for establishing and maintaining Effective Recycling Programs. The
55 Recycling Fee Grant Funds covered 16.4% of the eligible recycling expenditures reported by
56 Municipalities in 2018; and

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58 **WHEREAS**, to build on the recycling successes of the past 30 years, to maintain local
59 recycling infrastructure and to continue to supply local manufacturers with recycled material
60 feedstocks, additional funding is needed for Municipalities to support the growing expense of
61 local programs; and

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63 **WHEREAS**, the Winnebago County Solid Waste Management Board previously
64 opposed reduction/elimination of recycling grant funding in 2011 and in 2015;

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66 **NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED**, that Winnebago County hereby urges the
67 Wisconsin Legislature and Joint Committee on Finance to restore recycling funding to the
68 Recycling Grant to its previous base funding of \$29.5 million; and

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70 **BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED**, that a copy of this resolution be forwarded to
71 municipalities of Winnebago County, Brown County, Outagamie County, Wisconsin Counties
72 Association, Wisconsin Towns Association, League of Wisconsin Municipalities, Winnebago
73 County State Representatives and State Senators, Joint Committee on Finance and Governor
74 Tony Evers.

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77 Winnebago County Solid Waste Management Board

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81 Authorized Signature
82 Patrick O'Brien, Chairman

_____ May 19, 2021
Date