

Resolution # 2015-5
Resolution Opposing Reduction of Recycling Grant Funding and Elimination of SHWEC and UW
System Solid Waste Research Program Funding
Adopted by the
Town Board of the Town of Rockland, Brown County, Wisconsin

WHEREAS, recycling provides a whole host of environmental benefits, including preserving natural resources, less air pollution, energy savings, reduced greenhouse gas emissions, reducing mining wastes and conserving landfill space; and

WHEREAS, recycling also provides extensive economic benefits, providing material feedstock for manufacturing, business development, state and local tax revenue and four times more jobs than the disposal industry; and

WHEREAS, the State of Wisconsin mandated recycling in 1990 under 1989 Wisconsin Act 335 and Administrative Code NR 544; and

WHEREAS, Towns, Villages, Cities and Counties, hereafter Municipalities, responded by becoming Responsible Units (RUs) for Recycling and as such, invested millions of dollars in education, collection and processing infrastructure for Effective Recycling Programs; and

WHEREAS, the Town of Rockland became one of the RUs in Brown County in 1995 and utilizes the recycling grant funds to educate its residents on proper recycling and to encourage recycling by providing community-wide recycling events; and

WHEREAS, due to the investment of the recycling grant funding into educational and collection efforts, the Town of Rockland is exceeding its annual per capita collection recycling standard by almost 80%; and

WHEREAS, Brown, Outagamie and Winnebago Counties invested in Material Recovery Facilities (MRFs) and constructed a MRF in each County to serve the recycling processing needs of its residents in anticipation of the 1995 landfill bans; and

WHEREAS, to improve the efficiencies and cost effectiveness of the three Counties' programs, Brown, Outagamie and Winnebago County developed and signed a Cooperative Agreement in 2002 which consolidated recycling processing operations and eliminated one MRF; and

WHEREAS, in 2009 to further enhance operational efficiencies and to invest in needed technological improvements, Brown, Outagamie, and Winnebago Counties consolidated all processing operations into a single new, jointly-owned \$9.8 million dollar single stream recycling MRF; and

WHEREAS, in 2014 to further enhance operational efficiencies and expand recyclable material acceptance, Brown, Outagamie and Winnebago Counties improved the single stream recycling MRF with a new, nearly \$1.9 million dollar investment; and

WHEREAS, the State of Wisconsin originally proposed to cost share 66% of the Municipalities' costs for establishing and maintaining Effective Recycling Programs; and

WHEREAS, the State of Wisconsin has imposed levy limits on Municipalities putting many under severe financial constraints; and

WHEREAS, the 2015-2017 Executive Budget Bill proposed by Governor Scott Walker seeks to reduce recycling grant funding to RUs by \$4 million in 2015-2016; eliminate funding for the Department of Corrections computer recycling program, the UW Extension Solid and Hazardous Waste Education Center (SHWEC) and the UW-System Solid Waste Research grant program; and

WHEREAS, the source of funding for recycling grants for RUs is the \$7.00/ton Recycling Fee charged on each ton of municipal solid waste disposed of at Wisconsin landfills; and

WHEREAS, the Recycling Fee generates an average of \$34.1 million per year, yet the recycling funding to RUs has eroded from nearly \$30 million in 2008 to \$19 million in 2011 to the proposed \$15 million for 2015; a 50% reduction in seven years, while the full \$7.00/ton Recycling fee continues to be collected by the State; and

WHEREAS, the proposed \$15 million recycling grant allocation is anticipated to cover only 14% of actual program costs of the mandated recycling program; and

WHEREAS, SHWEC's mission is to enhance Wisconsin's environment and economy by providing quality education, information and technical assistance to promote the sustainable use of natural resources, and

WHEREAS, the UW-System Solid Waste Research program was established by the Wisconsin legislature in 1990 and seeks research of alternative methods of solid waste disposal, including the reduction in the amount of solid waste generated, the reuse and recycling of materials, composting, source separation, and the disposal of household hazardous waste and the program has funded over 250 research projects to date;

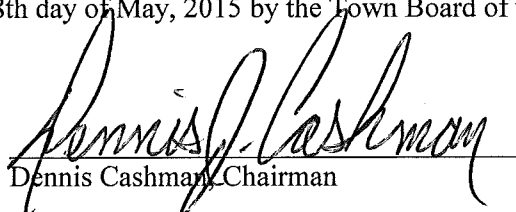
NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, by the Town Board of the Town of Rockland, Brown County, Wisconsin, that it hereby opposes the \$4 million reduction of RU recycling grant funding in 2015-16; and

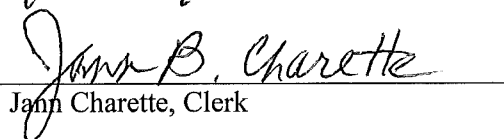
BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Rockland Town Board opposes the elimination of funding for the UW-Extension SHWEC and the UW-System Solid Waste Research program; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Rockland Town Board supports the full use of the Recycling Fee as the source of funding for financial assistance to Municipalities, as it was intended, and the funding of SHWEC and the UW-System Solid Waste Research program; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that a copy of this resolution be forwarded to Brown County State Representatives and State Senators, Joint Committee on Finance and Governor Scott Walker.

Adopted this 18th day of May, 2015 by the Town Board of the Town of Rockland, Brown County, Wisconsin.


Dennis Cashman, Chairman

Attest: 
Jann Charette, Clerk