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Air, Waste, and Remediation & Redevelopment Division Activity Summary

The Air, Waste, and Remediation & Redevelopment (AWaRe) division in the Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources aims to protect the environment and public health through efficient, effective and consistent processes that yield measurable environmental results, promote superior performance and build customer driven solutions. This document summarizes current division activities.

Highlights by the numbers

- **19,500 acres** of contaminated properties have been returned to productive use since 2004, helping close over **23,601** formerly contaminated sites.
- AWaRe division customer service has a **94%** satisfaction rating.
- Public and private collection facilities have taken in over **150 million pounds** of electronics since 2010 through the E-Cycle Wisconsin program.
- Stage II Vapor Recovery System Removal Grant program has awarded over **\$595,000** in 2014.
- Recycling processing facilities recycled **800,000 tons** of materials from residential and commercial sources.
- Local governments recycled **415,000 tons** of paper, cardboard and containers.

Division programs

The **Air Management** program is responsible for the development and oversight of the state's programs to comply with federal air quality requirements.

The **Waste & Materials Management** program consists of five subprograms: recycling, hazardous waste management, solid waste management, mining, and beneficial use of industrial byproducts.

The **Remediation & Redevelopment** program is responsible for overseeing the cleanup of environmental contamination and can assist with the redevelopment of brownfield sites, in cooperation with the US Environmental Protection Agency (EPA).

Environmental protection

The **Air Management** program issues construction and operation permits to incorporate applicable state and federal regulations, including requirements in the state implementation plans. Air compliance efforts ensure facilities comply with clean air laws and reporting requirements by conducting routine inspections.

The **Waste & Materials Management** program protects public health and the environment by encouraging:

- recycling, waste minimization and pollution prevention;
- proper management of solid and hazardous wastes and mining activities; and
- conservation and sustainable use of materials and energy through the Beneficial Reuse Program, which encourage re-use and recycling of non-traditional materials (such as shingles, tires, construction and demolition debris, paint and mattresses) and reduce the end-of-life environmental impacts of toxic materials, such as pharmaceuticals, personal care products and infectious waste.

The **Remediation & Redevelopment** program is nationally recognized as a leader in cleaning up and reusing "brownfield" sites. The program responds to an average of 900 emergency spills of hazardous substances annually: the most commonly spilled substances are petroleum products and manure-related spills. In addition, there are approximately 3,500 active sites the program oversees that require some type of environmental response. DNR staff work hand in hand with the EPA to maintain a speedy and efficient cleanup process, known as One Cleanup.

Division initiatives

Customer-driven solutions

- The Remediation & Redevelopment Brownfields Study Group & Air Management Study Group allow external stakeholders and customers a seat at the table to provide the DNR with input on pressing issues.
- The Lean Six Sigma approach continually improves and streamlines AWARe division administration by employing private sector principles, methods and tools to improve speed and efficiency of standard division processes.

Financial assistance

- The Brownfields Ready for Reuse program has provided \$11.4 million in EPA-funded loans and grants administered by the DNR for the cleanup of brownfields requested by local, municipal governments.
- The Environmental Repair Law provides funding to the Remediation & Redevelopment program for spill response and long-term cleanups.
- Wisconsin Assessment Monies (WAM) provided \$2.1 million in EPA-funded services for local governments and private owners for contaminated property assessments.
- The Petroleum Environmental Clean-up Fund Award (PECFA) was consolidated under the R&R program and provides financial assistance to eligible petroleum providers looking to remediate their properties.

Health and safety

- In 2014, the EPA approved the redesignation of three counties in Southeast Wisconsin as meeting the air quality standard for fine particulate matter. The “attainment” status, based on monitoring data, shows air quality improvement and removes a potentially negative stigma for economic development.

Transparency in government

- BRRTS on the Web (BOTW) is an online, public database with information about the status of all contaminated properties.
- The Remediation & Redevelopment Sites Map is an online GIS mapping system of all contaminated properties.
- Spills Electronic Report Tracking System (SERTS) provides a streamlined electronic reporting system for spill coordinators and law enforcement to track and respond to spills.
- The Air Quality Mapping Tool allows users to access real time air monitoring data from around the state.



Additional information



Contact for AWARe

Division administrator:

Pat Stevens
Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources
101 South Webster Street
P.O. Box 7921
Madison, WI 53707
608-264-9210
Patrick.Stevens@Wisconsin.gov

General information:

1-888-936-7463
dnr.wi.gov