

2 **RESOLUTION: Oppose Reduction of Recycling Grant Funding and Elimination of**
3 **SHWEC and UW System Solid Waste Research Program Funding**

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6 **TO THE WINNEBAGO COUNTY BOARD OF SUPERVISORS:**

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

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

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

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

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22 **WHEREAS**, Brown, Outagamie and Winnebago Counties invested in Material Recovery Facilities (MRFs)
23 and constructed a MRF in each County to serve the recycling processing needs of its residents in anticipation of the
24 1995 landfill bans; and

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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