



Milwaukee County's Green Print

In 2007 Milwaukee County's Board of Supervisors and County Executive approved a Green Print resolution, intended to improve the quality of life of County citizens through a plan to conserve natural resources and use energy more efficiently at County facilities.

To learn more about the Green Print Initiatives, go to

www.county.milwaukee.gov/DPW/MilwaukeeCountysgreenPrint.htm

County Geared Up to Roll Out New Hybrids

Early this year Milwaukee County will place into service 35 new hybrid electric sedans. The Ford Fusion hybrids are the regenerative braking type and get an estimated 41 MPG in the city. Milwaukee County will also be adding four new hybrid electric bucket trucks later this year. A grant from the Wisconsin Clean Transportation Partnership was obtained to help pay for the acquisition.



Milwaukee County Zoo Leading By Example

The Milwaukee County Zoo has been busy making its outdoor facilities more sustainable. These new efforts follow a series of projects that have resulted in significant energy and water conservation in its buildings and exhibits.

Patrons will now view solar photovoltaic (PV) panels as they enter and exit the Zoo. The eight panels are located atop shade poles next to the admissions entrance, and will provide both electricity and shade to the ticket booths.



Large areas of walking paths within the Zoo have been repaved using permeable paving brick. Rainwater infiltrates the permeable pavement and then either drains into the ground or, if the ground becomes saturated, is piped to a rain garden area. The rain garden acts as a treatment zone using a combination of infiltration and nutrient uptake by the plants there.

Rainwater from the rooftops of the Primate House and Australian Building is being captured and stored to use for washing down pathways. Another stormwater management feature, a bioswale, was constructed along the northern border of the main parking lot to capture and treat stormwater.

Philip Hung, a managing architect and principal designer for Milwaukee County on these projects, believes that they not only achieve their project-specific purposes, but will also serve to demonstrate the potential for broader application throughout the County. The capacity to educate the public about the benefits of sustainable infrastructure is also an added benefit of these projects.

Funding assistance for these projects has been gained from Focus On Energy, WE Energies and the MMSD, through their grant and incentive programs.

CCFS Boosts Recycling Efforts

The County Correctional Facility - South (or CCFS, formerly the House of Corrections) recently expanded its recycling efforts. Along with the common categories of cans, bottles and mixed paper, CCFS has found they can also cost-effectively recycle a variety of other materials, including steel scrap and tin cans from kitchen operations; copper, aluminum, brass, cast iron and stainless steel; sorted office paper and paper scrap from the print shop, as well as colored paper; cardboard; automotive batteries, radio batteries, cordless batteries, and deep cycle batteries. CCFS has even found that the plastic bags and plastic stretch wrap that accompany palletized shipments can be recycled and can generate revenue.



Composting Collaboration a Win-Win for Zoo & Growing Power

Can waste from our zoo animals be used to benefit local urban agriculture? The answer is YES. In the fall of 2010, the Milwaukee County Zoo initiated a composting partnership with the urban farm organization Growing Power. At this time, on an intermittent basis, the Zoo's grounds crew transports herbivore waste, used bedding, leftover food and produce scraps from diet preparation to one of Growing Power's composting sites. Once there, Growing Power staff turns it for many weeks until it is converted into fertile topsoil for urban farms that need it. In the future, both the Milwaukee County Zoo and Growing Power hope this periodic transport will continue on a consistent basis, depending upon both the Zoo's amount of material, and Growing Power's capacity to process it. The initial agreement for the project is firmly in place, and both parties are anxious to see it come to fruition.

Until recently, all of the Zoo's bedding and food waste had been going to the landfill.

Increased awareness about the adverse effects of global climate change prompted the Zoo to adopt a greenhouse gas reduction program - "Acres for the Atmosphere", which was developed by zookeepers and has been adopted by Polar Bears International. Composting accomplishes this as the turning process prevents the build-up of the harmful greenhouse gas, methane, often produced in landfills.



Global climate change is having an adverse impact on the habitats of many of the animals seen at the Zoo, such as the rapid melt-down of arctic sea ice that polar bears depend on for survival. By composting our waste, we are accomplishing the "triple bottom line" of environmental + social + economic goals by reducing greenhouse gases emissions, supporting urban agriculture, and reducing our waste management costs. Once the composting program is implemented five days a week, the Zoo has the potential of keeping around 80 tons of waste out of our landfill each month, and the Zoo will save thousands of dollars on landfill fees annually.

Thanks to Will Allen and the rest of the Growing Power staff and to all of the Milwaukee County Zoo grounds staff, zookeepers, management, and veterinary staff for helping to make this new composting program a success!

Turn It Off

The light bulb that uses the least amount of energy is one that's turned off. Let's all do our part to not waste energy and money by remembering to turn off lights and other electronic devices when not in use.

County to Host Regional Seminar

On May 4, Milwaukee County will host a seminar on Sustainability for Local Governments at the Milwaukee County Zoo's Peck Welcome Center. The seminar is being co-sponsored with the City of Milwaukee, the MMSD and the Milwaukee Green Building Alliance.

Ideas? Suggestions?

Contact Steve Keith via Lotus Notes email or at 278-4355

Please print only if necessary. Consuming less saves \$ and is beneficial to our environment. Reduce-Recycle-Reuse